

# Agriculture Death by Many Cuts

*The attacks on rural Colorado continue, where is Governor Polis?*

Governor Polis claims that he supports Colorado agriculture including the meat industry. It is his same old story. His assertions are not facts! He declared March 20 a "Meat Out Day" resulting in rage by all meat producers. He claims that the phony alternate plant based meat that includes coconut paste and soy protein concentrate, not grown in Elbert County, is better for you.

Recognizing the absurdity of such action, the Elbert County Commissioners adopted Resolution 21-13 RECOGNIZING THE MANY PAST AND CURRENT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELBERT COUNTY CATTLEMEN AND OTHER LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS AND SUPPORTING THE RANCHING INDUSTRY on March 10. Several local organizations organized an Eat Beef BBQ, held at the Elizabeth Locker Plant on March 20. Cattle, each a vegetarian, thrive on the short grass grazing lands in Elbert County! Enjoy the meat!

Attendance at the EAT BEEF gathering was enormous, mostly conservative individuals that recognized the merits of livestock producers in our county and state. It was enjoyable to visit with the many families that brought their children to see that our community included people of many backgrounds all of which enjoyed their friends, acquaintances, and the meat.

The next item is even more frightening. On February 8 two individuals, Alexander Sage from Broomfield and Brent Johannes of Boulder filed a 2022 Ballot Initiative with the Secretary of State "Colorado State Ballot Initiative, Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation (the PAUSE Act)." If you only read the title, you would probably think, of course. The poison however is in the definitions and details.

## Definitions:

"Animal" means any living Non-Human creature including but not limited to a dog, a cat, horse, and livestock

"Livestock" means bovine, camelids, caprine, equine, ovine, porcine, fish and poultry.

"Natural Lifespan" for species is defined 20 years for a cow, 8 years for a chicken, turkey 10 years, rabbit 6 years, pig 15 years, sheep 15 years. Then it goes on to state that no animal may be slaughtered for any reason unless the animal has lived at least one quarter of the defined lifespan. This means that a bovine, cow, cannot be processed prior to its fifth birthday.

Therefore, any animal cannot be slaughtered until they have lived well beyond the desired time to secure a quality meat product. The net effect is that producers will export livestock out of the state for processing and consumers will have to import the processed product. The other option is to sell the property and go out of business, as the agriculture enterprise will not be economically feasible.

"Sexual act with an animal" defined as an act between a person and an animal involving either direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the mouth, anus or genitals of the other. Sexual act with an animal also includes any intrusion or penetration, however slight with an object or part of a person's body into an animal's anus or genitals.

This means that any meat producers or animal owner cannot artificially breed their livestock or neuter a bull calf, horse or any other animal. The common practice of neutering pets, rescue dogs and cats is forbidden. Elbert County residents proudly own pleasure and working horses, many of them geldings.

Agriculture in Colorado is its second largest industry generating 41 billion dollars industry that employs over 170,000 people. The only larger industry is oil and gas, which the Governor is trying to destroy. This State Ballot Initiative 16 is detrimental to agriculture, landowners, and common pet ownership. Proponents will need to collect the required 124,000 signatures to have this item placed on the 2022 State Ballot.

The Elbert County Commissioners have taken a strong position in opposition of the PAUSE Act (Initiative 16). A resolution in opposition was passed on March 24 and a letter opposing PAUSE and urging action at the state level to oppose this wrong-headed endeavor was sent to the Governor on March 22. At least six other counties have asked for both this letter and the resolution for consideration by their boards.

It is my sincere hope that all voters, legislators, and the Governor realize that agriculture and animal ownership decisions belong to individual Colorado citizens that know the best for animal welfare! Again, the Governor claims to support agriculture, but there is still more anti agriculture legislation that is being considered by the State Legislators regarding transportation of animals, and agricultural employment conditions. These will affect all aspects of agriculture including family economic outcomes, rodeos, gymkhanas and young people's affairs such as 4-H.

Grant Thayer, Elbert County Commissioner, District 3

**RESOLUTION 21-17**  
**OPPOSING BALLOT INITIATIVE 16 IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR**  
**LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND PREVENT NEEDLESS ANIMAL**  
**SUFFERING**

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; and

WHEREAS, the initiative would broadly redefine animal sexual abuse in a manner that would criminalize many common and necessary veterinary and animal husbandry practices; and WHEREAS, the initiative would additionally require tremendous delays, in some cases years, prior to the humane slaughter of livestock for food; and

WHEREAS, these delays (of up to one-quarter of an animals statutorily defined lifespan) would greatly increase the costs to ranchers to feed and care for these animals which at slaughter would produce meat of low value to the consumer at much higher purchase costs; and

WHEREAS, for many meat producing animal varieties (specifically poultry) bred for rapid weight gain, the result of delayed slaughter will be the suffering of morbidly obese animals unable to support their own body weight for years prior to processing; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that even the Governor of Colorado agrees that the PAUSE initiative would "hurt Colorado, and destroy jobs"; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO that the Commission Opposes this Initiative and urges the Governor of Colorado and Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to continue to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, urges all citizens of Elbert County to decline to sign any petition that supports placing Initiative 16 (PAUSE) on the November 2022 ballot; and

FINALLY, SHALL IT BE RESOLVED, that all people that care about the well-being of animals - be they livestock, pets, service animals, or other - take action to defeat this measure if it does make the November 2022 ballot.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of March 2021.