



*WHEREAS, employee ownership creates a rare and extraordinary opportunity to make our economy more rewarding and resilient for employers, employees and communities; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes employee ownership as a mechanism for business growth and success, serving as a national leader in advancing employee ownership; and*

*WHEREAS, we are growing a network of employee ownership service providers, partners, businesses and legislators who are joining for the common goal of a more equitable economy and a more positive work environment; and*

*WHEREAS, our workforce is the heart of our economy and the dedication, passion and loyalty of our employees deserve to be not only celebrated but rewarded; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado encourages business owners to explore employee ownership as a tool to attract, retain and engage employees unlike any other employee benefit imaginable; and*

*WHEREAS, when businesses are carried on by employees, owners maintain their legacy and ensure that jobs and profit stay local in their community; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado acknowledges any business with 20% of the company owned by workers, excluding founders, as a Colorado Employee Owned Company, including Cooperatives, Employee Stock Ownership Plans, Phantom Stock, Stock Option and many other structures; and*

*WHEREAS, the state of Colorado has established an Employee Ownership Commission and the Colorado Employee Ownership Office to serve all of the employee ownership needs of our great businesses whether they are beginning to learn about employee ownership or ready to finalize their conversion; and*

*WHEREAS, employee ownership proves to be transformational for the lives of employees as they are motivated to invest more of themselves into their work and the business so they can better grow their ownership stake and the increase the success of the business; and*

*WHEREAS, employee ownership supports businesses in not only weathering economic shocks, but also thriving while growing business, creating jobs and ensuring their communities remain vibrant;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as*

### *EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP MONTH*

*in the state of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the state of Colorado, this first day of October, 2021*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor