At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Bent County, State of Colorado, held at the Bent County Courthouse in Las Animas, Colorado 81054 on Thursday, the 5th day of March, 2020, there were present:

Kim MacDonnell  County Commissioner
Jean Sykes       County Commissioner
Chuck Netherton  County Commissioner
Lynda G. Moss    County Clerk and Clerk to the Board

When the following proceedings, among others, were had and done, to wit:

RESOLUTION 2020-6

A RESOLUTION URGING OPPOSITION TO THE PURPOSEFUL INTRODUCTION AND ARTIFICIAL ACCELERATION OF THE GRAY WOLF POPULATION IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, Bent County is a legal and political subdivision of State of Colorado for which the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, the Board is empowered by statute with authorities to address certain threats to the life, health, and safety of the citizens of Bent County; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State of Colorado approved a petition to place Initiative #107 “Restoration of Gray Wolves” on the 2020 general election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior, in March 2019, recommended removing the Gray Wolf (canis lupus) from the federal endangered species list; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife has publicly opposed the introduction of the Gray Wolf in Colorado repeatedly over the past 37 years (in 1982, 1989, and 2016); and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Legislative Council has estimated the cost just to plan for the effort in 2021 and 2022 at over $800,000.00 and further that beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-24, implementation costs will increase as the reintroduction of gray wolves commences; and

WHEREAS, there are already identified viable wolf populations within Colorado that have migrated into the state after reintroduction efforts previously taken in Wyoming and New Mexico; and
WHEREAS, in states where wolves have been re-introduced, incidents of attacks on game animals, livestock, and pets are regularly recorded while attacks on human in other areas of North America, while less common, are known to have occurred and resulting in death and serious injury to humans; and

WHEREAS, in states where wolves have been re-introduced, cases of previously unrecorded instances of disease have been found to be prevalent in the wolf population and these diseases have been passed to game animals, and can be transmitted to domesticated livestock, pets, and humans; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Colorado Farm Bureau, R-CALF, and others actively engaged in environmental and wild game conservation and agricultural production oppose introduction of Gray Wolves; and

WHEREAS, livestock production is a primary agricultural industry critical to the economy of Bent County and the livelihood of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Bent County, Colorado as follows:

1. The Board opposes any measures to accelerate the increase in the Gray Wolf population already present in the State of Colorado.

2. The Board urges citizens to research this issue and to vote against Ballot Initiative #107.

3. The Board supports the historic stand taken by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division against the introduction of the Gray Wolf most recently articulated in their Resolution 16-1.

4. The Board supports the actions initiated to remove the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species List and return management of any current wolf populations to state wildlife conservation agencies and public health officials.

5. The Board requests that if a ballot measure to introduce the gray wolf does pass with majority of voter approval, that the legislature ensure funding is provided to offset the negative impact on livestock, wildlife management, hunting and any other segments of local economies.
APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of March, 2020.

Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:

JEAN SYKES, CHAIR

KIM MACDONNELL, COMMISSIONER

CHUCK NETHERTON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

LYNDA G. MOSS
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER