

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO, OPPOSING BALLOT
INITIATIVE 16 IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR LIVESTOCK AND
AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY**

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, the initiative is an industry killing effort that will disrupt all aspects of meat production, sales, and export; and

WHEREAS, the initiative criminalizes farmers, ranchers and veterinarians who use accepted animal husbandry practices to care for animals; and

WHEREAS, the initiative changes state statutory language to define common animal care practices as cruelty to animals; and

WHEREAS, the initiative bans slaughter for animals that have lived less than 25 percent of their "natural" life span; and

WHEREAS, the initiative criminalizes the following veterinary and animal husbandry practices: spaying and neutering, reproductive practices (artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, fertility testing), etc.; and

WHEREAS, the initiative eliminates accepted animal husbandry practices, opening the door to animal cruelty prosecution for common and basic practices such as feeding, sheltering and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Rio Blanco County ranching families are part of a \$3.4B state industry with a \$40B economic impact and accounts for 10% of the states total export sales and

WHEREAS, the economic impact to farmers, ranchers, meat cutters, veterinarians and other related industries would be tremendous and negative; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that even the Governor of Colorado agrees that the PAUSE initiative would "hurt Colorado, and destroy jobs"; and

WHEREAS, this Board abhors the infliction of needless suffering of animals and recognizes that our cattle and livestock producers take great effort to treat their animals humanely.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, that the Board opposes this Initiative and urges the Governor of Colorado and Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to continue to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board urges all citizens of Rio Blanco County to decline to sign any petition that supports placing Initiative 16 (PAUSE) on the November 2022 ballot and also encourages all Rio Blanco County citizens to educate our urban cousins about the importance of agriculture to the entire State of Colorado; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that all people that care about the well-being of animals – be they livestock, pets, service animals, or other – take action to defeat this measure if it does make the November 2022 ballot.

0 DULY MOVED, SECONDED, AND PASSED ON A VOTE OF 3 FOR AND AGAINST THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL 2021.

ATTEST:




Boots M. Campbell, Clerk & Recorder

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO**


Gary Moyer, Chairman


Jeff Rector, Commissioner


Ty Gates, Commissioner