



RESOLUTION NUMBER 06-21-01

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOLORES
STATE OF COLORADO**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING INITIATIVE #16, THE “PROTECT ANIMALS
FROM UNNECESSARY SUFFERING AND EXPLOITATION” (PAUSE)
PROPOSED BALLOT INITIATIVE**

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County, Dove Creek, Colorado, held and convened on June 7, 2021, with the following persons present:

Commissioners present: Steve Garchar, Floyd Cook (Chair) and Julie R. Kibel
Commissioners absent: None
County Attorney: Dennis Golbricht
Deputy Clerk to the BOCC: Jody Gardner

IT WAS RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, Dolores County is a rural county in Southwest Colorado, proud and protective of its strong agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, agriculture represents the largest industry in the County, responsible for over 30% of the total number of jobs¹; and

WHEREAS, the County encompasses approximately 1,064 square miles, and includes vast historic ranching and farming operations. With approximately 5,000 head of cattle², the County has well over twice as many cattle as people; and

WHEREAS, historically the largest challenges faced by farmers and ranchers were caused by nature. Drought in southwest Colorado is a potential annual disaster each season.³ However, recently the rural agricultural lifestyle historically enjoyed by the majority of citizens in Dolores County has been under attack from unnatural causes; and

WHEREAS, from environmentalist claims of climate change caused by livestock emissions, the forced reintroduction of Wolves based upon the vote of people living in counties who will never experience the negative impacts of dead livestock killed by those wolves, and increased regulation caused by protected animal species, the attack on rural Colorado has been obvious and ongoing; and

¹ Based upon Region 9 Economic Development District of Colorado 2018 data.

² Based upon 2017 Census of Agriculture USDA data.

³ Dolores County has declared a Local Emergency based upon the current drought conditions.

WHEREAS, the supporters of Initiative #16, now seek to decimate the livestock industry in the entire State by criminalizing the current responsible and humane methods of producing livestock, going as far as attempting to classify current accepted and responsible animal husbandry practices as the crime of “[a] sexual act with an animal.” The Act further seeks to ban the slaughter of livestock prior to the animal living 25% of its natural life, effectively ending lamb production and financially crippling the remaining livestock industry; and

WHEREAS, it is obvious to anyone who understands livestock or simply food production, that such proposed radical restrictions on the production of livestock would have a devastating impact on both the \$5 billion Colorado livestock industry, as well as on the local Dolores County agriculture economy, community and lifestyle.

THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County Colorado resolve that Initiative #16 is hereby opposed in all way, shape, form and manner, as a radical and direct attack on the economy, lifestyle, history and heritage of Colorado, Dolores County, and all rural and/or agricultural counties in the state.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dolores County hereby supports measures by other counties and organizations in aggressively opposing Initiative #16 and educating the public on the horrendous impacts of the initiative, both locally and at the State level.

DONE AND SIGNED this 7th day June, 2021.

Floyd A. Cook
Floyd Cook(Chair)

Julie R. Kibel
Julie R. Kibel

Steve Garchar
Steve Garchar

DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

Jody Gardner
Jody Gardner

