

## RESOLUTION

**RE: EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE 16**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colorado, pursuant to Colorado statute and the Weld County Home Rule Charter, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of Weld County, Colorado, and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2021, upon rehearing, the Title Board of the Colorado Secretary of State set the title and submission clause for a citizen's initiative called "Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation", otherwise known as PAUSE, for inclusion on the 2022 General Election ballot, should they receive enough signatures of support; a copy of the record of said rehearing, including the language of Initiative 16, is attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and

**WHEREAS**, the Title Board's rehearing decision has been appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court in Case Number 2021 SA 125, and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative, as written, demonstrates a severe and damaging lack of education and understanding of animal husbandry practices on which farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians rely to care for their animals by proposing to criminalize procedures, including artificial insemination and aiding in breech birth, and

**WHEREAS**, this initiative, which is yet another attack on rural and agricultural Colorado, will economically damage livestock producers across the state by mandating not only how they care for their livestock, but also how and when they are allowed to sell their livestock, negatively impacting their production chain and cash flow, and

**WHEREAS**, the imposition of such severe restrictions as proposed in the initiative, if passed, will not only economically harm farming and ranching communities and the counties in which they live, but also will put the state at an economic disadvantage as farm, ranch and food processing workers will likely face job elimination as production levels will decrease and jobs may be eliminated due to the economic hardship their businesses will face due to government overreach, interference and overregulation, and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 will significantly increase consumer costs for all meat produced in Colorado, giving neighboring agriculture states an advantage over the Colorado farmer and rancher, and

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 will define generally accepted animal practices endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association as animal abuse, opening the door to prosecution for practices such as feeding, sheltering and transportation, which could also impact the health care of companion animals, and

**WHEREAS**, the unintended consequences of such an initiative, if passed, could effectively ban agricultural heritage events, including rodeos, county fairs, and horse shows in Weld County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colorado, that the number one agricultural producing county in the state and number eight in the country opposes Initiative 16 and strongly urges citizens to decline signing the petition to include the Initiative on the 2022 Ballot, as such an initiative will effectively shut down the ranching and livestock industry in Weld County and the State of Colorado.

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted by the following vote on the 21st day of April, A.D., 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

Weld County Clerk to the Board

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Moreno, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott James, Pro-Tem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Perry L. Buck

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Freeman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Saine

Date of signature: \_\_\_\_\_