

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-**

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

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFERRED MEASURE 1B, AUTHORIZING THE ONGOING EXTENSION, WITH NO INCREASE IN TAX RATES, OF THE EXISTING MILL LEVY FOR OPEN SPACE, NATURAL AREAS AND TRAILS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE VOTERS**

**WHEREAS**, in Summit County there exists a strong public desire to protect the County's scenic, rural mountain landscapes that make it a special place to live and visit; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a critical need for the acquisition, protection and preservation of open space within Summit County for the purposes referenced in the Summit County Open Space Protection Plan, including, but not limited to, preservation of cherished view corridors, backcountry parcels, historical sites, wildlife habitat, wetlands, public trails access, buffer areas between towns, and lands along rivers, lakes and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, as additional development and visitation occurs in Summit County there is a continuing need to acquire, build, improve and maintain public trails and trailheads to preserve public access to National Forest lands and to improve public recreational trail opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing mill levy that funds open space, trails and other public purposes will expire unless an extension of the current funding is approved; and

**WHEREAS**, without voter approval of the existing mill levy the Summit County Open Space and Trails Program will end, thereby preventing Summit County from acquiring additional open space and public trails access and from conducting necessary maintenance and conservation work on existing open space lands and trails; and

**WHEREAS**, most of us live in Summit County because of the natural beauty, scenic places and recreational opportunities, but experts predict our population and visitation will continue to significantly increase in the next twenty-five years, so we need to act now to plan for growth and to preserve our open space and access to recreational opportunities for the current generation, as well as our children and grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado, desires to continue to generate revenues for the purpose of acquiring and preserving open space, including any necessary maintenance and non-capital expenditures relating thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, Summit County must also continue to take the initiative and plan ahead to ensure that we reduce the likelihood of a large, severe wildfire and the disastrous effects it could have on our neighborhoods, infrastructure, economy, businesses, water supplies and community members; and

**WHEREAS**, proactive, popular programs such as the Summit County Chipping Program and

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant Program are funded by the existing mill levy approved by the voters in 2008 but are set to expire, and renewal of the existing mill levy is necessary to continue such proactive measures; and

**WHEREAS**, we must continue to make improvements to public buildings to increase their energy efficiency and use of clean or renewable energy sources such as solar energy in order to reduce global warming emissions and long-term energy costs; and

**WHEREAS**, local workers and their families in Summit County continue to struggle with escalating rents and home prices; we should secure lands and undertake projects for affordable workforce housing, thereby helping to maintain the character of our local community, to support our local economy and to ensure that local workers can afford to live here; and

**WHEREAS**, Summit County Government must provide a wide variety of vital public services, buildings, infrastructure and facilities that residents and visitors rely on every day, which requires that existing funding continues for these important needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado, desires to continue to receive revenues as authorized by the voters in 2008 by Summit County Referred Measure 1(A), as deemed reasonable and necessary by the Board as part of the annual budgeting and appropriation process; and it is furthermore the firm intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the revenues generated from the proposed ballot measure during a typical fiscal year for open space and trails purposes shall be no less than current levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 20, Article 10 of the Colorado Constitution requires voter approval for the extension of an expiring tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Revised Statutes Section 29-1-301 requires voter approval for the imposition of an extension of a tax levy to the extent that such levy may otherwise exceed the annual property tax increase limitation of 5.5 percent (of the amount of revenue levied in the prior year) contained therein; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008 the voters of Summit County approved a mill levy of 3.5 mills for the public purposes of Summit County Referred Measure 1(A), however, because of the operation of the TABOR Amendment to the Colorado Constitution (Section 20, Article 10), the approved mill levy was reduced to 3.062 mills, which is the mill levy amount proposed to be extended by this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado, desires to refer a ballot measure to the registered qualified electors of Summit County regarding the extension and continuing authorization of the existing mill levy approved by the voters of Summit County in 2008 on an ongoing basis in perpetuity, subject to the annual levy and appropriation authority of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, our community has made the decision to invest in the Summit County Open Space and Trails Program and other public purposes to protect the County's scenic, rural mountain characteristics and other public purposes and values that make Summit County a special place to live and we need to continue this important commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing mill levy can be extended and these benefits provided without any increased tax rate or additional taxes beyond existing levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado, desires to refer a ballot measure to the registered qualified electors of Summit County regarding the extension and continuing

authorization of the existing 3.062 mill levy on an ongoing basis in perpetuity.

**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 authorize the ongoing extension, with no increase in tax rates, of the existing mill levy for open space, natural areas and trails, and other public purposes previously approved by the voters for and strongly encourages the citizens of Summit County to vote YES on this Referred Measure 1B.

**ADOPTED THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2019.**

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

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Thomas C. Davidson, Chair

**ATTEST:**

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Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder