

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-028**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO  
OPPOSING PROPOSED PROPOSITION 101 REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE FEES,  
SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP TAXES AND OTHER FEES AND CHARGES**

**WHEREAS**, Ouray County, Colorado, acting by and through the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County ("Board"), is a statutory County organized under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Colorado to provide certain services and functions for the citizens of Ouray County as provided by statute; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet its obligations and to provide the best possible local government to its citizens, Ouray County is dependent primarily on funding from various sources, including specific ownership taxes paid by citizens when they register their motor vehicles which was a tax established by referendum and added to the Colorado Constitution in 1937; and

**WHEREAS**, a ballot initiative to amend Colorado statutes to reduce or eliminate various taxes and fees on income, vehicles and telecommunication services, including specific ownership taxes, will appear on the general election ballot this November as Proposition 101; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 101 includes many variables that would impact the provision of services and capital improvements to the citizens and visitors of Ouray County due to the severe reduction of specific ownership taxes, license fees and Road and Bridge (*FASTER*) fees collected at the time of motor vehicle registration in each respective Colorado county; and

**WHEREAS**, a reduction of specific ownership taxes, license fees and Road and Bridge (*FASTER*) fees sounds appealing at first until the impact of such drastic reductions is fully understood; and

**WHEREAS**, an 82% reduction in license fees that is directed to the State Highway Users Tax Fund ("HUTF") would cause a domino effect to local governments by creating a loss of revenue of up to 38% to HUTF revenues distributed to Colorado counties which equates to an annual reduction of at least \$229,000.00 to the Ouray County Road and Bridge; an amount that equates to more than the total annual line item amount for "road materials", including gravel, magnesium chloride, asphalt materials, culverts, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of Proposition 101 would eliminate funding collected through motor vehicle registration (*FASTER*) fees that are passed to the State of Colorado to help pay for a backlog of state road construction and repair projects within counties throughout Colorado, including Ouray County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the total average amount paid for specific ownership taxes, on a used vehicle, when a person registers a motor vehicle in Ouray County is \$76.63; and

**WHEREAS**, specific ownership taxes collected on motor vehicle registrations are distributed to local school districts, Ouray County, the Town of Ridgway and the City of Ouray, library districts, fire districts, water districts and cemeteries; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 101 would reduce specific ownership taxes from a current amount of approximately \$606,000.00 to \$9,500.00 in 2014, a reduction of more than ninety-eight percent (98%) of these monies to be received by local school districts, Ouray County, the Town of Ridgway and the City of Ouray, library districts, fire districts, water districts and cemeteries; and

**WHEREAS**, using 2009 data, Ouray County received approximately \$156,994.00 from specific ownership taxes, of which approximately seventy percent (70%) goes to the General Fund; eleven percent (11%) to the Road and Bridge Fund; four percent (4%) to the Social Services Fund and fifteen percent (15%) to the Emergency Medical Services Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of Proposition 101 would have the greatest impact on the Ouray County Road and Bridge budget by a reduction in revenues of \$237,000.00, including HUTF monies and specific ownership amounts, resulting in a progressive deterioration of driving surfaces in Ouray County, delays in

snow removal and application of magnesium chloride, a general devaluation of Ouray County's most valuable assets and the degradation of road safety for the traveling public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes that these are difficult economic times for taxpayers; however, the Board is committed to being fiscally prudent and conservative with the public money and has not sought to impose unnecessary or burdensome taxes on any taxpayer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that the citizens of Ouray County deserve to have at least the limited level of public services that they have enjoyed and that it is ill-advised for citizens throughout the State of Colorado to have the opportunity to demand a reduction in those Ouray County services by the significant reduction in the specific ownership tax and other motor vehicle fees; and

**WHEREAS**, given an economy of scale, the monies received from the specific ownership taxes serve to benefit all of the citizens of Ouray County far in excess of the savings that an individual would realize on specific ownership taxes if Proposition 101 passes.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:**

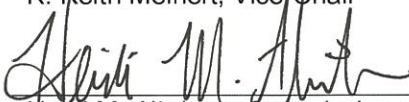
1. The provisions of Proposition 101 are not in the best interest of the citizens of Ouray County and, based upon the foregoing, the Board officially opposes this ill-conceived and irresponsible proposition and the Board encourages the voters of Ouray County to vote **NO** on Proposition 101 at the general election in 2010.

Approved and adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2010.

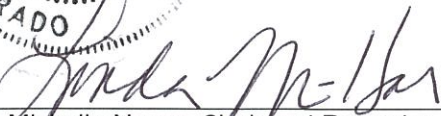
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. Padgett, Chair

  
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K. Keith Meinert, Vice-Chair

  
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Heidi M. Albritton, Commissioner



  
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Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder  
By: Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board