

RESOLUTION NO. 05-19-2020-01

RESOLUTION OF THE PHILLIPS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING THE STATE OF COLORADO JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' AND DISABLED VETERANS' REAL PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROVIDED UNDER §39-3-203, C.R.S.

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Colorado State Joint Budget Committee ("JBC"), published a JBC Working Document containing staff recommendations for balancing the Colorado State Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §39-3-203 provides a "homestead" exemption to qualifying senior citizens and qualifying disabled veterans from real property taxes for fifty percent of the first two hundred thousand dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, the JBC working document recommends suspension of the tax exemption to senior citizens changing the exemption to fifty percent of zero dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, many senior citizens and disabled veterans in the Phillips County community live on minimal fixed incomes and are dependent on the homestead property tax exemption, which enables them to pay bills, stay in their homes and make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County Elected Officials recognize and respect the value of the senior citizens and disabled veterans in the community and believe they must be protected as some of the most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County veterans are the lifeblood of the entire country and have given the gift of freedom, thereby earning our utmost respect and financial protection; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County senior citizens enjoy a shared history and community knowledge, enabling them to share collective wisdom with the other members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens who qualify for the homestead exemption are 65 years old or above, have lived in their primary residence for at least ten years and are established members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and disabled veterans are population groups that is least able to withstand an increase in property taxes to help relieve an anticipated shortfall in state revenue; and

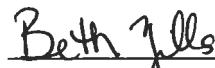
WHEREAS, the senior citizen and disabled veterans homestead exemption was approved by the voters of the State of Colorado through a statewide referendum ballot issue, demonstrating state-wide financial support for these homeowners; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County has approximately 355 property owners who are benefitting from the senior citizens and disabled veterans homestead exemption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Phillips County Colorado, hereby formally opposes the JBC staff oppose suspension of all or any part of the Real Property tax Homestead Exemption set forth in Article X, Section 3.5 of the Colorado Constitution and Section 39-3-203, C.R.S.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020

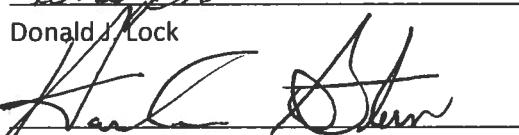
ATTEST

  
Beth Zilla – Phillips County Clerk

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OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

  
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