

**Colorado Water Congress  
Resolution No. 2016 – 01**

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress is the principal voice of Colorado's water community and represents a diverse array of water interests from every river basin of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress is a key leader on water policy and water law, and has a duty to promote those policies and laws that are in the best interest of our members; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress supports the Colorado Constitution, which includes protections for water rights and property rights, as well as citizen rights to initiate both statutory and constitutional amendments by petition; and

WHEREAS, the current initiative process in the state of Colorado requires that proponents of *both* Constitutional and statutory changes submit signatures equaling only 5% of the previous Secretary of State vote total to place the initiative on the ballot, and once placed on the ballot, only a simple majority to pass a Constitutional or statutory amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress believes that our state Constitution serves as the framework for our state government, is meant to protect our basic rights, and should not be too easily amended; and

WHEREAS, the current initiative process leads to an easily amended and ever-growing state Constitution instead of promoting statutory changes which provide citizen direction for normal legislative functions, are more flexible and can be refined or corrected by the legislature when necessary; and

WHEREAS, the ease of amending the Constitution in Colorado is attractive to special interest groups, often from out of state, that often causes unnecessary political battles which can incur major costs, jeopardize existing constitutional protections, threaten water rights and other property rights, and create governmental inefficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress believes that Constitutional changes should only be adopted if carefully considered and largely supported by the citizens of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress believes that support for constitutional amendments would be better demonstrated by requiring at least 2% of signatures to be obtained by each of the state's 35 senate districts, guaranteeing that a broad range of voter's voices are heard; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress believes that support for constitutional amendments should be demonstrated by requiring at least 55% of the vote to pass Constitutional amendment instead of the current requirement of a simple majority (50%); and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Congress concurs with the efforts of Raise the Bar, Protect Our Constitution and their initiative, which protects voter's rights and ability to amend our Constitution while also fostering a higher level of civic engagement for future changes to the constitution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Colorado Water Congress supports Raise the Bar, Requirements for Initiated Constitutional Amendments (Initiative 2015-16 No. 96 or Amendment 71) asking voters to hold our state's constitution to a higher standard by requiring minimum signature requirements statewide and to increase the threshold for voter approval from 50% to 55% in order to amend Colorado's Constitution.

*Adopted by Colorado Water Congress Board August 23, 2016*