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PRESS RELEASE

Date: 7/22/13

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PUBLIC INVITED TO PROVIDE COMMENT ON 51ST STATE INITIATIVE, URBAN/RURAL DIVIDE

WELD COUNTY, CO – In June 2013, the Board of Weld County Commissioners introduced the idea of creating a new state in response to the deepening divide between urban and rural Colorado interests and representation at the state legislature. “The voices and concerns of rural Coloradans have been ignored by the state legislature for years,” said Commissioner Chairman William Garcia. “This past legislative session was one of the most egregious examples of urban legislators ignoring the needs of rural Colorado.”

On June 24th and again on July 8th, 10 eastern Colorado counties (Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma), gathered in Akron, Colorado, to discuss options for ensuring that rural Colorado voices will be heard at the state level. In addition to the proposal of creating a new state, the counties are also considering a proposal brought forth by Phillips County to change the makeup of the state legislature.

“Both proposals have their own challenges,” said Garcia. “Regardless, the dialogue that is occurring across the state, and the country, regarding this issue is encouraging. However, it is the dialogue with our residents that is most important to us when it comes to this issue.”

To that end, the Weld County Board of Commissioners has scheduled four public meetings where residents can learn more about the issues, the proposed solutions, and provide public comment.

“The statehood initiative was brought to the Board by the citizens of Weld County who are frustrated with state government. It is important that we continue that communication with our residents to ensure we as a Board are moving forward in the manner and direction they are asking of us,” said Garcia.

The public meetings will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the following locations:

July 25, Fort Lupton Recreation Center, Multipurpose Room, 350 Harrison Ave., Fort Lupton

July 29, Southwest Weld Complex, Large Meeting Room, 4209 Weld County Road 24½, Longmont

July 30, Evans Recreation Center, Cottonwood Room, 1100 37th Street, Evans

July 31, Ault Fire Department, 16680 Highway 14, Ault

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