

**As Reported by the Senate Government Oversight and Reform
Committee**

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2017-2018**

S. R. No. 342

Senator Kunze

Cosponsors: Senators Bacon, Tavares, LaRose, Uecker, Brown, Huffman

A RESOLUTION

To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of 1
Columbus Crew Soccer Club to keep the franchise 2
in Columbus. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, On October 16, 2017, the investor-operator and 4
chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer Club announced his intention 5
to explore relocation of the franchise to Austin, Texas; and 6

WHEREAS, Columbus Crew Soccer Club is the first charter 7
member of Major League Soccer, founded in 1996; and 8

WHEREAS, Columbus is home to the first soccer-specific 9
stadium in the United States, built to provide stability to 10
Major League Soccer at a time of uncertainty in the young 11
league's existence, creating a foundation for Major League 12
Soccer to persist through the contraction of franchises in Miami 13
and Tampa Bay in 2002, endangering the life of the league, to 14
grow to its current size of twenty-two total franchises; and 15

WHEREAS, The players, coaches, and staff have represented 16
the city of Columbus nationally and internationally with a high 17
level of skill, determination, confidence, and character, 18
earning them the nom de guerre "America's Hardest Working Team," 19

and winning the 2008 MLS Cup; the 2004, 2008, and 2009 20
Supporters' Shields; and the 2002 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup; and 21

WHEREAS, Columbus Crew Soccer Club and its charitable arm, 22
Crew SC Foundation, have worked to strengthen the Columbus 23
community through numerable volunteer hours with programs such 24
as Soccer Aid, fundraisers for the Juvenile Diabetes Research 25
Foundation, Columbus Reads, Keep Columbus Beautiful, Soccer for 26
Success, and the Kirk Urso Memorial Scholarship, and through the 27
adoption of the Linden-McKinley STEM Academy boys varsity team, 28
helping Linden-McKinley to field a team for the first time in 29
ten years; and 30

WHEREAS, Columbus Crew Soccer Club has produced an economic 31
impact of \$20 million to \$25 million according to an economic 32
impact study the franchise commissioned in 2011, and has secured 33
high-profile corporate sponsorships in the intervening timeframe 34
with major companies like Mapfre Insurance, central Ohio's 35
Barbasol, and major central Ohio employer, Honda, through 36
Honda's Acura brand; now therefore be it 37

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 132nd 38
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this 39
resolution, urge the investor-operator and chairperson of 40
Columbus Crew Soccer Club to keep the Crew Soccer Club in 41
Columbus; and be it further 42

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 43
authenticated copy of this resolution to the investor-operator 44
and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer Club and to the news 45
media of Ohio. 46