

Colorado Compact

WHEREAS *Colorado Livestock Association* recognizes that the growing consequences of a broken immigration system must be addressed in a bi-partisan effort; and

WHEREAS *Colorado Livestock Association* supports efforts to convene and promote a reasonable conversation on immigration in Colorado that could lead to real and lasting federal reform;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that *Colorado Livestock Association* supports the following principles regarding meaningful immigration reform:

- **FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. We urge the Colorado congressional delegation to work to enact immigration policy at the federal level that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders.
- **STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY**
Colorado is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective at meeting the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, taxpayers, and consumers.
- **ENSURING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY**
We believe that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is an utmost priority. Our immigration system must ensure the protection of our communities and national borders.
- **FAMILY**
Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping close families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children across our state.
- **EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT**
We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, and safeguards witnesses and victims. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended consequences to businesses, workers, and consumers. Furthermore, the broader reform

effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.

- **A COMMONSENSE APPROACH**

Immigrants are part of our communities across Colorado. We must adopt a commonsense approach to this reality that reflects our values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in our nation's history and economy. Our immigration policies must provide a sensible path forward for immigrants who are here without legal status, are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that *Colorado Livestock Association* supports efforts that bring together leaders and community members of diverse backgrounds and politics who are committed to fostering a more rational and collaborative approach to immigration policy than exists today; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that *Colorado Livestock Association* respectfully requests the opportunity for member involvement in the development of any legislation directed at addressing immigration reform.