



RESOLUTION OF COLORADO COUNTIES, INC. OPPOSING THE “PROTECT ANIMALS FROM UNNECESSARY SUFFERING AND EXPLOITATION” (PAUSE) PROPOSED BALLOT INITIATIVE 16 AND SIMILAR MEASURE

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 for petition to the November 2022 General Election as Initiative 16; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2021, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that Initiative 16 violates the State Constitution single-subject requirement, but proponents may file a revised, similar measure; and

WHEREAS, [Coloradans for Animal Care](#), a coalition of the Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Cattlemen’s Association, Colorado Dairy Farmers, Colorado Wool Growers Association, Colorado Livestock Association, Colorado Pork Producers Council and the National Western Stock Show filed a pending petition with the Colorado Supreme Court to prevent the initiative from making it to the ballot; and

WHEREAS, if approved by voters, the PAUSE Act or similar measure will strike a devastating blow to agricultural counties with resounding effects for the rest of the state; and

WHEREAS, if approved by voters, the changes that the PAUSE Act or similar measure envision are more likely to harm both animals and people than they are to protect them; and

WHEREAS, if approved by voters, the PAUSE Act or similar measure would put at risk all rodeos, county fairs, horse shows, the National Western Stock Show, and other agricultural traditions in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, several counties in Colorado have traditionally been agricultural, with a large percentage of their residents employed directly or indirectly in agricultural production, processing, or sales; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s counties recognize our dependence on those who produce our food and are confident that our producers take great effort to treat their animals humanely; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s counties are proud of the state’s agricultural leadership, and counties stand ready and united to elevate the significance of a thriving agricultural economy for all of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is in Colorado’s roots and foundation – not only because of the 128,000

jobs and billions of dollars it provides and generates for the state economy, but because it has shaped Coloradan communities and livelihoods for decades; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is not just food and fiber production, but also facilitates and drives species habitat protection, waterway and land conservation, and recreation and tourism activities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's counties through CCI embrace our agricultural heritage and support our livestock producers, including the next generation of agricultural producers who participate in local 4H and FFA programs; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that we cannot thrive and prosper if there is a divide between our rural, urban, and suburban communities, and that our metropolitan hub in the Front Range will only thrive if the agricultural economy thrives and vice versa; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Phil Weiser opposes Initiative 16 because it is not based in science and would raise food prices; and

WHEREAS, Governor Polis "stands in solidarity with Colorado farmers and ranchers in opposition to the PAUSE ballot initiative because it would hurt Colorado and destroy jobs;" and

WHEREAS, at CCI's Business Meeting on June 8, 2021, 61 member counties opposed Initiative 16 unanimously.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Colorado Counties, Inc. formally opposes the potential passage of Initiative 16 or similar measure, and encourages residents to oppose efforts to gather the necessary signatures to place Initiative 16 or similar measures on the Colorado ballot by declining to sign said petition, if asked.