RESOLUTION

RE: EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE #107 (“COLORADO RESTORE GRAY WOLF POPULATION INITIATIVE”)

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colorado, pursuant to Colorado statute and the Weld County Home Rule Charter, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of Weld County, Colorado, and

WHEREAS, the livestock industry, farming, and ranching communities, and big game hunting, are several of the primary components of Colorado’s economy, and are major economic and social drivers in Weld County’s economy, supported and protected by the Right to Farm Statement, and

WHEREAS, Weld County residents and visitors also enjoy abundant outdoor recreational opportunities and tourist attractions, and

WHEREAS, Wolf populations have been reintroduced in the states of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, and there have been numerous sightings of wolves in Colorado, documented by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and predation by wolves of the wildlife and domestic livestock is a serious problem that Colorado should not invite, encourage or accept, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the negative economic and social impacts, the reintroduction of wolves poses a danger to the health, safety and welfare of Weld County citizens through the transmission of diseases, such as the dreaded Hydatid Disease, which is fatal to wildlife, livestock, pets, and humans, and

WHEREAS, Colorado is not part of the historic range of the Mexican wolf, the ongoing private efforts to reintroduce the Northern Gray Wolf to the northern Rocky Mountains have exceeded recovery goals and are unnecessary based upon the scientific input from the federal and state agencies tasked with managing wildlife populations, and existing federal wolf recovery efforts do not include establishing populations of either the gray wolf or the Mexican wolf in Colorado, and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission passed Resolution 16-01 opposing the intentional release of any wolves into Colorado.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colorado, that it hereby expresses its opposition to Initiative 107 (“Colorado Restore Gray Wolf Population Initiative”) as follows:

1. The Board opposes any efforts to introduce or expand the populations of wolves into Colorado.

2. The Board supports recommendations of the Colorado Wolf Working Group, which were adopted by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2005.

3. The Board supports the position taken by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife in its Resolution 16-1.
4. The Board supports delisting of all wolf species under the Endangered Species Act to allow management of wolves at the state and local levels.

5. The Board requests that any federal or state wolf management plans include funding to offset the negative impacts of wolves on livestock, wildlife management, hunting and other adversely affected sections of local economies.

6. The Board supports efforts to include a requirement that any publicly funded or sponsored wolf education programs include comprehensive and balanced discussions about the impacts of wolves on local economies, and include the perspective of livestock producers, hunters, public health officials, and Weld County's Right to Farm Statement.

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted by the following vote on the 30th day of December, A.D., 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

Weld County Clerk to the Board

Barbara Kirkmeyer, Chair

Mike Freeman, Pro-Tem

Sean P. Conway

Scott K. James

EXCUSED

Steve Moreno