RESOLUTION NO. ______

A RESOLUTION BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO, DECLARING OPPOSITION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF PREDATORY WOLVES IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, El Paso County, Colorado is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Colorado for which the Board of County Commissioners is obligated and authorized to act in the best interests and in alignment with the values of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Board has the authority and interest to oppose the State of Colorado plans to introduce wolves into the state; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County ("the County") is a large and geographically diverse area, including everything from mountains, forests, and plains to urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the County boasts a strong economy with many ranchers who raise animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and llamas; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 720,000 people live in the County, many of whom own horses, small pets, and service animals required to cope with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, many local families and tourists alike enjoy outdoor recreation in El Paso County, including, but not limited to hiking trails, mountain climbing, bouldering, bike paths, camping, scenic parks, as well as the responsible use of firearms and archery equipment for both hunting and recreation; and

WHEREAS, introducing wolves into Colorado wildlands would threaten the health and physical safety of El Paso County families, residents, horses, livestock, pets, and service animals; and

WHEREAS, wolf introduction would also endanger tourists and tourism, as well as disrupt the almost $2 billion-dollar a year sports industry by making Colorado open space less safe for people, excessively drawing down the population of deer, big-horn sheep, and elk, and increasing the potential for the spread of disease and parasites to other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has not communicated suitable plans to adequately protect residents and property from such threats, or to compensate citizens for the inevitable loss of livestock, pets, or service animals; and
WHEREAS, the introduction of the gray wolf into Colorado is unnecessary because the gray wolf populations introduced in other Rocky Mountain states have exceeded recovery goals and have greatly expanded in both numbers and distribution; and

WHEREAS, efforts to introduce wolves into Colorado are contrary to resolution 16-01 passed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, opposing the intentional release of any wolves into Colorado.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of El Paso County Commissioners, State of Colorado:

1. Opposes any efforts to introduce or expand the wolf population in Colorado; and
2. Recommends that if wolves are introduced, the State fully funds an easy to use program to offset all negative impacts to local populations, ranchers, economies, and health hazards; and
3. Opposes Initiative 107 on the 2020 Colorado General Election ballot, as well as any future ballot initiative seeking to introduce or expand the wolf population into Colorado and encourages voters within the County to do the same; and
4. Supports the position taken by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission as outlined in Resolution 16-01, which also opposes the introduction of the wolf into the state.

DONE THIS 25th day of Feb., 2020 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ATTEST:                              BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
                                     EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

By: __________________________________  By: __________________________
    Chuck Broerman                    Mark Waller, Chair
    El Paso County Clerk and Recorder