BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 2026_____

A DECLARATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND HEALTH INDEPENDENCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

WHEREAS, in response to WHO's profound failures in handling the COVID-19 pandemic, on January 20, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14155, withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization which became official on January 22, 2026; and

WHEREAS, in March 2026 Colorado applied to join the United Nation's World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Outbreak Alert Response Network (GOARN) to engage more directly with the international organization for rapid identification, confirmation of and response to public health emergencies and threats; and

WHEREAS, Colorado now joins other states like California, Illinois and New York in bypassing the United States' public health agencies, like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and utilizing the WHO's GOARN; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Park County, Colorado, holds the constitutional and statutory duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens under **Colo. Const. art. XIV, § 18**, and pursuant to **C.R.S. § 30-11-101 et seq.**; and

WHEREAS, Colorado counties are expressly empowered to adopt public health regulations and enforce measures to protect citizens under **C.R.S. § 25-1-506(1)**, which authorizes boards of health to make regulations necessary for the public health, and under **C.R.S. § 25-1-506(2)**, which provides authority to enforce such regulations; and

WHEREAS, counties are authorized under **C.R.S. § 30-15-401 et seq.** to manage emergencies, including public health emergencies, and to implement measures necessary to preserve life and safety within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Colorado courts have recognized the broad powers of local authorities to act in the public interest, including health matters, as in **People v. Goudy**, 101 P. 943 (Colo. 1909), affirming local police powers, and **City & County of Denver v. District Court**, 693 P.2d 1316 (Colo. 1985), recognizing local regulatory authority within state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international health bodies operate outside the authority of the U.S. Constitution, federal law, and Colorado law, and their guidance is not legally binding upon Park County; and

WHEREAS, Park County recognizes guidance from federal health authorities such as the CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as advisory under federal law; and

WHEREAS, prior resolutions, orders, or directives issued by the BOCC related to pandemics or health emergencies may impose restrictions beyond the will of the people and are hereby obsolete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DECLARED, AND AFFIRMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PARK COUNTY, COLORADO, THAT:

1. **Sovereign Health Authority**: Park County asserts its full and exclusive authority to govern local public health policy, emergency responses, and health regulations, consistent with federal and state law, including **C.R.S. § 25-1-506(1)–(2)**, **C.R.S. § 30-11-101 et seq.**, and **C.R.S. § 30-15-401 et seq.**, and the police powers recognized in **People v. Goudy**, 101 P. 943 (Colo. 1909).
2. **Rejection of International Control**: Park County explicitly rejects guidance, directives, recommendations, or mandates issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) or any international health body. Such guidance shall have no legal, administrative, or moral authority within the borders of Park County.
3. **Adherence to Federal Guidance**: The County will consider guidance issued by federal health authorities but reserves the right to implement, modify, or reject such guidance as consistent with the County's interests, constitutional protections, and the welfare of its residents.
4. **Repeal of Prior Health Directives**: Any and all previous resolutions, orders, or directives issued by the BOCC relating to pandemics, health emergencies, or health regulation are hereby fully repealed. These prior actions shall no longer be in force, recognized, or enforced within Park County.
5. **Declaration of Independence in Health Matters**: Park County formally declares its independence from any external international health authority and affirms that all public health decisions will be made by elected representatives accountable to the people of Park County, and the people of Park County have complete autonomy over their own health decisions.
6. **Implementation**: The County Manager, together with County legal counsel, is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to implement this

Declaration. Any and all actions are subject to review and correction as needed by the BOCC.

7. **Effective Date**: This Declaration and Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect unless amended or repealed by the BOCC.
8. **Exemption**: Upon consultation and advisement from Park County Director of Public Health and County Legal Counsel, the BOCC may allow exemptions to this resolution on a case by case basis.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2026, by the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Colorado.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

Chair, David B. Wissel

Commissioner, Amy Mitchell

Commissioner, Jason Gemmer

Attest:

Clerk and Recorder, Milena Kassel