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**RESOLUTION 2020-16**

## **REVISE DEFINITION OF WILD BUFFALO & WILD BISON**

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to clarify wild bison or wild buffalo as bison or buffalo that have never been subject to livestock tax.

**WHEREAS**, “wild” should mean roaming free from birth to death; and

**WHEREAS**, MCA 81-1-101(1)(6), “wild buffalo” or “wild bison” means a bison that has not been reduced to captivity and is not owned by a person; and

**WHEREAS**, MCA 87-2-101(14), “wild buffalo” or “wild bison” means buffalo or bison that have not been reduced to captivity; and

**WHEREAS**, MCA 87-6-101(37), “wild buffalo” means buffalo or bison that have not been reduced to captivity; and

**WHEREAS**, those definitions do not provide enough clarity given that buffalo and bison may be livestock or wild animals.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MACo will seek legislation to clarify that to be considered wild bison or wild buffalo means to never have been subject to livestock tax.

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>SPONSOR:</b>        | GARFIELD COUNTY                     |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> | DO PASS                             |
| <b>REFERRED TO:</b>    | MACo AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE          |
| <b>ADOPTED:</b>        | ANNUAL CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 1, 2020 |