

RESOLUTION 63-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY OPPOSING BALLOT INITIATIVE 16 IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR MEAT PRODUCING INDUSTRIES AND PREVENT NEEDLESS ANIMAL SUFFERING

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Washington County (the Board), a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, is aware that on March 17, 2021, a citizen 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 would broadly redefine animal sexual abuse in a manner that would criminalize many common and necessary veterinary and animal husbandry practices; and

WHEREAS, the initiative would additionally require tremendous delays, in some cases years, prior to the humane slaughter of livestock for food; and

WHEREAS, these delays (of up to one-quarter of an animals statutorily defined lifespan) would greatly increase the costs to meat producers to feed and care for these animals which at slaughter would produce meat of low value to the consumer at a much higher purchase costs; and

WHEREAS, for many meat producing animal varieties (specifically poultry) bred for rapid weight gain, the result of delayed slaughter will be the suffering of morbidly obese animals unable to support their own body weight for years prior to processing; and

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

WHEREAS, the USDA National Statistics Service for Colorado Annual Bulletin 2019 lists 2,850,000 cattle and calves (with 75,000 residing in Washington County), 186,000 Dairy cows producing 25,844 pounds of milk, 760,000 hog and pigs, 425,000 sheep and lambs, 6,748,000 chickens producing 1,494,000 eggs, and over 430,000 fish in Colorado which would be impacted negatively; and

WHEREAS, the members of this board abhors the infliction of needless suffering of animals and recognizes that our meat producers take great effort to treat their animals humanely.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners for Washington County, Colorado opposes the PAUSE Initiative and urges the Governor of Colorado and the Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to continue to do the same;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board urges all citizens of Washington County to decline to sign any petition that supports placing Initiative 16 (PAUSE) on the November 2022 ballot; and

FINALLY, SHALL IT BE 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.

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted by the following vote on the 30th day of March, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

Washington County Clerk to the Board

BY: Annie Kuntz
Annie Kuntz

Lea Ann Laybourn
Lea Ann Laybourn, Chairman, District 3

Kent Vance
Kent Vance, District 2

Tony Wells
Tony Wells, District 1

