DATE FILED: February 24, 2015 5:10 PM

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO

2 East 14th Avenue

Denver, Colorado 80203

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING PURSUANT TO

C.R.S. § 1-40-107(2)

Appeal from the Title Board

IN RE TITLE AND BALLOT TITLE AND SUBMISSION CLAUSE SET FOR INITIATIVE 2015-2016 #4

Petitioner: DOUGLAS KEMPER, as

Registered Elector of the State of Colorado;

v.

Title Board: SUZANNE STAIERT, JASON

GELENDER, and DAVID BLAKE;

and

Respondents: PHILLIP T. DOE and

BARBARA MILLS-BRIA

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

Case No: 2015SA15

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ANSWER BRIEF

Certificate of Compliance

I hereby certify that this brief complies with all requirements of C.A.R. 28 and C.A.R. 32, including all formatting requirements set forth in these rules.

Specifically, the undersigned certifies that:

The brief complies with C.A.R. 28(g).

It contains 4,417 words.

It does not exceed 30 pages.

The brief complies with C.A.R. 28(k).

For the party responding to the issue:

It contains, under a separate heading, placed before discussion of the issue, a statement of whether Petitioner agrees with the opponent's statements concerning the standard of review, and if not, why not.

I acknowledge that my brief may be stricken if it fails to comply with any of the requirements of C.A.R. 28 and C.A.R. 32.

(Original signature on file at Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.)

s/Stephen H. Leonhardt

Stephen H. Leonhardt

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SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Far beyond strengthening state government's environmental stewardship obligations for public resources, Initiative #4 would create common property in all natural resources. These subjects of mandating stewardship and creating common property lack a proper connection to each other, or to referral for criminal prosecution, and cannot be merged under the broad theme of a public trust. Such separate subjects may not be combined in a single initiative, so the Board's actions should be reversed. Moreover, the Titles are deficient in that they fail to disclose two features of the Initiative, its creation of common property and its express applicability to commercial dealings.

ARGUMENT

Petitioner Kemper files this Answer Brief in response to the brief filed as "Respondents' Answer Brief" by Mr. Doe and Ms. Mills-Bria (the "Proponents") on February 4, 2015, which the Court construes as their Opening Brief ("Proponents' Opening Brief"). The Title Board has elected not to file briefs in this matter. (Notice of Title Board, filed February 4, 2015, ICESS ID# 323B3A78A21E2.)

I. Initiative #4 Violates the Single Subject Rule Because it Contains Multiple, Disconnected Subjects.

A. Standard of Review.

Mr. Kemper disagrees with the Proponents' characterization of the standard of review for whether an initiative contains a single subject. Although this Court will "employ all legitimate presumptions in favor of the propriety of the Board's actions," the Colorado Constitution prohibits the Title Board from setting title for a proposed initiative that contains more than one subject. In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2009–2010 #45, 234 P.3d 642, 645 (Colo. 2010) (citing COLO. CONST. art. V, § 1 (5.5)). "An initiative violates the single subject requirement when it (1) relates to more than one subject and (2) has at least two distinct and separate purposes that are not dependent upon or connected with each other." In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2005–2006 #55, 138 P.3d 273, 277 (Colo. 2006). Accordingly, this Court must overturn the Title Board's decision if it determines that an initiative clearly contains more than one subject. In re Title, Ballot Title, and Submission Clause for 2013–2014 #76, 333 P.3d 76, 79 (Colo. 2014). To determine whether the Title Board violated the single subject rule, this Court must examine an initiative's individual statements in light of their context and the initiative as a whole. In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2009–2010 #24, 218 P.3d 350, 353 (Colo. 2009).

B. The Initiative attempts to unite several separate, disconnected subjects under the broad theme of a public trust doctrine.

Initiative #4 violates the single subject rule because it contains more than one subject. The Proponents cannot bundle these subjects together under the theme of the "public trust doctrine." "A proponent's attempt to characterize a proposed initiative under 'some overarching theme' will not save the measure if it contains separate and unconnected purposes." In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2011–2012 #3, 274 P.3d 562, 565-66 (Colo. 2012). An overarching theme does not satisfy the single subject requirement when the initiative contains "disconnected or incongruous provisions." In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2011–2012 #45, 274 P.3d 576, 579–80 (Colo. 2012). Put another way, "an initiative containing two or more provisions with no necessary connection or common objective offends the single-subject requirement even if all parts of the initiative address the same general area of law." *In re Title*, Ballot Title, Submission Clause and Summary for 1997–1998 #74, 962 P.2d 927, 928 (Colo. 1998).

Initiative #4 contains at least three separate subjects: (1) creating a new common property interest in all natural resources, including water and minerals, mandating a constitutional public trust for preservation of these resources;

(2) imposing obligations on the State of Colorado to protect the environment; and

(3) requiring referral for prosecution of any criminal offenses involved in manipulating data to profit from specified resources. As explained in Petitioner Kemper's Opening Brief, each of these subjects is separate and distinct. Despite the Proponents' efforts to link each subject to a public trust doctrine theme, the creation of a new common property interest in resources, imposition of new obligations on the state to protect the environment, and mandate for referral of crimes for prosecution are each separate and distinct subjects that are unconnected from and independent of each other.

1. The public trust doctrine created by the Initiative is a theme, not a single subject.

In 2007, the Court considered Initiative 2007-2008 #17 which would create a public trust and a new Department of Environmental Conservation. The court found multiple subjects when "the public trust . . . is paired with . . . reorganizing existing natural resource and environmental protection divisions, programs, boards, and commissions." *In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause, for 2007-2008 #17*, 172 P.3d 871, 875 (Colo. 2007). Like Initiative 2007-2008 #17, Initiative #4 not only creates public trust duties over a variety of natural resources such as water and minerals, but it also redefines standards for environmental protection. In fact, Initiative #4 goes even farther by creating a new common property interest in

natural resources. These are separate subjects that are not necessarily and properly connected with each other.

Initiative #4 is also similar to the 1995 initiative proposed in *Public Rights in Waters II* in the sense that Proponents offer an umbrella theme, "the public trust," in an attempt to unite multiple separate subjects. *See In re Proposed Initiative* "*Public Rights in Waters II*," 898 P.2d 1076 (Colo. 1995). In *Public Rights in Waters II*, this Court determined that some provisions (involving water conservancy district elections) lacked a proper connection to a public trust in water, holding the "common characteristic that the paragraphs all involve 'water' is too general and too broad to constitute a single subject." *Id.* at 1080. By the same reasoning, the common theme of a public trust in the environment and natural resources also must be too general and too broad to weave incongruous provisions including environmental mandates, property ownership, and criminal law into a single subject.

Furthermore, the public trust created by Initiative #4 is broader than other public trust initiatives that this Court has considered in recent years. This Court upheld an initiative that encompassed only Colorado's water resources in *In re Ballot Title 2011–2012 #3*. In that case, 2011–2012 Initiative #3 endeavored to "protect the public's interests in the water of natural streams" and allowed the public access "along, and on, the wetted natural perimeter" of any "natural

stream." 274 P.3d at 564. This Court upheld the Title Board's finding that "the public's rights in the waters of natural streams" is a single subject and concluded that the initiative's additional provisions, regarding the state's duties and enforcement, were not separate subjects because they were properly connected to the single subject. *Id.* at 564, 566–67. In upholding the single subject finding, this Court distinguished Initiative #3's single subject from "water," which it held to be an "overarching theme" instead of a single subject in *Public Rights in Waters II*. Id. at 567 (citing Public Rights in Waters II, 898 P.2d at 1080). Justice Hobbs authored a dissent observing, among other things, that the initiative improperly lumped water interests together with land interests in streambeds. See id. at 574 (Hobbs, J. dissenting). As Justice Hobbs explained, "public water ownership and public submerged-land ownership evolved under completely different circumstances and completely different legal regimes. As such, they cannot be considered a single subject." *Id*.

Last year this Court held that an initiative with public trust features contained a single subject where it proposed "the creation of a public right to Colorado's environment." *In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for* 2013–2014 #89, 328 P.3d 172, 177 (Colo. 2014). Proposed 2013–2014 Initiative #89 declared Colorado's environment to be the "common property of Coloradans," along with a few provisions the Court identified as mechanisms carrying out the

declared objective by protecting Colorado's environment.

Id. The Court held that the subject was not an "overly broad, overarching category," and that each of #89's subsections was properly connected to the subject.

Id.

Justice Hobbs again issued a dissent, observing that Initiative #89 contained at least two separate subjects that did not function as implementation mechanisms, one of which was the creation of a "totally new type of public ownership in the environment that is foreign in Colorado's legal heritage." Id. at 182. The rationale in this dissent is even more compelling here, because Initiative #4 is far broader than the previous 2013–2014 #89 or 2011–2012 #3. The public trust doctrine in Initiative #4 is not limited to water resources or even to the "environment." It encompasses not only air, water and the environment, but preservation of all natural resources. By creating common ownership in all natural resources, Initiative #4 directly contradicts existing private property rights in these resources, expressly raising the separate subject that Justice Hobbs found was implicit in Initiative #89. See id. at 182-83. As dissenting Title Board member Gelender noted at the rehearing on Initiative #4:

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¹ Structurally, Initiative #89 was much simpler than Initiative #4. It contains three subsections; the first is a declaration of common property in the environment, the second is a conservation mandate, and the third grants authority to local governments. *Id.* at 180-81 (Appendix).

The other subject identified by Justice Hobbs was the abolition of existing State preemption doctrines. *Id.* at 184. This subject is not addressed in the text of Initiative #4.

Between the potentially retroactive prosecution, the addition of not just the environment but also, and maybe it's part of the environment, ³ but natural resources as part of what is subjected to the public trust doctrine, which in this one [Initiative #4] is explicitly referenced, even though it generally has applied in the past only to things like water.

Transcript of Rehearing, attached hereto as **Appendix B**, p. 9, 1. 23 – p. 10, 1. 5.

Initiative #4's formulation of a public trust doctrine in all natural resources, as well as the environment, also is unprecedented in scope compared to the common law public trust doctrine and the public trust doctrines established by other Western states. There is no federal public trust doctrine. *See PPL Montana*, *LLC v. Montana*, ______ U.S. ______, 132 S. Ct. 1215, 1235 (2012). Although federal law determines the title to the riverbeds of navigable waters, each state has the power to define the scope of the public trust doctrine for the navigable waters within its borders. *See Ill. Cent. R.R. Co. v. Illinois*, 146 U.S. 387, 452 (1892); *PPL Montana*, 132 S. Ct. at 1235.⁴ As explained in Petitioner Kemper's opening brief, Colorado has never recognized any form of the public trust doctrine, rejecting the concept as inconsistent with Colorado's constitution and prior

²

³ As explained in Mr. Kemper's Opening Brief, natural resources are not commonly understood to be part of the environment, and the proponents never made that contention before the Board. Mr. Gelender's rhetorical question on this point (*see* **Appendix B**, p. 9, l. 25 – p. 10, l. 1) reflects the perplexity created by combining separate subjects identified as "public trust resources" in Initiative #4.

⁴ At common law, the public trust doctrine was for navigable waters and submerged lands beneath those waters. *See Ill. Cent. R.R. Co.*, 146 U.S. at 435-36.

appropriation system. Initiative #4 proposes to institute the public trust doctrine at an unprecedented scale, encompassing not only navigable waters and their underlying beds, but also all other natural resources.

Initiative #4 is not only a striking departure from the common law public trust doctrine, it also proposes a more expansive form of a public trust doctrine than any recognized in the western United States. Hawaii currently has the broadest version of the doctrine, which encompasses more than water resources, but stops short of redefining property rights:

For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State.

All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.

Haw. Const. Art. 11, § 1. Initiative #4 adds a component not found in Hawaii's formulation of the public trust doctrine. It would not just govern "public natural resources," but would establish "common property" in all natural resources, including resources that currently are privately owned. Additionally, Initiative #4's scope creates binding obligations on the State of Colorado, a new cause of action for Colorado citizens, and a new criminal offense related to

manipulation of data, reports, or scientific information. A public trust doctrine so broad and far reaching cannot, and should not, constitute a single subject.

2. Initiative #4 contains multiple subjects and purposes that are not dependent upon or connected to each other.

If a proposed initiative "relate[s] to more than one subject, and [has] at least two distinct and separate purposes not dependent upon or connected with each other," it violates the single subject rule. *People ex rel. Elder v. Sours*, 74 P. 167, 177 (Colo. 1903). As described in Mr. Kemper's Opening Brief, the Initiative contains at least three distinct subjects: (1) a new common property interest in all natural resources, mandating a constitutional public trust for preservation of these resources, (2) obligations on the State of Colorado to protect the environment, and (3) a requirement for referral for prosecution of any criminal offenses involved in manipulating data to profit from specified resources. These subjects serve separate purposes that are not dependent on or connected to each other, and cannot be connected under the theme of a public trust doctrine far broader than its traditional definition.

The Proponents claim that identifying these distinct subjects "artificially separate[s] the provisions of the initiative into more than one subject."

Proponents' Opening Brief, at p. 5. In support of this argument, the Proponents cite two cases involving initiatives that were far narrower than Initiative #4.

Unlike the narrowly defined proposals in 1997–1998 Initiative #74 and 2007–2008 Initiative #61, Initiative #4's multiple subjects are clear from reading the text and do not require "exacting levels of analytic abstraction" to uncover. See Ballot Title 1997–1998 #74, 962 P.2d at 929. This Court held that 1997–1998 Initiative #74 contained a single subject of a school impact fee. *Id. at* 928. It rejected arguments that additional language, which clarified how current law regarding school district initiatives and referenda would apply to policy decisions on school impact fees, constituted an additional subject. *Id.* 2007–2008 Initiative #61 sought to prohibit the "the state from discriminating against, and granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting." In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2007–2008 #61, 184 P.3d 747, 748 (Colo. 2008). Although Initiative #61 also provided that the state's authority was limited by federal authority regarding discrimination, this Court determined that Initiative #61 contained a single subject because "implicitly subjecting a provision to a limitation does not violate the single subject requirement." *Id.* at 750. The limitation of federal authority on the same subject was directly related to the single subject of state discrimination in public sectors. See id.

Regarding Initiative #4, even the Proponents cannot articulate a single subject or explain how the components of the Initiative are dependent upon or

connected with each other. In the Proponents' Opening Brief, they state the subject is: "recognition of the Public Trust Doctrine and the duties required of government pursuant to the doctrine to protect vital natural resources for the public beneficiary" (*id.* at 4), "to establish the Public Trust Doctrine, clarifying the trust assets that are subject to the doctrine, and procedures for implementation" (*id.*), and "common ownership by all Coloradans of public trust resources" (*id.* at 7).

The Proponents attempt to characterize the separate subjects in the Initiative as implementing measures for the creation of a public trust doctrine. At the rehearing, Mr. Doe testified: "We're against ownership of natural resources that belong to the public. ... We're not trying to take away anybody's ownership. We're just trying to preserve what is ours and not sell it to somebody. How do you sell the air?" Appendix B, p. 26, 11. 12–14, 22–25. Chairwoman Staiert responded by observing "Well, the law may be contrary to the concept." *Id.* at p. 27, 11. 20– 21. Although Mr. Doe testified that the goal of the Initiative is not to affect private ownership, its plain language declaring "common property" does just that. This exchange underscores the disconnect between the objects of preserving environmental values such as clean air and the creation of newly declared common property from privately-owned interests in natural resources. These concepts are not necessarily and properly connected with each other.

C. Initiative #4 is designed to gain support from many factions with different interests and will lead to voter surprise.

Initiative #4 is an "omnibus initiative" that manifests the two dangers associated with multiple subject initiatives: (1) "combining subjects with no necessary or proper connection for the purpose of garnering support for the initiative from various factions" and (2) "voter surprise and fraud occasioned by the inadvertent passage of a surreptitious provision 'coiled up in the folds' of a complex initiative." *In re Ballot Title 2011–2012 #45*, 274 P.3d at 580 (citation omitted).

