

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (“BOCC”) OF
PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO ENDORSING PRESIDENT BIDEN’S TEMPORARY
PAUSE ON OIL AND GAS LEASING ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**

RESOLUTION NO. 028-2021

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 2.8.4 (Actions) of the Pitkin County Home Rule Charter (“HRC”), all matters not required to be acted upon by ordinance or formal resolution may be acted upon by informal resolution, and;

WHEREAS, our vast network of federal public lands offers abundant natural beauty, a wealth of natural resources, a vital economic engine for local communities, and a sought after unique quality of life for residents of communities adjacent to them; and

WHEREAS, it’s critical that our public lands and waters are managed responsibly and sustainably so they can remain open and accessible to present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, we support the legal requirement that our federal lands be managed under the ‘multiple use’ standard to best meet the present and future needs of the American people; and believe that the federal land management policies should be developed with input from local communities and public land users, and incorporate the best available science; and

WHEREAS, federal public land policy should ensure that the companies extracting natural resources provide a fair return to federal and state taxpayers while also protecting wildlife and providing the opportunity for the development of sustainable economic non-extractive activity such as outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, our state is experiencing the devastating impacts of a warming climate including severe heat and drought, which are making wildfires more frequent and extreme; an increase in emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas emitted on our public lands; extremes in precipitation; and dust on snow, which causes snowfall to evaporate prematurely; and

WHEREAS, one-quarter of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions come from fossil fuel activity on public lands; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels caused 8.7 million or one in five deaths globally; and

WHEREAS, Pitkin County's efforts to halt natural gas extraction in the Thompson Divide has been successful, but only temporarily so; and

WHEREAS, over 2.4 million acres in Colorado are currently leased with 1.6 million acres on lands with the highest potential for oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, almost 1.4 million acres leased for oil and gas development are not currently developed; and

WHEREAS, as elected leaders, it is our responsibility to take and support prudent and pragmatic steps to reverse climate change and mitigate its devastating impacts by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases and other forms of pollution that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS. The BOCC finds that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Pitkin County to approve this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County, Colorado that it hereby adopts a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”) of Pitkin County, Colorado Endorsing President Biden’s Temporary Pause on Oil and Gas Leasing on Federal Public Lands and authorizes the Chair to sign the Resolution and upon the satisfaction of the County Attorney as to form, execute any other associated documents necessary to complete this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the administration to modernize the federal oil and gas leasing program to ensure the oil and gas companies that hold leases and extract natural resources provide a fair return to federal and state taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the administration to develop a plan to phase out the production of fossil fuels, which are a major contributor to climate change, in a way that also supports the workers, communities, and states that currently have fossil fuel-dependent economies.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED ON THE 28TH DAY OF APRIL, 2021.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Jeanette Jones
Jeanette Jones
Deputy County Clerk

By: Kelly McNicholas Kury
Kelly McNicholas Kury, Chair

Date: Apr-29-2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MANAGER APPROVAL

Laura C. Makar
Laura C. Makar,
Assistant County Attorney

Phylis Mattice
Phylis Mattice for Jon Peacock, County Manager