First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R13-0941.01 Kate McCarthy x2802 **HJR13-1024**

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts, King

House Committees
Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-1024

CONCERNING THE STATE OF COLORADO'S OPPOSITION TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.

WHEREAS, On January 11, 2013, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as endangered under the federal "Endangered Species Act of 1973", as amended; and

WHEREAS, The state of Colorado opposes this listing due to the sufficiency of the extensive measures currently in place to protect the Gunnison sage-grouse and its habitat; and

WHEREAS, For the past two decades, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife has worked closely with private landowners, county

governments, and others to protect and improve habitat, conduct research, and work collaboratively for the benefit of the Gunnison sage-grouse; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife has spent approximately $30 million to acquire conservation easements or properties with Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in Gunnison, San Miguel, Dolores, and Mesa Counties, and over 68,000 acres of land are currently managed to protect and enhance the bird's habitat in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, In cooperation with local landowners, biologists in western Colorado have spent substantial time assessing nearly 80,000 acres on dozens of private land parcels to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, which implements conservation measures and provides regulatory assurances on private lands; and

WHEREAS, Working with local landowners and local governments, biologists have trapped and relocated Gunnison sage-grouse to help augment the declining numbers and increase the genetic diversity of satellite populations of Gunnison sage-grouse by improving breeding success in areas where small populations and limited genetic diversity threaten the local population; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife has worked with local governments and federal land managers to implement road and public land closures to protect known Gunnison sage-grouse breeding areas during critical times of the year; and

WHEREAS, At least 79% of Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in the Gunnison Basin, where over 88% of the entire species' population is contained, is protected from the threat posed by development through federal management, conservation easements, and other regulation; and

WHEREAS, Available data on the Gunnison Basin population of the Gunnison sage-grouse indicates that the population is stable and recent lek counts are at historic highs; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the Gunnison

sage-grouse as endangered or threatened under the federal "Endangered Species Act of 1973", as amended.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of the Interior, Governor John Hickenlooper, Senator Mark Udall, Senator Michael Bennet, Representative Diana DeGette, Representative Jared Polis, Representative Scott Tipton, Representative Cory Gardner, Representative Doug Lamborn, Representative Mike Coffman, Representative Ed Perlmutter, and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.