



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS  
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

RESOLUTION  
AGNC 21-3

RESOLUTION OPPOSING 2022 BALLOT INITIATIVE 16

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2021, a citizen's 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 will have grave and far-reaching impacts on the state of Colorado and its voters and the initiative will broadly redefine animal sexual abuse in a manner that will criminalize many common and necessary, proper and veterinary-approved animal husbandry practices and methods of care for pet, livestock, zoo, and other animals in Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative will additionally require tremendous delays, in most cases years, prior to the humane harvesting of livestock, these delays (of up to one-quarter of an animal's statutorily defined natural lifespan) will greatly increase the costs to livestock producers by forcing the continuation of feeding this livestock past their prime harvest age at which will cause meat of lower quality to be sold to the consumer at much higher purchase prices, and potentially create an export only model for Colorado livestock, severely injuring the supporting industries and their employees in the State of Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, any forced exportation of ready to process livestock products creates a domino effect on the collapse of the support industries and opens the state to a higher dependency on imports, further injuring the Colorado producer's ability to positively impact the revenue generated from the agricultural community in Colorado.

**WHEREAS**, these increases in livestock production costs will put Colorado producers at an unfair disadvantage to surrounding states' and countries' that compete with Colorado producers for the same markets causing many to severely reduce or go out of business; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative will reduce the standard of care provided by veterinarians reducing the quality of life of those animals and the criminalization of approved practices will prevent veterinarians from performing procedures that help reduce the unsafe feral pet population and will restrict the ability of pet owners to properly care for their companion animals; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative will criminalize practices that allow for the care and reproduction of livestock animals, now to include fish as livestock, and the food products they produce including beef, pork, dairy products, etc. as well as potentially eliminating the Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative will drive up carbon emissions and reduce the sustainability of food production and reduce consumer food choice, availability, and increase grocery prices; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative will unnecessarily limit everyday events and activities that include animals, such as dog and cat shows, dog agility competitions, trail rides, horse shows, rodeos, etc. and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative will have tremendous economic consequences for cities and counties across the state of Colorado.

**WHEREAS**, the governor's spokeswoman Shelby Wieman said Governor Polis "agrees with farmers and ranchers that the PAUSE ballot initiative would hurt Colorado and destroy jobs, and he opposes it.";

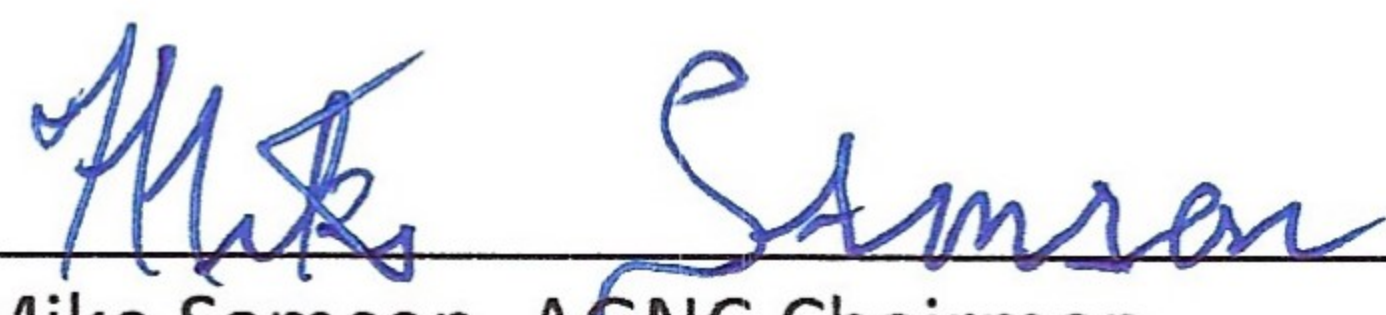
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) that:

1. The Board opposes Initiative 16 and urges the Governor of Colorado and Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to continue to do the same.
2. Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado urges all citizens to decline to sign any petition that supports placing Initiative 16 (PAUSE) on the November 2022 ballot.
3. All people that care about the well-being of animals - be they livestock, fish, pets, service animals, endangered species or other - act to defeat this measure if it does make the November 2022 ballot.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF  
NORTHWEST COLORADO, STATE OF COLORADO

By:   
Mike Samson, AGNC Chairman 