By combining several separate subjects under the general theme of the public trust doctrine, the Initiative attempts to gain support from many factions with different interests and may lead to voter surprise. The purpose of the single subject rule is to protect voters from these dangers. *See, e.g., In re Ballot Title* 2005–2006 #55, 138 P.3d at 282. One of the primary purposes of the single subject rule is to "prevent[] the proponents from combining multiple subjects to attract a 'yes' vote from voters who might vote 'no' on one or more of the subjects if they were proposed separately." *In re Ballot Title* 2013–2014 #76, 333 P.3d at 79. An initiative that combines incongruous subjects places voters in the unfortunate position of voting for a matter that they likely do not support to enact a matter that they do support. *See In re Ballot Title* 2005–2006 #55, 138 P.3d at 282.

This Court is obligated to examine the central theme of Initiative #4 to determine "whether it contains incongruous or hidden purposes or bundles incongruous measures under a broad theme." *Id.* at 279. This Court "may not address the merits of a proposed initiative or suggest how an initiative might be applied if enacted; however, [it] must sufficiently examine an initiative to determine whether or not the constitutional prohibition against initiative proposals containing multiple subjects has been violated." *In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2001–2002 #43*, 46 P.3d 438, 443 (Colo. 2002).

Initiative #4 is a prime example of the dangers of a multi-subject or omnibus initiative. The several subjects "coiled up in the folds" of Initiative #4 will lead to voter surprise and fraud. *See id.* at 442. For example, environmental protection is a goal that many voters will support. These voters may feel obligated to vote for Initiative #4 because it purports to further environmental protection. But the same voters might also irrigate land, benefit directly or indirectly from mineral development, hunt or fish on private property, or have other interests that depend upon established private property rights in natural resources. The multiple subjects in Initiative #4 present a real danger of voter confusion and surprise. At the January 6, 2015 Rehearing, dissenting Title Board member Gelender expressed concern that Initiative #4 is overly broad and will lead to voter confusion:

I just think that this particular initiative is too confusing. It offers too much opportunity for voter confusion. It is too difficult to determine exactly what it does and has too many affects [sic] that are not obvious on its face for me to find it to be a single subject.

Appendix B, p. 10, ll. 6–11.

The Proponents cannot save Initiative #4 by corralling its many subjects under the overarching theme of the public trust doctrine. *In re Ballot Title 2009*–2010 #45, 234 P.3d at 646. This tactic violates the single subject rule and exposes voters to the two dangers that this rule is designed to prevent: initiatives designed to appeal to many different factions and voter confusion and surprise.

II. Initiative #4's Titles are Misleading and Omit Material Provisions.

A. Standard of Review.

The Proponents state that the Court's review is limited to determining whether the titles are "insufficient, unfair, or misleading." Proponents' Opening Brief, p. 3 (citing *In re Title, Ballot Title, Submission Clause for 2011–2012 #3*, 274 P.3d 562, 565 (Colo. 2012)). While this statement summarizes the general standard, it stops short of describing the full scope of the Court's review. The clear-title standard in C.R.S. § 1-40-106(3)(b) requires the Title Board to "consider the public confusion that might be caused by misleading titles," and to "avoid titles for which the general understanding of the effect of a 'yes' or 'no' vote will be unclear." *In re Ballot Title 2009–2010 #45*, 234 P.3d at 648. The Board cannot set

a title that requires voters to use ingenious reasoning, superior logic, or legal training to reveal the matter covered by an initiative. *See id.* at 647. The Court will "reverse the Board's action in preparing [the titles] if they contain a material and significant omission, misstatement, or misrepresentation." *In re Title, Ballot Title, and Submission Clause for 2007–2008 #62*, 184 P.3d 52, 58 (Colo. 2008); *see also In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause 1999–2000 #258(A)*, 4 P.3d 1094, 1098–99 (Colo. 2000) (explaining that material omission is a fatal defect because the failure to disclose a key feature of the initiative can cause confusion and mislead voters about what the initiative proposes).

B. The Titles fail to disclose material features of the Initiative.

1. The Titles do not disclose creation of common property in natural resources.

The Titles fail to disclose the Initiative's central declaration that public trust resources, including natural resources, "are the common property of all the people." This declaration introduces an entirely new concept in Colorado law. *See* discussion *supra* Part I.B. By failing to acknowledge this fundamental change, the Titles do not clearly express the true meaning of the Initiative. The Proponents note that the Titles characterize the Initiative as concerning "common ownership of all Coloradans of public trust resources." *See* Proponents' Opening Brief, p. 7. However, the typical voter likely would not grasp that an initiative *concerning*

common ownership is really one *creating* or *declaring* common ownership of all natural resources, an ownership that does not now exist.

The Board's Titles could mislead voters to believe that Initiative #4 merely addresses an established public ownership right, and requires the state to take actions to protect that right. The Board may not set a title that requires voters to know the legal status of natural resource ownership and Colorado's rejection of the public trust doctrine in order to understand the significance of a yes or no vote. *See, In re Ballot Title 2009–2010 #45*, 234 P.3d at 648 (explaining that legal training should not be required to decipher a title). The Titles in this case fail to state a central point: that the Initiative *creates* or *declares* a new common property ownership in all natural resources.

2. The Titles do not disclose applicability to commercial dealings.

The Titles also fail to disclose that by its terms, the Initiative applies to any "commercial dealing that would violate it, regardless of the date of any applicable local, state, or federal permits." Initiative #4, Section (5) (in **Appendix A** to Kemper Opening Brief). In response to this omission, the Proponents note that the Titles indicate the state's trust responsibilities apply "regardless of any <u>prior</u> federal, state, or local approval." Proponents' Opening Brief, p. 8 (emphasis in original). While the Titles reveal that the Initiative empowers the

state, as trustee, to require proof that actions affecting natural resources are not harmful, they say nothing to indicate that this standard applies to private parties' previously permitted commercial activity.

Commercial dealings are commonly understood to be economic activities. See, e.g. Black's Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014) (defining "commercial" to include "the buying and selling of goods . . . commerce or exchange . . . trade . . . [m]anufacture[] for the markets . . . [and] the ability of a product or business to make a profit..."). The Titles inform voters that despite prior government approvals, the Initiative requires the State to take certain actions to prevent substantial impairment to public trust resources and to seek damages, and authorizes citizens to sue the State for enforcement. However, these statements do not reveal that commercial activities by private parties are subject to the same standard. Thus, voters cannot discern from the Titles that a private transaction, lease, loan, or other commercial activity would be subject to attack.

The Petitioners inaccurately assert that the omission of commercial activities from the Titles merely concerns "how an initiative might be applied if enacted." Proponents' Answer Brief, p. 8. As Board Member Gelender observed at rehearing, the Initiative's phrase that includes "commercial dealing" is "an applicability clause" that specifies the nature of the transaction to which the Initiative applies. **Appendix B**, p. 36, Il. 18–22. The issue is not the manner in

which the Initiative *might* be construed or applied, but rather that the Initiative expressly applies to private commercial activities. By not disclosing this feature of the Initiative's text in the Titles, the Titles are misleading.

CONCLUSION

Initiative #4 contains multiple subjects. Despite the Proponents' efforts to unify the multiple subjects under the theme of a public trust doctrine, the theme as they have defined it is simply too broad to comply with the single subject requirement. This Court should reverse the Board's action in setting the Titles because Initiative #4 is not limited to a single subject and because the Titles are unclear and misleading.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of February 2015.

BURNS, FIGA & WILL, P.C.

(Original signature on file at Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.)

By: <u>s/Stephen H. Leonhardt</u>
Stephen H. Leonhardt
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **ANSWER BRIEF** was served via ICCES on this 24th day of February 2015, as follows:

LeeAnn Morrill, Esq. Sueanna P. Johnson, Esq. Assistant Attorneys General 1525 Sherman Street, 7th Floor Denver, CO 80203 leeann.morrill@state.co.us sueanna.johnson@state.co.us James Daniel Leftwich MindDrive Legal Services, LLC 1877 Broadway, Suite 100 Boulder, CO 80302 dan@minddrivelegal.com Attorney for Phillip T. Doe and Barbara Mills-Bria

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s/Michelle G. Trujillo

Michelle G. Trujillo

1	BEFORE THE COLORADO BALLOT TITLE SETTING BOARD
2	DATE FILED: February 24, 2015 5:10 PM
3	In the Matter of the Title and Ballot Title and
4	Submission Clause Set for Initiative 2015-2016 No. 4
5	
6	MOTION FOR REHEARING
7	REQUESTED BY PETITIONER DOUGLAS KEMPER
8	
9	The Rehearing on the Proposed Title was held
10	in the Aspen Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Secretary
11	of State's Office at 1700 Broadway, Denver, Colorado
12	on Wednesday, January 6, 2015 at 1:12 p.m.
13	
14	
15	
16	APPEARANCES:
17	TITLE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
18	Chairwoman Suzanne Staiert
19	David Blake, Esq.
20	Jason Gelender, Esq.
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	APPEARANCES									
2	For the	Petitioner	Douglas	Kemper:						
3	Stephen	Leonhardt,	Esq.							
4										
5	Douglas	Kemper, Pet	titioner							
6										
7	Proponents present:									
8	Phillip	Doe								
9	Barbara	Mills-Bria								
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- 1 CHAIRWOMAN: Good afternoon. This is a
- 2 meeting of the Title Setting Board pursuant to
- 3 Article 40 of Title 1, C.R.S.
- 4 The time is 1:12, and the date is
- 5 Wednesday, January 6, 2015. We are meeting in the
- 6 Secretary of State's Aspen Room, 1700 Broadway,
- 7 Denver, Colorado.
- 8 The Title Setting Board today consists of
- 9 myself, Suzanne Staiert, Deputy Secretary of State
- 10 on behalf of Scott Gessler, David Blake, Deputy
- 11 Attorney General, designee of Attorney General John
- 12 Southers, and Jason Gelender, Senior Attorney
- designee of Director of Office of Legislative Legal
- 14 Services, Dan Cartin.
- Today we are meeting to consider a
- 16 rehearing on a proposed title. The general
- 17 procedures for a rehearing will be that first we
- will ask the proponent of the rehearing, the
- 19 petitioner, to come up and present their case. And
- then we'll have a response by the actual proponents
- 21 of the initiative.
- 22 And then there will be questions from the
- 23 Board and then the Board will determine, in the same
- 24 order that we did last time, first, the issue of
- 25 single subject, and then secondly, whether to grant

- 1 the rehearing with regard to that or with regard to
- 2 the title.
- 3 So the only item that we have on the agenda
- 4 is the proposed Initiative 2015-2016, No. 4.
- 5 If the petitioners of the rehearing would
- 6 like to come forward and identify yourselves and
- 7 state the basis for your rehearing request and any
- 8 other argument.
- 9 MR. LEONHARDT: Thank you, Madam Chair,
- 10 Members of the Board. I'm Stephen Leonhardt,
- 11 attorney for the petitioner, Mr. Kemper, who is also
- in the room today.
- The first and primary basis for our motion
- 14 for rehearing is that Initiative 4 contains multiple
- subjects. We identified at least three subjects
- 16 that are set out in the motion.
- 17 First of all, the initiative would create
- 18 constitutional obligations for State regulations to
- 19 protect the environment.
- This is similar to the subject that the
- 21 Board and the Court majority found for last year's
- 22 Initiative No. 89, which was creation of a public
- 23 right to Colorado's environment.
- 24 The environment might be considered to
- 25 include clean air and clean water as it did in

- 1 Initiative 89.
- 2 These are typical subjects of state
- 3 regulation under the state's police powers to
- 4 protect public health and other interests in the
- 5 environment.
- 6 And similar to Initiative 89, Initiative 4
- 7 would supplant the existing ownership and regulatory
- 8 scheme by creating a superseding public right in
- 9 protecting the environment.
- 10 As a second subject, Initiative 4 would
- 11 create a constitutional public trust doctrine based
- on a newly created common property interest in
- 13 preservation of natural resources.
- 14 Section 1 of the initiative lumps together
- preservation of natural resources and protection of
- 16 a clean environment under the broad label of public
- 17 trust resources. But these are not the same subject
- and they cannot be united under this broad
- 19 declaration of a public trust.
- Natural resources are the subject of
- 21 property rights that are currently owned by private
- 22 parties or governmental entities including numerous
- local governments and special districts.
- 24 Natural resources include minerals such as
- 25 coal, natural gas, oil, sand and gravel. Natural

- 1 resources also include water and timber and could be
- 2 interpreted to include other resources as well.
- 3 Colorado has well established property laws
- 4 governing property rights and minerals and property
- 5 rights to water use as well as state agency
- 6 regulation of these resources that respects and
- 7 protects these property rights.
- 8 Creating a new inalienable right and common
- 9 property interest in the preservation of water and
- 10 minerals would supersede these constitutionally
- 11 grounded property rights regimes for natural
- 12 resources.
- 13 Initiative 4, thereby, would convert
- 14 property rights owned by private parties and local
- 15 governments into state-owned common property with a
- mandate to preserve rather than develop these
- 17 natural resources.
- 18 Initiative 4 also would retroactively
- 19 re-examine previously granted permits to use natural
- 20 resources.
- 21 Section 5 talks about regardless of the
- 22 date of any applicable state and local and federal
- 23 permits, which further confirms that one of the
- 24 subjects of this initiative is converting property
- interests to common property in natural resources.

- 1 As a third subject, Initiative 4 requires
- 2 referral for criminal prosecution of the
- 3 manipulation of data and other scientific
- 4 information in attempts to utilize the so-called
- 5 public trust resources for private profit.
- 6 This criminal prosecution of conduct is a
- 7 surreptitious subject that's coiled up in the folds
- 8 of Initiative 4 and is not necessary or proper to
- 9 either of the two primary purposes.
- 10 The Colorado Supreme Court recognized last
- 11 year with regard to Initiative 76, it's not
- 12 permissible to set a title for an initiative that
- combines process changes with the substantive
- changes that have no necessary or proper connection
- 15 to one another.
- And Madam Chair, I take it you want to only
- 17 address the single subject issue at this point and
- then proceed to title language if a single subject
- 19 is found?
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: I think I would prefer to do
- 21 it that way just because that is the main issue
- 22 before us.
- MR. LEONHARDT: Okay.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: Do you have anything else on
- 25 that?

- 1 MR. LEONHARDT: Only if there are any
- 2 questions.
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN: Questions? Do you have any?
- 4 (No response.)
- Jason, any questions?
- 6 MR. GELENDER: No.
- 7 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. All right. Thank you.
- 8 MR. LEONHARDT: Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: And if the proponents of the
- 10 initiative could come up and identify yourselves so
- 11 that we know you're both here for the record.
- MS. MILLS-BRIA: I'm Barbara Mills-Bria.
- MR. DOE: I'm Phillip Doe.
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN: And do you have anything you
- would like to add or argue regarding the single
- 16 subject or supplement from last time?
- MR. DOE: Well, I'll just repeat what we've
- 18 said over and over again. The subject is public
- 19 trust. And like the construction of a sentence, you
- 20 can't have public trust sitting by itself. That's
- 21 maybe an idea, but it needs a verb and maybe
- 22 modifiers.
- And so what we've done here is we've taken
- the subject, which is public trust, and tried to
- 25 describe what it is and what it will take to make it

- 1 workable.
- 2 As to the idea that we're creating
- 3 something new, we're not. What we're unhappy with
- 4 is the regulatory system that we have. We don't
- 5 think it functions very well, and this is an attempt
- 6 to protect that which is the public's.
- We are not after anybody's property rights.
- 8 We're only trying to protect that which is ours, and
- 9 that's the water of this state, which is a public
- 10 property, the air of this state, which is clearly
- 11 public property, and the public land. That's what
- we're trying to protect. And that is what this
- 13 initiative is all about.
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. Any questions?
- 15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Uh, no.
- 16 CHAIRWOMAN: No? All right. Thank you.
- 17 Any discussion?
- MR. GELENDER: Yeah. I'll just say I think
- 19 that I've looked more closely now at the opinion
- 20 upholding a somewhat semi-similar Measure No. 89 and
- 21 finding a single subject there. I still think that
- this one is broader than that.
- 23 Between the potentially retroactive
- 24 prosecution, the addition of not just the
- environment but also, and maybe it's part of the

- 1 environment, but natural resources as part of what
- 2 is subjected to the public trust doctrine, which in
- 3 this one is explicitly referenced, even though it
- 4 generally has applied in the past only to things
- 5 like water.
- I just think that this particular
- 7 initiative is too confusing. It offers too much
- 8 opportunity for voter confusion. It is too
- 9 difficult to determine exactly what it does and has
- 10 too many affects that are not obvious on its face
- 11 for me to find it to be a single subject.
- 12 CHAIRWOMAN: And I think I stated last time
- that much of my reasoning was also based on the
- decision last year in No. 89.
- I don't believe that this initiative does
- 16 have anything surreptitious in it. I don't think
- there would be any surprise to the voter as to what
- 18 it does.
- I mean, I think it is broad, but I don't
- think that necessarily means it has multiple
- 21 subjects in it. And so I'm inclined to rule that it
- 22 is a single subject.
- MR. BLAKE: Since, I guess, we're making
- the record at this point since it appears there's
- definitely going to be a split vote, again, my

- 1 apologies to the proponents of the rehearing and
- 2 proponents of the initiative for being tardy.
- I did read these materials. I just didn't
- 4 have a chance to run back to my office first. I had
- 5 an additional point I think I'll just add to the
- 6 Chair's point, which was, I don't think there's
- 7 anything here that -- I don't see anything here
- 8 that's confusing.
- 9 And I also don't think that you can't, in
- 10 amending the constitution, create a subject of --
- 11 I'll keep trying to get it right here -- public
- 12 trust resources.
- I think in the Constitution you can do that
- 14 as long as it's clearly defined within the
- 15 initiative.
- In other words, I don't see the delineation
- 17 that the opponents are drawing that there are two
- 18 subjects here. I think there is one subject, and
- 19 it's clearly defined.
- 20 So to the extent that argument is the one
- 21 that carries the day for Mr. Gelender, then I just
- 22 disagree with it. And I read the opinion, so I also
- 23 find that there is a single subject.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: Do you want to make a motion?
- 25 MR. BLAKE: Sure. I would make a motion

- 1 that there is a single subject in --
- 2 CHAIRWOMAN: And deny the rehearing on that
- 3 topic?
- 4 MR. BLAKE: -- Initiative No. 4 and
- 5 recommend to deny the motion for rehearing that
- 6 there's more than one subject, and move forward to
- 7 set a title.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN: Second. All those in favor?
- 9 Aye.
- MR. BLAKE: Aye.
- 11 CHAIRWOMAN: Opposed?
- MR. GELENDER: No.
- 13 CHAIRWOMAN: So that passes on a two to
- one, which brings us to the rehearing on the title.
- 15 And if you want to come back up and we'll address
- 16 the title.
- MR. LEONHARDT: With regard to the title, I
- 18 recognize the finding that the majority of the Board
- 19 has just made, but for the record let me point out
- that the phrase "concerning public ownership of
- 21 natural and environmental resources" expresses two
- separate subjects or a compound subject with regard
- 23 to public ownership of natural resources and
- 24 environmental resources. I question whether that is
- 25 proper for a title.

- 1 Also the phrase "environmental resources"
- 2 is one that does not appear in the initiative and I
- 3 believe it's inaccurate for that reason to use that
- 4 phrase in the title.
- 5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Just point me to where
- 6 that is quickly.
- 7 MR. LEONHARDT: Yes, in line 2 --
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN: In the beginning.
- 9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Just in the very front?
- 10 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 11 MR. LEONHARDT: The first two lines say
- "concerning public ownership of natural and
- 13 environmental resources".
- 14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay.
- MR. LEONHARDT: The second point, there is
- 16 a material omission from the title in that it does
- 17 not mention the creation of common property rights
- in the so-called public trust resources.
- 19 This common property right clearly is a
- 20 material feature of the initiative and should be
- 21 disclosed in the title.
- The third point is lines 2 and 3, creating
- 23 a public trust in these resources, which include
- 24 clean air, clean water, and preservation of the
- 25 environment and natural resources.

I believe the word "include" in that 1 2 context is misleading. It is inconsistent with the text of the initiative, which refers to these are 3 4 the public trust resources. 5 It doesn't say public trust resources 6 included. It doesn't suggest that public trust 7 resources may include anything other than clean air, 8 clean water, preservation of the environment and 9 natural resources. Fourth point, the title does refer in three 10 11 different locations to public trust resources. 12 believe that that's unclear and confusing because the initiative's definition of public trust 1.3 14 resources is not disclosed in the title and is a 15 unique definition that I don't believe is either 16 facially obvious or derived from anything else in 17 Colorado law. 18 And then two more phrases in the title that 19 are fairly confusing, the phrase -- well, if you 2.0 look immediately after the phrase "which include 21 clean air, clean water, preservation of environment 22 and natural resources" there's a semicolon and then 23 a long, several lines before the next semicolon,

including a phrase that starts with requiring the

State as trustee to do certain things.

24

2.5

1 And then after "regardless of any prior 2 federal, state, or local approval" it continues 3 right on into "seek natural resource damages." Then at the end of line 7, "and using 4 5 damages obtained to remediate the impairment". believe that phrase "to seek natural resource 6 7 damages from anyone who substantially impairs them and using damages obtained to remediate the 8 9 impairment" is unclear and confusing as it's 10 currently worded. 11 And finally, the final phrase of the title, 12 "Requiring the manipulation of data reports or scientific information in an attempt to use public 13 14 trust resources for private profit to be referred 15 for prosecution for any applicable criminal 16 offense." That phrase is unclear and misleading. 17 It doesn't say anything about -- well, it's 18 basically passive voice requiring a certain action to be referred but doesn't say who's to do the 19 referring, et cetera. 20 21 I believe that these portions of the title 22 are defective and should not be included in the 23 Board's final action or should be corrected, 24 particularly in the case of the material omission of 2.5 common property.

- 1 CHAIRWOMAN: All right. Anyone else have
- 2 any questions? I have a couple.
- 3 The first part about the natural and
- 4 environmental resources, in Section 9 of the full
- 5 text, it says "Environment in natural resources."
- 6 When you say that that's not part of the
- 7 initiative, I guess I'm just trying to draw that out
- 8 a little bit.
- 9 MR. LEONHARDT: I'm saying that the word
- 10 environmental -- the phrase "environmental
- 11 resources" is --
- 12 CHAIRWOMAN: So if we changed it to say
- environment and natural resources, as we do later?
- 14 MR. LEONHARDT: I think that would be more
- 15 consistent with the text. It's still a compound
- subject, but it's more consistent with the text.
- 17 CHAIRWOMAN: Right. I mean, I tend to
- 18 agree with that. I suppose "environmental" could
- 19 have a different --
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I had the same solution
- 21 because I thought it was in there, or at least I
- 22 believed it was in there. I went back. You're
- 23 right. They're swapped.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: Right. Okay.
- 25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Our intent was clearly

- 1 to convey that.
- 2 CHAIRWOMAN: And then the common property
- 3 rights that you talked about, I mean, I know it's in
- 4 there, but it seems that that is -- the affect of
- 5 that is only that the state is then tasked with
- 6 these certain things.
- 7 And so I'm concerned about saying this
- 8 common property right because that can mean much
- 9 more than what this is limited to, which is defining
- 10 then the state's role in protecting those.
- 11 If it was truly some common property right
- 12 as we know it in a common law sense, that would have
- 13 a lot of other impacts.
- And so when you say you think that that
- should be included in the title, what is it that you
- think that phrase does that's not reflected in what
- 17 we've spelled out?
- MR. LEONHARDT: Well, the initiative
- 19 declares that public trust resources are common
- 20 property of all the people.
- 21 And as I've pointed out earlier this
- 22 afternoon, Colorado does have private property
- 23 rights as well as local property rights in natural
- 24 resources, including particularly minerals and water
- 25 use.

- 1 And this seems to declare that all of the
- 2 so-called public trust resources are common
- 3 property. In his dissenting opinion on Initiative
- 4 89 last year, Justice Hobbs cited the Webster's
- 5 definition of common property.
- 6 Definition 1 is "Land in which all members
- 7 of the community hold equal rights." And definition
- 8 2, "Land or other property in which a person other
- 9 than the owner hold certain rights in common with
- 10 the owner."
- 11 This phrase of the initiative seems to be
- 12 part of the fundamental purpose of the initiative
- and it clearly is one that is material in its effect
- on property rights in natural resources.
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. Anyone else?
- MR. BLAKE: I had a couple of questions
- 17 and/or responses again, just to make the record.
- 18 I've one potential suggestion. I don't know whether
- that will be acceptable to you or not.
- 20 If I understood one of your original points
- 21 it was that in the third line, the clause that says,
- "which include clean air, clean water", et cetera,
- you think that to be under-inclusive. Do I
- 24 understand your point correctly?
- MR. LEONHARDT: No. My point is that the

- word "include" suggests that it may include more
- 2 than those things and as defined in the initiative,
- 3 it does not.
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN: I think we could just -- my
- 5 thought on that was we could say creating a public
- 6 trust over clean air, water, and just strike "those"
- 7 or something like that.
- 8 MR. LEONHARDT: Just strike "those
- 9 resources which include"?
- 10 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, and then just say --
- 11 MR. LEONHARDT: I believe that would be an
- improvement.
- 13 CHAIRWOMAN: -- in or for or something like
- 14 that.
- MR. LEONHARDT: I believe that would be an
- 16 improvement.
- 17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And that leaves the
- definition in the proposal to speak for itself. I
- 19 think I'm fine with that.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm not sure I -- so
- 22 I'm fine with that solution.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: It does seem that we repeat
- 24 "the resources and environment". I mean, we repeat
- 25 that quite a bit -- probably clean it up.

- 1 MR. BLAKE: You had commented about the
- 2 public trust resources. Again, it's assumed that
- 3 the voter reads this, understands it. I think it is
- 4 defined in the bill.
- 5 You may disagree with its clarity of the
- 6 definition, but it is, so I'm not persuaded by that
- 7 particular argument.
- I think it is clear who would be the
- 9 prosecuting entity as it's always the state who's
- 10 prosecuting criminal offenses. And I think it's
- 11 clear both in the initiative and the title that
- 12 these are state responsibilities.
- And I wanted to ask the question. You had
- 14 commented that the second clause sandwiched between
- 15 two others "to seek natural resource damages from
- 16 anyone who substantially impairs them", you had said
- 17 that was unclear and/or misleading, but you didn't
- 18 say why. Because I think it's quite clear.
- 19 I'm not sure how else to define it since
- 20 that's virtually exactly what it says in the
- 21 initiative. And again, maybe I misunderstood. I'm
- 22 just giving you the opportunity. I thought I was
- 23 tracking all your points.
- 24 MR. LEONHARDT: What's confusing to me is
- 25 the "and to seek" in line 7 followed by "and using"

- 1 in line 8.
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, they're related,
- 3 right?
- 4 MR. LEONHARDT: Or it should be "seeking
- 5 and using" or "and to seek and to use." But it
- 6 seems of the two it would be more clear if the two
- 7 were parallel.
- 8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, they're doing
- 9 different things, right? We're supposed to seek
- 10 damages. If we get them, we're supposed to use them
- in the following way. They're related, but I think
- 12 different.
- MR. LEONHARDT: Right. Okay. I see. I
- 14 guess the --
- MR. BLAKE: You addressed the common
- 16 property question. I'm fine to swap the natural
- 17 environmental. I'm fine with your other solution
- about the inclusion, including clause. And I think
- 19 I hit all your points, or at least I tried.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: Do you have any questions?
- MR. GELENDER: On this? Not as much. I do
- 22 -- I hate to sort of reopen a lot of things, but I
- 23 think I might anyways.
- Do we have any concern that the single
- subject right at the top, public ownership, is

- 1 somewhat misleading in that?
- When people think public ownership, they
- 3 think state ownership? And what the initiative
- 4 actually calls for is more like common ownership.
- 5 CHAIRWOMAN: Right. I think that should be
- 6 put up there in the top of the title. I mean, we
- 7 may have differing interpretations of what that
- 8 actually does, but we should at least put the public
- 9 on notice then of the common ownership issue.
- 10 MR. GELENDER: Let me just throw something
- 11 out as sort of a single subject and see what the
- rest of the Board thinks, which would be an
- amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning
- 14 the establishment of common ownership by all
- 15 Coloradoans of public trust resources.
- 16 Then below we can say like defining public
- 17 trust resources as, and then we also get out of that
- 18 environment and natural --
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- MR. GELENDER: -- resources sort of
- 21 compound subject.
- 22 CHAIRWOMAN: Common ownership over what?
- 23 Public --
- 24 MR. GELENDER: I'd say common ownership by
- 25 all Coloradans. I mean, that's what they're really

- 1 saying. Of public --
- 2 CHAIRWOMAN: Who is it -- Coloradoans or
- 3 Coloradans?
- 4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, it's just an A. I
- 5 actually know that, believe it not.
- 6 CHAIRWOMAN: I was just asking him whether
- 7 it was Coloradoans or Coloradans. There was an
- 8 article on that just a couple of days ago.
- 9 MR. GELENDER: And then I would just say of
- 10 public, instead of "the environment and natural" I'd
- 11 say "of public trust resources".
- 12 CHAIRWOMAN: All right.
- MR. GELENDER: And then for the trailer, I
- 14 would just start with defining public trust
- 15 resources. And then the rest is --
- 16 CHAIRWOMAN: Right.
- MR. GELENDER: -- this thing starts to fall
- 18 a little better.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah. I actually like it.
- How about we hear from both the rehearing proponent
- 21 and then the initiative?
- MR. BLAKE: I'll just add one more thing
- 23 since you've now focused me on it. Does it ever say
- ownership? I understand the argument. I understand
- 25 the takings argument. I understand all of that. I

- 1 understand your point. And I respect it.
- Is it really creating an ownership? It's
- 3 creating a right in these things. The taking -- my
- 4 response to the taking argument is essentially that
- 5 that's going to be -- that's an implementation
- 6 issue, which the Board isn't entitled to look at.
- 7 That's my take on it. Rightly or wrongly, that's
- 8 it.
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's a down, sorry
- 11 for the pun, that's a downstream question that has
- 12 yet to be answered by the courts. And I'm sure
- 13 people will challenge it.
- So I guess when you all both come up to
- address the question, is ownership even the right
- 16 word? It's the creation of -- or it would be at
- 17 least the acknowledgement of a right in these
- things, in the creation of a common property
- 19 interest that the state is supposed to go and
- 20 protect in the interest of conservation.
- 21 But I don't think it creates an ownership.
- 22 I'm asking because you focused me on the word. Now
- 23 I'm responding, reacting.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: I'm just reading back --
- MR. BLAKE: I welcome your reactions if

- 1 ownership is actually correct.
- 2 MR. LEONHARDT: Well, I look at the next to
- 3 the last sentence of Section 1 of the initiative
- 4 which says "Public trust resources are the common
- 5 property of all the people."
- And "property of" certainly seems to
- 7 strongly imply ownership. So that is one word in
- 8 the previously set title that I don't think I would
- 9 question.
- 10 MR. GELENDER: And I think I'm inclined to
- 11 agree on that because -- I mean, it's been a long
- time since law school, but it seems to me that the
- act of possessing something is what makes it
- 14 property. I don't think you can have property if
- 15 someone doesn't own it.
- 16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You can have an
- 17 interest in trust and fiduciary (inaudible).
- MR. BLAKE: Right. I don't want to get
- 19 into -- it's not a legal -- we're not here to debate
- the legal question. We're here to debate whether or
- 21 not it's misleading and/or whether or not it
- 22 properly conveys the purpose of the folks that have
- 23 brought forward the initiative.
- I guess I'd like to hear from you guys
- about whether or not Mr. Gelender's proposal about

- 1 switching things around is one that you would
- 2 prefer. I'm okay with it.
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN: Let's hear from the proponents
- 4 for the initiative. Why don't you come on up and
- 5 let's hear your take on that. And address anything
- 6 else that you want with regard to the title.
- 7 MR. DOE: We don't use the word ownership.
- 8 I'm reminded of what Tecumseh, I think it was, said
- 9 about when he found out that the Indians had sold
- 10 Ohio. He said, you might as well sell the sea and
- 11 the sky.
- We're against ownership of natural
- 13 resources that belong to the public. It's held in
- 14 common. It's held trust for future generations.
- 15 You can't sell it to future generations. You have
- 16 to preserve it for future generations.
- 17 That's why I would suggest on the first
- 18 part, "An amendment to the Colorado Constitution
- 19 concerning the public's interest in preserving the
- 20 natural and environmental resources."
- I think it comes closer to what we're
- trying to do here. We're not trying to take away
- 23 anybody's ownership. We're just trying to preserve
- 24 what it ours and not sell it to somebody. How do
- 25 you sell the air? We're not into selling the air.

- 1 And furthermore -- I thought it was fine,
- 2 which includes clean air, clean -- we're not in the
- 3 business of administering this thing. All we're
- 4 doing is writing legislation.
- 5 And I think we should leave it up to the
- 6 administering agencies as to how they interpret that
- 7 and what they have to do to make it work.
- And so I like the idea, which includes,
- 9 rather than being so prescriptive that you're tieing
- 10 their hands. I just don't believe we should be
- 11 doing that. That's just my feeling on the subject.
- 12 So I liked it better before, but I don't
- like "ownership" because we're talking about a
- 14 trust, you know, that we have to future generations.
- 15 And we're trying to preserve that, what's left for
- 16 future generations.
- 17 And ownership is really kind of
- antithetical to the concept, just as it was to
- 19 Tecumseh.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: Well, the law may be contrary
- 21 to the concept.
- MR. DOE: Well, I'm no lawyer.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: I understand what you're
- 24 saying. All right. Anyone have any questions?
- 25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

- 1 CHAIRWOMAN: All right. Thank you.
- MR. DOE: Yeah. Sure.
- 3 (Pause.)
- 4 MR. DOE: I have one more.
- 5 CHAIRWOMAN: Sure.
- 6 MR. DOE: As to the idea of common
- 7 property, I was at the Western Water Conference
- 8 speaking when Greg Hobbs was there. And he did a
- 9 short speech on water. And his first principle that
- 10 he borrowed from David Shore (phonetic), who I've
- 11 also read, the public owns all of water, the natural
- 12 streams of the state of Colorado -- the public.
- 13 CHAIRWOMAN: He used the word "owns".
- 14 MR. DOE: Yeah, I know. But I would have
- 15 changed it, but it wasn't my speech.
- 16 MR. BLAKE: I have no changes to propose.
- 17 I'm happy to hear yours, if you want to propose
- 18 them, but --
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN: I'm fine with the way it is
- 20 because I think even though it's contrary to the
- 21 concept that maybe the petitioners sort of wish was
- 22 true, I think the law does -- maybe it's hard to
- 23 sell air but clean air or water, I think there are
- some ownership issues.
- 25 And saying it any other way may not state

- 1 what it does. If we said "common interest",
- 2 interest can mean a lot of things to a lot of
- 3 people. They're not going to take it as the legal
- 4 effect of what an interest is.
- I actually think we should leave it the way
- 6 Mr. Gelender proposed and then continue with his
- 7 language where we define that as clean air, water,
- 8 because that tracks a little bit more closely with
- 9 the language of the initiative.
- 10 MR. BLAKE: I happen to agree. I think
- 11 public interest is more vague than ownership and I
- 12 understood the argument made by the proponent of the
- 13 rehearing.
- 14 So I'm fine with ownership where I was
- 15 convinced that it's okay even though it's not
- 16 expressly used in the initiative.
- I don't think we have to define public
- 18 trust resources. It's defined, in my opinion,
- 19 clearly in the initiative and I assume voters read
- 20 it. And I think that's the position.
- 21 So again, I'm okay with it. I'm happy to
- 22 entertain Mr. Gelender's rough sketch. He'll have
- 23 to put the words on the screen if you --
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: Right. Do you want to
- 25 continue with where we define?

- 1 MR. GELENDER: In that case, does the whole
- 2 first clause after the "therewith" just come out?
- 3 Because if we've said -- we've put right in the
- 4 single subject "the common ownership and public
- 5 trust."
- And if you don't feel, Mr. Blake, that we
- 7 need to further define, then we can get right into
- 8 the enforcement, can't we?
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: Well, I think we have to
- 10 define what those things are. I mean, we have to
- 11 say defining them as clear air, clean water. You
- don't think we need to put that in?
- MR. BLAKE: I was responding to the
- 14 proponents that the public trust interest resources
- is misleading. I just don't think that it is. I
- 16 think it's defined.
- 17 That was my response to it. Now, that was
- with the assumption that the other, including clean
- 19 air, clean water and those things were still in
- there.
- 21 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- MR. BLAKE: Which I think helps further
- clarify.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: Otherwise, I mean --
- 25 MR. BLAKE: I don't think it hurts to

- 1 include it. In response to the idea that that
- 2 clause is and of itself misleading, I don't agree
- 3 with that.
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN: I think it's not misleading
- 5 because we then define it, I guess was my point.
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay.
- 7 CHAIRWOMAN: So I think we have to define
- 8 it.
- 9 MR. GELENDER: Okay. Well, we don't need
- 10 to keep the language about creating a public trust.
- 11 CHAIRWOMAN: No.
- 12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think we've said
- 13 that.
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN: Right.
- 15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So then I would just
- sort of say, I guess, defining public trust
- 17 resources to include --
- 18 CHAIRWOMAN: Or as, because there isn't
- 19 anything beyond that, right?
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. And I mean, it's
- 21 actually --
- 22 CHAIRWOMAN: So the rehearing motion -- I
- 23 mean, I guess it says "including". But it doesn't
- 24 say "including, not limited to".
- MR. GELENDER: And actually I might have a

- 1 brief question for the proponents.
- Is the intent when you are saying,
- 3 "referred to in this section as public trust
- 4 resources", does that go back to just the
- 5 environment and natural resources or does it go back
- to the clean air, clean water and all that?
- 7 MR. DOE: The way we defined it in the
- 8 initiative was clean air, clean water, including --
- 9 well, and the preservation of the environment and
- 10 natural resources. That's the way we described it.
- 11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I just wanted to
- 12 clarify that for the record. That's what I thought,
- but I wasn't entirely sure if it went to that whole
- 14 clause or just the last part of it.
- MR. DOE: Okay. You have to tell them what
- 16 the public trust -- I mean, what's included in it.
- 17 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, I think so, too.
- 18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, should we just
- 19 track the initiative?
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: Doesn't that track it?
- 21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think it does.
- MR. BLAKE: We have it already? Okay.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good.
- 25 CHAIRWOMAN: I would agree with that last

- 1 part. If we can clean up that passive voice, I
- 2 always thought that was a really -- it's an awful
- 3 lot of lines to say something that should be more
- 4 simple about the manipulation of the data.
- 5 MR. LEONHARDT: Okay.
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you have a
- 7 recommended way to fix that, the passive voice? I'm
- 8 more than happy to entertain it.
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm happy to attack it,
- 11 but it was your concern. I'm happy to entertain
- 12 your proposed solution.
- MR. LEONHARDT: Is one option maybe to say,
- and requiring referral for prosecution of any
- 15 criminal offense involving --
- 16 CHAIRWOMAN: There we go.
- 17 MR. LEONHARDT: -- manipulation of data, et
- 18 cetera.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN: I like that. We're way down
- there. We're at 12, line 12. You just going to
- 21 move requiring or referral -- yeah, there we go.
- MR. LEONHARDT: "Of any criminal offense
- involving"?
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, here we go.
- 25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I have no objection to

- 1 that.
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's fine by me.
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. Good, because my boss
- doesn't allow me to use the phrase "to be" because
- 5 that is passive. All right. Anything else?
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I have nothing else.
- 7 CHAIRWOMAN: All right. Let me go ahead
- 8 and read it into the record so that we can -- you
- 9 have something else?
- 10 MR. GELENDER: Well, I just want to look at
- 11 one --
- 12 CHAIRWOMAN: Sure.
- MR. GELENDER: I'm thinking of that phrase
- about the "regardless of the approval" is in the
- wrong place on line 7 because that language is right
- 16 at the end of the initiative and it goes to sort of
- 17 an act -- any act in violation of the proposed
- 18 initiative.
- 19 And I don't think it's very clear that
- that's what that does where we have it located.
- 21 CHAIRWOMAN: Where do you want to put it?
- MR. GELENDER: -- well, that part I haven't
- 23 figured out yet, unfortunately.
- 24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's supposed to come
- with solutions, not problems.

