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EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE STEGOSAURUS AS THE STATE FOSSIL

WHEREAS, Colorado enjoys a long and colorful history which extends well into the prehistoric era in which numerous dinosaurs and other now-extinct flora and fauna flourished; and

WHEREAS, the Stegosaurus lived in Colorado 150 million years ago in the Mesozoic era during the Jurassic period; and

WHEREAS, there are only six skeletons of the Stegosaurus on public display in the United States, including one on public display at the Museum of Natural History in Denver, Colorado, which was found and dug up by a teacher and students at Canon City High School; and

WHEREAS, the Stegosaurus, like all dinosaurs, makes a continuing contribution to modern living through fossil fuels which are comprised of the remains of dinosaurs and other once-living matter from prehistoric times; and

WHEREAS, the Stegosaurus has stimulated the interest of numerous Colorado school children to participate in the political process through their efforts to have the Stegosaurus established as a state fossil by the Colorado General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, three other states have established state fossils; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a state fossil for the State of Colorado would be a benefit to the tourism industry of the state and would provide a positive conclusion to the important effort of numerous school children in Colorado to participate in our political process;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard D. Lamm, Governor of the State of Colorado, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the laws and constitution of the State of Colorado, DO HEREBY declare that the Stegosaurus shall be considered the State Fossil for the State of Colorado and shall remain as the State Fossil pursuant to this Executive Order until such time as the General Assembly takes action to establish a State Fossil by statute.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this 28th day of April, A.D., 1982.


Richard D. Lamm
Governor