EXHIBIT 16

## **RESOLUTION**=

## 26. Opposition to Efforts to Prohibit County Legislative Communications

- WHEREAS, certain legislative proposals would prohibit the use of county funds to retain experts, consultants, and lobbyists to influence legislation, pay dues to associations that influence legislation, and to reimburse county officials for influencing legislation; and
- WHEREAS, any bills that would prohibit the use of county funds would effectively silence the voice of local officials and prevent effective communication and representation of their citizens and taxpayers; and
- WHEREAS, county officials require the ability to collectively develop and express their positions and information through associations; and
- WHEREAS, the inability to retain experienced representation before the federal and state legislative bodies and agencies would place our communities at a distinct disadvantage in efforts to obtain and retain federal and state projects and military bases; and
- WHEREAS, smaller counties especially need to be able to combine their resources to efficiently and effectively present their unique issues to state and federal government; and
- WHEREAS, requiring elected officials to personally expend personal resources to present the views of their citizens would impose an extreme hardship upon these public servants; and
- WHEREAS, such prohibition would stifle the basic tenets of democracy and open government;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commissioners Court of Hopkins County does hereby express its opposition to any legislation that attempts to silence the combined voices of the county officials of this state.

CONSIDERED AND APPROVED by the Hopkins County Commissioners' Court at the regularly scheduled meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

Robert Newsom, Hopkins County Judge

Wesley Miller, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Travis Thompson, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Greg Anglin, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Joe Price, Commissioner, Pct. 4

ATTEST:

**COUNTY CLERK**