

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFERRED MEASURE 1A, AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF A COUNTYWIDE SPECIAL SALES TAX ON CIGARETTES AND ALL OTHER TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS SOLD, INCLUDING E-CIGARETTES AND VAPING DEVICES, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 19-1033 (the "Act"), authorizes a county to levy, collect, enforce and administer a countywide special sales tax upon all sales of cigarettes, tobacco products, or nicotine products within the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county and further authorizes a county and the home rule or statutory towns within such county to contract and collaborate with each other in levying, collecting, enforcing and administering the special sales tax within the corporate limits of the contracting municipalities as provided in the Act; and

WHEREAS, tobacco and nicotine use is the leading cause of preventable death in Colorado and in the United States generally; and

WHEREAS, after decades of effective anti-smoking campaigns and decreasing smoking rates in the United States, there has been a troubling increase in youth tobacco use, including teens' use of nicotine via electronic devices ("vaping"); and

WHEREAS, based on a comprehensive review of evidence, the Surgeon General declared the use of e-cigarettes and vaping products by youth to be an epidemic and has called raising prices on cigarettes "one of the most effective tobacco control interventions" because increasing the price of these products is proven to reduce smoking and vaping, especially among teens; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every 10% increase in pricing, the consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, and nicotine products is reduced up to 15% among persons under 18 and up to 7% among persons 18 or older; and

WHEREAS, tobacco and nicotine products are unique among consumer goods because they kill a significant percentage of all regular users when used as intended, and the Surgeon General has projected that without further action, 5.6 million youth who are 0-17 years old today will die prematurely from tobacco and nicotine use; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that approximately 96% of smokers began smoking before the age of 21, with most beginning before the age of 16, due in part to the fact that young people's brains are in a stage of development that makes it easier to become dependent on nicotine; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County ("Board") is collaborating with the town governments in our community regarding the imposition of a

countywide special sales tax on cigarettes, nicotine products and tobacco products so that the County and towns may utilize the revenues from the special sales tax to promote the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to impose a countywide special sales tax on the sales of cigarettes, tobacco products, and nicotine products throughout Summit County; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for a countywide special sales tax levy on the sales of cigarettes, tobacco products and nicotine products has been submitted to the voters of Summit County for the election to be held on November 5, 2019,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT, STATE OF COLORADO THAT:

The Board of County Commissioners of Summit County supports the efforts to obtain a levy of a countywide special sales tax on cigarettes and all other tobacco and nicotine products sold, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices, commencing January 1, 2020, and the Board strongly encourages the citizens of Summit County to vote YES on this Referred Measure 1A.

ADOPTED THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2019.

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO
BY AND THROUGH ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Thomas C. Davidson, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder