

RESOLUTION 2021 - _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO,
OPPOSING COLORADO STATE INITIATIVE 16**

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, Colorado is a major beef-producing state, and ranked tenth in the nation for most cattle, according to U.S. government data; and,

WHEREAS, meat production in Archuleta County is part of a \$3.4 billion industry in Colorado with a \$40 billion economic impact that accounts for 10% of Colorado's total export sales; and,

WHEREAS, Initiative 16 is an industry killing effort that will disrupt all aspects of meat productions, sales and export; and,

WHEREAS, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") considers it to be in the public's interest to encourage the maintenance of a healthy, diverse and vibrant economy in Archuleta County that continues to include agriculture as a key component; and,

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

WHEREAS, Initiative 16 bans slaughter for animals that have lived less than 25 percent of their "natural" life span; and,

WHEREAS, the initiative changes state statutory language to define common animal care practices as cruelty to animals; 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, Initiative 16 opens the door to animal cruelty prosecution for common and basic practices endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association such as feeding, sheltering and transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the loss of Colorado’s livestock sector that would result if Initiative 16 passes would devastate the state’s economy, cripple state and local budgets, and threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of working families; and,

WHEREAS, this anti-agriculture initiative would dramatically increase the cost of doing business in the State of Colorado, creating a hostile business climate that scares away investment from all sectors of our economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado as follows:

1. The Board declares its opposition to statewide Initiative 16: Laws Concerning Cruelty to Animals.
2. The Board urges citizens to decline to sign any petition that supports placing Initiative 16 (PAUSE) on the November 2022 ballot.
3. The Board urges citizens to vote “NO” on Initiative 16 (PAUSE) if placed on the November 2022 ballot.
4. This Resolution provides the Board with authority to execute future formal statements of opposition, in writing or otherwise, regarding Initiative 16 (PAUSE).

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of May, 2021.

ATTEST:

**Board of County Commissioners
Archuleta County, Colorado**

County Clerk and Recorder

Alvin Schaaf, Chair