

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF HINSDALE, STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION NO. 9, SERIES 2021

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED COLORADO 2021 BALLOT INITIATIVE 16
TITLED “PROTECT ANIMALS FROM UNNECESSARY
SUFFERING AND EXPLOITATION”**

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2021, a citizens’ ballot initiative titled “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 Ballot Initiative 16; and

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

WHEREAS, by way of example, PAUSE bans the slaughter of animals that have lived less than 25 percent of their “natural” life span; and

WHEREAS, PAUSE may serve to eliminate accepted animal husbandry practices, opening the door to animal cruelty prosecution for common and basic agricultural practices; and

WHEREAS, PAUSE is not consistent with traditional animal husbandry practices designed to provide animals with a good quality of life and provide healthy and quality products for consumers; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of PAUSE to farmers, ranchers, meat producers, and other related industries would likely be tremendously harmful; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HINSDALE COUNTY, COLORADO (Board) hereby declares its opposition to PAUSE and urges the Governor of Colorado and Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges all citizens of Hinsdale County to decline to sign any petition that supports placing Ballot Initiative 16 on the November 2022 ballot and also encourages all Hinsdale County citizens to educate others about the importance of agriculture to the entire State of Colorado and the potential negative consequences of Ballot Initiative 16 or PAUSE; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board also urges all citizens of Hinsdale County and the State of Colorado that care about the well-being of animals – be they livestock, pets,

service animals, or other – to take action to defeat this measure if it does make the November 2022 ballot.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Robert Hurd, seconded by Commissioner Grey Levine, and passed this 19 day of May 2021.

**Board of County Commissioners
County of Hinsdale, State of Colorado**

By: Kristie M Borchers
Kristie Borchers, Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Roberts
Joan Roberts, County Clerk

