

RESOLUTION NO. 23-05
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
RIDGWAY, COLORADO, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO
STATEWIDE LAND USE AND ZONING PREEMPTIONS IN SENATE
BILL 23-213

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (“Town”) is a home rule municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado (“State”) organized and existing under a home rule charter (“Charter”) pursuant to Article XX of the Constitution of the State; and

WHEREAS, for a century, the State has committed both in statute and in the state constitution to the local control of land use planning and zoning because local governments are closest to the land and to the people that occupy it; and

WHEREAS, zoning and land use cannot be viewed separately from the impacts of proposed uses of land on surrounding properties and a community as a whole, including the ability to ensure adequate water and utilities; to provide enough public safety services, schools, and recreational services; to make sure that sufficient and safe infrastructure is available to handle increased population or more intense uses; to align development with the community’s economic goals; to prevent displacement of existing people; to preserve important historical sites; and to protect open space and the environment in general; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 23-213 would place statewide mandates on hyper local land use matters and substitute the judgment of legislators and state regulators who lack the understanding needed to make the right decisions for our community; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 23-213 will undermine long-range planning efforts and will severely limit our ability to maintain reasonable zoning regulations to ensure a high quality of life and sound economic environment for our current and future residents, workers, and business owners; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 23-213 silences the voices of our residents by taking away the right to be heard at public hearings on zoning matters or to use their constitutional rights of initiative or referendum to address zoning and land use matters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ridgway Town Council that:

1. It is the position of the Town of Ridgway that municipalities are best suited to determine appropriate zoning laws for their communities and that collaboration and cooperation – not top-down statewide mandates and giveaways to special interests – are the solution to Colorado’s affordable housing problem; and
2. The Town of Ridgway opposes Senate Bill 23-213 and strongly urges its legislators to vote NO on this unprecedented and irresponsible preemption.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12th day of April 2023.



John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:



Pam Kraft, Town Clerk



Karen Christian, Deputy Clerk