

Resolution No. R-021- 064

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING COLORADO BALLOT 2022 INITIATIVE #16 TITLED
PROTECT ANIMALS FROM UNNECESSARY SUFFERING AND EXPLOITATION.**

WHEREAS, according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado agriculture is spread across 38,900 farms and ranches on nearly 32 million privately owned acres. Agriculture in Colorado contributes \$47 billion annually to our economy and employs more than 195,000 people, and

WHEREAS, agriculture contributes to \$18.9 million to the County's economy, and

WHEREAS, cattle and calves top the list of the state's agricultural commodities, and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2021 the Colorado Secretary of State Title Board ruled the Colorado State Ballot Initiative Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation "Initiative #16 PAUSE Act" could begin gathering petition signatures, and

WHEREAS, the proponents for Initiative #16 PAUSE Act only need to submit 125,000 valid signatures by October 18, 2021 to the Colorado Secretary of State in for the initiative to make the 2022 Colorado Ballot, and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to the animal cruelty code and imposition of a new definition of animal lifespans for cows, hogs and other livestock have caused ranchers to voice their concerns about the detrimental impact these changes will have on the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, there is strong bipartisan opposition to Initiative #16 PAUSE Act, and

WHEREAS, Initiative #16 PAUSE Act will cost the State of Colorado approximately \$200,000 and require additional staffing within the Department of Agriculture to assist in animal cruelty investigations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners encourages county voters to oppose efforts to gather the necessary signatures to place Initiative #16 on the 2022 Colorado Ballot and refuse to sign said petition, if asked, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board strongly opposes the known detrimental impacts on agriculture jobs and the economy that Initiative #16 will impose, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board hereby formally opposes the signature gathering and potential passage of Initiative #16 on the 2022 Colorado Ballot.

Passed and adopted this 15 day of June, 2021, in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

BY:

DocuSigned by:

Lora L. Thomas

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LORA L. THOMAS, Chair

DocuSigned by:



ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Kristin Randlett

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KRISTIN RANDLETT, Clerk to the Board