

**Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP)
RESOLUTION**

Supporting Reauthorization by the General Assembly of the Colorado Lottery Division in 2018

WHEREAS, Colorado voters provided for a statewide lottery, and in a subsequent election adopted the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) amendment to the state constitution, which directs that lottery profits be used for parks, open space, wildlife, and outdoor recreation purposes, and

WHEREAS, following the voters' approval of a lottery, the General Assembly created a Lottery Division in the State Department of Revenue to administer the lottery, and

WHEREAS, as provided in the GOCO amendment, lottery profits are allocated to the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO Trust Fund), the Conservation Trust Fund, and to the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the GOCO Trust Fund has distributed approximately \$1 billion in grants for projects to improve communities in all of Colorado's 64 counties. Funds have helped connect families to the outdoors, improved local trails and parks, built outdoor recreation facilities, preserved ranchlands, water resources, and view corridors, improved river access and quality and conserved wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, since 1983 the Conservation Trust Fund has distributed approximately \$1 billion in grants to counties, municipalities, and special districts for acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites, capital improvements, and maintenance for recreational purposes on public sites, and

WHEREAS, since 1992 the GOCO Trust Fund has distributed approximately \$215 million of lottery proceeds in support of Colorado's 42 state parks, funding parkland acquisition, park development and operations, trail construction and maintenance, environmental education, youth and volunteer programs and stewardship and natural resource management, and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Lottery Division is critical to the administration of the entire GOCO program and the Division is set to expire unless extended by the General Assembly, which during its 2018 session will consider legislation to extend the Division:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Outdoor Partnership strongly urges the General Assembly to approve legislation during its 2018 session to reauthorize the Colorado lottery division.

Approved and Adopted: November 13, 2017


James R. Petterson
Chair, Policy Committee