

RESOLUTION 2014-079
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
SUPPORTING THE REFERRED BALLOT MEASURE TO RENEW
THE HELP PRESERVE OPEN SPACES SALES AND USE TAX

WHEREAS, in November 1995, the citizens of Larimer County approved the Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales and Use Tax (the "Tax"), a one quarter of one percent sales and use tax that provides funds for the "acquisition, protection, improvement and long-term maintenance of open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, parks and trails"; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Larimer County passed Initiated Issue 100 on November 2, 1999, which extended the Tax through the year 2018 and authorizing Larimer County to issue revenue bonds to accelerate land protection programs; and

WHEREAS, the Tax provides funding for Larimer County and each municipality in the County to implement open land protection, trails, parks, and other programs for the benefit of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Tax has made it possible to protect over 43,000 acres of natural areas, open spaces, wildlife habitats and agricultural lands, and over 80 miles of regional trails in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Tax has been used by Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, and other municipalities to protect natural areas and other open lands, provide recreational facilities, and create environmental education and interpretation opportunities for all citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Larimer County continue to express strong support and a high demand for open space and natural areas protection, trails, and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the County began a study regarding the future of open land programs through the County, known as the "Our Lands Our Future" study; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the study, a sub-committee of the County's Open Lands Board met to assess the County's financial needs for management of existing open space lands, as well as acquisition and management of new lands; and

WHEREAS, following their assessment review, the County sub-committee recommended to the Larimer County Commissioners that a 25-year extension of the Tax to December 31, 2043, be presented to the citizens of Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2014, based on the sub-committee's recommendation, the Larimer County Commissioners unanimously approved County Resolution No. 07292014R002, referring to the November 4, 2014, ballot a measure to extend the Tax, which upon approval by the voters would be implemented in 2019; and

WHEREAS, in addition to extending the Tax, the referred ballot measure removes the current citizen advisory board comprised of elected official appointed from Fort Collins, Loveland, Estes Park, and Berthoud, replacing that board with a nine-member advisory board whose members are appointed by the County Commissioners based on interests, geography, and location; and

WHEREAS, approval of the referred ballot measure would provide an ongoing source to partially fund City of Fort Collins programs to protect and enhance important natural areas and open lands and to provide trails and other facilities for public use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, approval of the referred ballot measure would continue support for ongoing conservation partnerships between the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and other regional entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the Council of the City of Fort Collins endorses the ballot measure referred by the Larimer County Commissioners under County Resolution No. 07292014R002 to extend the Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales and Use Tax for an additional 25 years beginning in 2019, and encourages the citizens of Fort Collins and Larimer County to vote "yes" on the measure in the November 4, 2014 Larimer County Coordinated Election.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 2nd day of September, A.D. 2014.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Chief Deputy City Clerk

