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Senator Uecker, Chairman
Sponsor Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 3
By
Senator Cecil Thomas
February 28, 2017

To Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 3.

Peter Edward "Pete" Rose was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He spent the majority of his playing career and his entire managing career with the Cincinnati Reds. "The Hit King" is a proud son of Cincinnati and I am excited to ask for your support of SCR 3, which encourages Major League Baseball to remove him from the permanently ineligible list as soon as possible. Rose's legacy has lived on in Cincinnati's memory and it is impossible to be raised in the city and not know his celebrated name.

Pete Rose is Major League Baseball's all-time leader in hits, at bats, and games played and is the only player to play more than 500 games at five different positions.

Rose is:

- a seventeen-time All Star;
- the only player to be an All Star at five different positions;
- the winner of two Gold Gloves,
- the Rookie of the Year award,
- three batting titles,
- a Most Valuable Player award, and
- three World Series titles. Two of these titles came with his hometown Cincinnati Reds.

Rose managed the Reds beginning in 1984 until 1989, compiling a record of 426-388, the fifth most wins by a manager in Reds history. He was also one of the few player-managers in baseball history from 1984 to 1986.

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In the 1970 All-Star Game in Cincinnati, Rose was involved in one of the most legendary plays in All-Star Game history when he scored the game winning run with an aggressive base-running maneuver. In the years following this game, the Cincinnati Reds earned the nickname "The Big Red Machine," and is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest teams of all time, thanks in large part to Rose's unparalleled athleticism. Rose led the team to back-to-back World Series titles in 1975 and 1976, over the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees, respectively.

Rose marked his place in history when he became the 13th player ever to collect his 3,000th career hit. Later that year he had a 44-game hitting streak, which is still a National League record. He broke Ty Cobb's all-time hit record with his 4,192nd hit on September 11, 1985 and retired with an incredible 4,256 hits – arguably the most untouchable record in all of sports.

Pete Rose is unquestionably a great American athlete. The way he played the game of baseball reflects many values, such as maximum effort, hard work, and perseverance. His headlong dives and all-out sprints to every base – even when he was walked – have been held as an example to always push yourself to attain your goals.

This resolution urges the Commissioner of Major League Baseball to remove Pete Rose from Major League Baseball's permanently ineligible list as soon as possible and asks the Baseball Writers' Association of America and the National Baseball Hall of Fame to include Rose on the Hall of Fame ballot. It is time that Peter Edward Rose is welcomed back into baseball. Furthermore, "Charlie Hustle" is more than deserving of induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

I thank Chairman Uecker and the committee members for allowing me to offer sponsor testimony on SCR 3. At this time, I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee.