

Re: USA Climbing's Salt Lake City Climbing Gym Project

Dear Council Members,

We are writing as a coalition of climbing gym operators and industry leaders from across the United States. Collectively representing over 100 locations, our facilities introduce most new climbers to the sport, train competition athletes, and host the events that sustain USA Climbing's (USAC) mission and operations. The success of USAC's proposed National Training Center (NTC) depends on the support of the commercial climbing gym industry that forms the foundation of the sport.

**As currently proposed, the NTC project does not have broad industry support.**

That lack of support stems from USAC's failure to address industry concerns that have been raised for nearly two years about its intention to own and operate commercial climbing gyms, including the facility central to the National Training Center project. These concerns have been intensified by USAC's partnership with a private, multi-state commercial operator and by its published strategic initiative to establish regional training sites across the country.

Without broad industry support, USAC will struggle to sustain its national operations and deliver the major competitions that bring visitors and revenue to Salt Lake City.

A National Training Center focused on athlete development and competition would earn strong industry support and achieve the economic and community benefits the City Council envisions. However, USAC's insistence on operating the NTC as a commercial climbing gym undermines the project Salt Lake City and the State of Utah are investing in, as well as the long-term stability of the organization itself.

The climbing industry wants this project to succeed—but our support is for a true National Training Center, not a commercial gym. We respectfully request that the commercial climbing gym component be removed before the project moves forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

*The following gym owners and operators support this letter:*

Mardi Roberts  
(CWA Board Member)  
5.Life – 4 locations  
State(s): OH, PA

Kevin Bains  
Boulder Rock Club – 1 location  
State(s): CO

Aaron Stevens  
Climb Iowa – 2 locations  
State(s): IA

Tod Bloxham  
(CWA Board Member)  
Edgeworks Climbing + Fitness – 4 locations  
State(s): WA

Kynan Wagonner  
(Former CEO - USA Climbing)  
Gripstone Climbing + Fitness – 1 location  
State(s): CO

Blaine Eastcott  
Rockreation – 2 locations  
State(s): CA

Bryan Pletta  
Stone Age Climbing Gym – 2 locations  
State(s): NM

Dustin Buckthal  
The Front – 3 locations  
State(s): UT

Darrell Gschwendtner  
Whetstone Climbing & Fitness – 1 location  
State(s): CO

Jeffrey Bowling  
Touchstone Climbing – 18 locations  
State(s): CA

Jason McKenzie  
Latitude Climbing – 3 locations  
State(s): VA

Jake Crine  
Ubergrippen – 2 Locations  
State(s): CO

Jason Noble  
(CWA Board Member)  
Vertical Endeavors – 6 locations  
State(s): MN, IL

Ian McIntosh  
Mese Rim – 6 locations  
State(s): CA, NV, TX

Jeff Compas  
Contact Climbing Gym – 1 location  
State(s): UT

Bryan Hylenski  
Longmont Climbing Collective – 3 locations  
State(s): CO

Alice Kao  
(Former USA Climbing Board Member)  
Sender One – 6 locations  
State(s): CA

Kim Rank  
The Crag – 2 locations  
State(s): TN

Nam Phan  
Vital Climbing Gym – 8 locations  
State(s): CA, WA, NY

Joe Hardy  
Central Rock Gym – 29 locations  
State(s): CT, FL, GA, MA, NY, RI

Jon Shepard  
First Ascent Climbing and Fitness – 7 locations  
State(s): PA, IL

Will Hezler  
Bouldering Project - 12 locations  
State(s): UT, WA, DC, NY, MN, AZ, TX

Daniel Mann  
Half-Moon Bouldering – 1 location  
State(s): WA

Deborah Smith  
Alta Climbing and Fitness – 2 locations  
State(s): AZ

Derek Waggoner  
The Edge Rock Gym – 3 locations  
Gripstone Climbing – 1 location  
State(s): AZ, FL

Chris Tansey  
Gecko Climbing Gym – 1 location  
State(s): AZ

