

UNITED STATES AMATEUR SPORTS AND TRAINING CENTER STUDY

REQUEST

This bipartisan legislation seeks a grant to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to study the development of the United States Amateur Sports and Training Center in Dakota County. **Amount requested: \$750,000**

CHIEF AUTHORS (HF3483/SF3407)

Rep. Ruth Richardson (DFL – Mendota Heights)
Sen. Zach Duckworth (R – Lakeville)

VISION

Construction of the Minnesota Vikings headquarters and state-of-the-art practice facility in Eagan, together with the regional need for amateur facilities, spurred deeper discussions of a south metro campus, akin to the National Sports Center campus in Blaine (pictured). The NSC attracts over four million visitors annually, enriching the lives of kids and families from all walks of life in Minnesota and across the country.



LOCATION

Dakota County is Minnesota's third-largest county, and is home to 440,000 residents as well as signature companies like Thomson Reuters, the Minnesota Vikings, CHS and Flint Hills Resources. With dual interstates and close proximity to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the Mall of America, the State Capitol and both downtowns, plus over 20,000 hotel rooms available at nearly 200 properties, the Eagan/Inver Grove Heights area is tailor-made to accommodate a world class amateur sports facility.

SUPPORTERS

City and County officials, amateur and professional sports organizations, business leaders and civic groups.

JOBS & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

In addition to construction jobs, facilities like the National Sports Center in Blaine employ hundreds of workers and result in over \$104 million in annual economic activity for local businesses.

Todd Johnson, executive director of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission and the National Sports Center in Blaine, said he thinks officials in Dakota County are smart to ask for funding for a study. "I would want to look at the data, but I've got to believe the numbers are there if it's done right," Johnson said of demand in the south metro.

Johnson said indoor basketball and volleyball courts and 50-meter swimming pools seem to be types of facilities lacking south of the river. A new facility would need to host a mix of different sports on a fairly large scale to work financially, he said.

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