**Resolution Number 05-20-03**

**RESOLUTION OF THE DOLORES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JOINED BY THE
ELECTED OFFICIALS OF DOLORES COUNTY, OPPOSING THE STATE OF COLORADO JOINT BUDGET
COMMITTEE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' AND DISABLED
VETERANS' REAL PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROVIDED UNDER STATE STATUTE
39-3-203, C.R.S.**

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Colorado State Joint Budget Committee ("JBC"), published a JBC Working Document containing staff recommendations for balancing the Colorado State budget for fiscal year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 39-3-203 provides a "homestead" exemption to qualifying senior citizens and qualifying disabled veterans from real property taxes for fifty percent of the first two hundred thousand dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, the JBC working document recommends suspension of the tax exemption to senior citizens changing the exemption to fifty percent of zero dollars of property value, and

WHEREAS, many senior citizens and disabled veterans in the Dolores County community live on minimal fixed incomes and are dependent on the homestead property tax exemption, which enables them to pay bills, stay in their homes and make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, Dolores County Elected Officials recognize and respect the value of the senior citizens and disabled veterans in the community and believe they must be protected as some of the most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS Dolores County veterans are the lifeblood of the entire country and have given the gift of freedom, thereby earning our utmost respect and financial protection; and

WHEREAS, Dolores County senior citizens enjoy a shared history and community knowledge, enabling them to share collective wisdom with the other members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens who qualify for the homestead exemption are 65 years old or above, have lived in their primary residence for at least ten years and are established members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and disabled veterans are population groups that are the least able to withstand an increase in property taxes to help relieve an anticipated shortfall in state revenue; and

WHEREAS, the senior citizens and disabled veterans homestead exemption was approved by the voters of the State of Colorado through a statewide referendum ballot issue, demonstrating state-wide financial support for these homeowners; and

WHEREAS, Dolores County has approximately 224 property owners who qualify for and benefit from the senior citizens and disabled veterans homestead exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Elected Officials of Dolores County, Assessor Berna Ernst, Clerk and Recorder Lana Hancock, Coroner Aaron Hankins, Sheriff Don Wilson and Treasurer Janie Stiasny, join in this Resolution to express opposition to the proposed suspension of any portion of the homestead exemption for senior citizens and disable veterans.

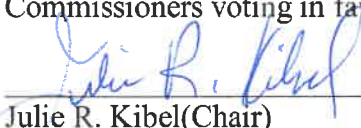

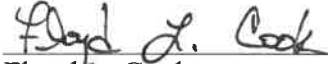
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County, Colorado:

Section 1. The county of Dolores hereby formally opposes the JBC staff proposed suspension of all or any part of the Real Property Tax Homestead Exemption set forth in Article X, Section 3.5 of the Colorado Constitution and Section 39-3-203, C.R.S.

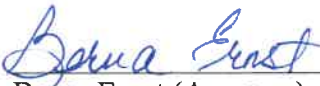
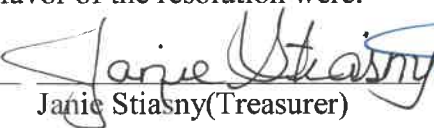



Section 2. Dolores County Elected Officials join the Board of County Commissioners in this formal opposition to the proposed suspension and sign hereon in support of this Resolution.

DONE AND SIGNED this 18th day of May, 2020.

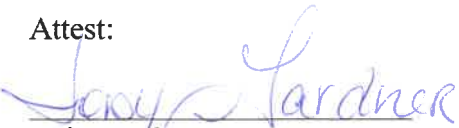
Commissioners voting in favor of the resolution were:

 Julie R. Kibel(Chair)	 Steve Garchar	 Floyd L. Cook
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Elected Officials voting in favor of the resolution were:

 Berna Ernst (Assessor)	 Janie Stiasny(Treasurer)	 Lana Hancock (Clerk)
 Don Wilson (Sheriff)	 Aaron Hankins(Coroner)	

Attest:


Jody Gardner
Deputy Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners
Dolores County, Colorado

Seal:

