

**MORGAN COUNTY, COLORADO  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021 BCC 17**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING BALLOT INITIATIVE 16 IN ORDER TO  
PROTECT OUR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY**

**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;

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 is an industry annihilation effort that will disrupt all aspects of meat production, sales, and export;

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 criminalizes farmers, ranchers and veterinarians who use accepted animal husbandry practices to care for animals;

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 changes state statutory language to define common animal care practices as cruelty to animals;

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

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 criminalizes the following veterinary and animal husbandry practices: spaying and neutering, reproductive practices (artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, fertility testing), etc.;

**WHEREAS**, Initiative 16 eliminates accepted animal husbandry practices, opening the door to animal cruelty prosecution for common and basic practices such as feeding, sheltering and transportation;

**WHEREAS**, Morgan County is the fifth largest agriculture producing county in the state, accounting for 7 percent of the agricultural sales, approximately \$559 million in production;

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of Initiative 16 to farmers, ranchers, meat processors, veterinarians and other related industries would be tremendous and negative; and

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

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Colorado, that:

1. The Board believes that Initiative 16 is radical and reactionary ballot initiative proposal. It is a direct and brazen attack on a way of life and a backbone industry in the state.

2. This Board opposes Initiative 16 and urges the Governor of Colorado and Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to continue to do the same.
3. The Board urges all citizens of Morgan County to decline signing any petition that supports placing Initiative 16 on the ballot for the election to be held in November 2022.
4. The Board encourages all Morgan County citizens to educate all citizens throughout the state about the importance of agriculture to the entire State of Colorado.
5. All people that care about the well-being of animals – be they livestock, pets, service animals, or other – should take action to defeat Initiative 16 in the event it is placed on the November 2022 ballot.
6. If Initiative 16 should appear on the ballot, this Board urges all Morgan County citizens to vote against it.

If Initiative 16 should pass in Colorado, Morgan County will not recognize, follow, or enforce any of its provisions.

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MORGAN COUNTY, COLORADO

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Mark A. Arndt, Chairman

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Jon J. Becker, Commissioner

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Gordon H. Westhoff, Commissioner

ATTEST:  
(SEAL)

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Susan Bailey, Clerk to the Board