

## **Resolution No. 21-06**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR CUSTER COUNTY OPPOSING BALLOT INITIATIVE 16**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners for Custer County (the Board), a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, desires to declare its staunch opposition to Ballot Initiative 16; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2021, a citizens' initiative entitled "Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation" (PAUSE) was approved by the Title Board of the Colorado Secretary of State as Initiative 16, authorizing the circulation of petitions to place said Initiative 16 on the General Election ballot for November, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16, if approved by the voters, would criminalize the activities of farmers, ranchers and veterinarians who use accepted animal husbandry practices to care for animals, including, but not limited to:

- Spaying and neutering;
- Birthing assistance;
- Artificial insemination;
- Pregnancy testing;
- Fertility testing; and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 would change state statutory language to define these accepted animal care practices as "cruelty to animals"; and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 would ban the slaughter of animals that have lived less than 25 percent of their "natural" lifespan; and

**WHEREAS**, if adopted, Initiative 16 would open the door for farmers, ranchers and veterinarians to be prosecuted for animal cruelty for such basic and common practices as feeding, sheltering, and transportation of animals; and

**WHEREAS**, if adopted, Initiative 16 would have the following disastrous effect on the economy of the State of Colorado:

- It would destroy Colorado's \$5 billion per year livestock industry;
- It would destroy Colorado's \$1 billion beef export market;
- It would eliminate tens of thousands of jobs by shutting down most, if not all, of Colorado's beef and lamb processing industry;
- It would significantly increase consumer costs for meat;
- It would result in practices that are bad for the animals and the environment by requiring detrimental production practices that are contrary to accepted and time-tested practices;
- It would eliminate the ranching and agricultural heritage of Colorado by effectively banning rodeos, county fairs, and stock shows; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board is very familiar with the farmers and ranchers of Custer County and their practices with respect to their treatment of their animals, and the Board recognizes that they take great effort to treat their animals humanely at all times and absolutely do not inflict needless suffering on them.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners for Custer County, that we, the Board, strongly oppose Initiative 16 and urge the Governor of the State of Colorado and the Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to do the same; and

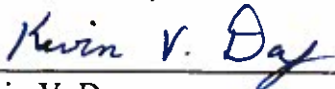
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all citizens of Custer County are likewise urged not to sign any petition that would place Initiative 16 on the ballot for the 2022 General Election; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all citizens who care about the well-being of animals—be it livestock, pets, service animals or others—are urged to take action to defeat this measure if it is place on the ballot for the 2022 General Election.

Done this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
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William R. Canda  
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

  
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Tommy G. Flower  
Vice Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

  
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Kevin V. Day  
County Commissioner

ATTEST:   
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Kelley S. Camper, Clerk and Recorder for Custer County