- 1 CHAIRWOMAN: Where is it in the initiative?
- MR. GELENDER: Right at the very end. And
- 3 we probably had some reason for putting it there
- 4 before, but I can't remember what that might have
- 5 been.
- 6 CHAIRWOMAN: That was a year ago. Do you
- 7 have a solution, suggestion for us?
- 8 MR. LEONHARDT: I guess my suggestion would
- 9 be to move it to the end and in the context in which
- 10 it arises in Section 5 of the initiative, which
- 11 would involve a semicolon after "private profit".
- 12 And then "And governing any public action
- or commercial dealing regardless of any prior
- 14 federal, state or local approval."
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN: I mean, you could also put it
- 16 at the beginning of the question where -- well,
- 17 except that -- and then it basically is saying that
- this common ownership and public trust is regardless
- 19 of any prior approval.
- 20 (Pause.)
- 21 But yeah, the "regardless" is a modifier
- over the whole thing. And it kind of looks like
- it's just a modifier over that one part at this
- 24 point.
- 25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Could we just strike it

- 1 from there?
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, first of all, in
- 3 that sentence. Does this sentence look like a
- 4 series now, right?
- 5 So we're requiring the state, as trustee,
- 6 to conserve using the best science, comma, to seek
- 7 (inaudible) comma, and to use. I think that would
- 8 help --
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: Right.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: -- first of all. I
- 11 mean, what I might do is simply take out the "and"
- 12 at the end of line 11 and just tack this onto the
- end, and specifying that any violation --
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN: Well, it's not even a
- 15 violation, is it? It's everything. I mean, you
- 16 could have a permit to do something that would --
- 17 right?
- MR. GELENDER: Well, it says,
- 19 "self-enacting and self-executing applies to a
- 20 public action or commercial dealing that would
- violate it regardless of a permit." So it's really
- 22 -- it's an applicability clause.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
- MR. GELENDER: I mean, I think, if I'm
- correct, what it's really just saying is, is once

- 1 this passes, even if you were going to be allowed to
- 2 do something, you're not allowed to do it anymore if
- 3 it's a violation.
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN: Right. So you could have a
- 5 permit potentially to drill, I guess, or to --
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right. I'm just saying
- 7 if you have a permit, this passes, too bad.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN: If it's a violation of this,
- 9 that permit has no --
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Validity.
- 11 CHAIRWOMAN: Correct.
- 12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you'd like me to
- 13 strike this (inaudible)?
- 14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible.)
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN: No, we just need to add
- 16 that -- add, before regardless something.
- 17 Requiring? Is that what you said?
- 18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. Sorry, I'm just
- 19 reading through the whole thing.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: I mean, we could just say
- 21 we're applying the trust regardless of any, or
- 22 applying the --
- 23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The clause where you
- 24 have the cursor I think needs to be the very last
- 25 thing. I didn't mean for it for it to be inserted.

- 1 I mean you put it at the very end of the list.
- 2 Yeah. We'll just cut it for now.
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Copy it?
- 4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. And there will
- 5 be an "and" and then we'll just tweak that language.
- 6 You also pulled "and" at the end of line
- 7 11. I think, and this would be a question for both
- 8 the proponents and opponents.
- 9 I think what would really -- all we really
- 10 have to say here is -- essentially, well, it sort of
- 11 gets circular, but it's basically prohibiting any
- 12 action that would violate the section even if
- 13 previously permitted.
- I mean -- that's what we're saying, but it
- just gets circular to say it that way.
- MR. BLAKE: The way -- and now we're
- 17 getting into the merits of what the initiative is, I
- 18 think, which -- what I think it does is creates the
- 19 opportunity for all of that which exists out there
- 20 already permitted to be now tested against this.
- 21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right.
- MR. BLAKE: What is clean air? What is
- 23 clean water? What is the scope of the public trust
- 24 resource as defined here?
- 25 And how that all plays out, again, is how,

- if this passes, there'll be a lot of -- I suspect a
- 2 lot of litigation about permit holders and what all
- 3 that stuff means. That's beyond the scope of what I
- 4 understand I'm trying to do and convey clearly what
- 5 this does.
- It's not that it may ever lead to
- 7 litigation. It's that regardless of this it's now
- 8 subject to this. Regardless of a permit, it
- 9 pre-exists passage of this.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right.
- 11 MR. BLAKE: It's now subject to this new
- 12 thing --
- 13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.
- 14 MR. BLAKE: -- that the Constitution is now
- embodied in the Constitution through adoption by the
- 16 voters.
- 17 And I just think that putting it at the end
- is even more in the wrong place. I think it
- 19 actually should modify on line 5 "before requiring".
- 20 So it requires the state to do all of those
- 21 things regardless of prior federal, state, or local
- 22 approval.
- 23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay. I like --
- 24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Just because it comes
- 25 at the end of the initiative, it modifies the entire

- 1 initiative essentially. I agree. It's an enacting
- 2 clause kind of, but I think that's where -- what
- 3 it's modifying is what the state then has to do as
- 4 trustee to protect all of these things that we're
- 5 defining.
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm on board with that.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You may disagree.
- 8 MR. LEONHARDT: I believe it would be
- 9 better placed at the end because Section 5 says
- 10 "that this section shall apply to a public action or
- 11 commercial dealing that would violate it regardless
- 12 with the prior approvals."
- 13 And thus, I believe it's broader than just
- 14 the requirements placed on the state.
- MR. BLAKE: But do you disagree that it's
- 16 the state that is the actor here in all the
- 17 circumstances?
- MR. LEONHARDT: The state is not the actor
- in any commercial dealing.
- MR. BLAKE: No, but they're the actor --
- 21 they're there for the fiduciary that has to then
- 22 enforce this new natural -- I keep getting it wrong,
- this new public trust resource.
- And admittedly, there's another mechanism
- 25 which is a private citizen can bring a suit, too.

- 1 That right of action is also created here, but --
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right.
- 3 MR. BLAKE: I mean, the commercial dealing
- 4 is simply saying even your private commercial
- 5 contracts become subject to this new test. That's
- 6 how I read it.
- 7 MR. LEONHARDT: That's right. And that's
- 8 why I think this section of the initiative is
- 9 broader than just the requirements placed on the
- 10 state as trustee.
- MR. BLAKE: Still the state, though, would
- 12 enforce that, right? The state would then be
- required to, if there's a commercial contract out
- 14 there that ran afoul of this new definition --
- MR. LEONHARDT: Well, the state including
- 16 the judiciary.
- MR. BLAKE: Sure. I presume that's where
- 18 this will get resolved.
- 19 MR. LEONHARDT: Right. It appears to me,
- 20 particularly from this phrase, that the defendants
- in that lawsuit sometimes may be private parties,
- 22 may not only be the state.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah. So, I mean, what if we
- 24 did put it at the end and it was more -- I mean,
- what would your proposal be before you leave?

- I mean, I think it has to be regardless of
- 2 any prior federal, state, or local approval. But
- 3 wouldn't it be application of the trust shall apply
- 4 or what would it say?
- 5 MR. LEONHARDT: In parallel with the
- 6 phrases that begin with defining, and requiring, I
- 7 think you just say "and applying to public actions
- 8 and commercial dealings regardless of any prior
- 9 federal, state, or local approval."
- 10 CHAIRWOMAN: And applying to any --
- MR. LEONHARDT: Applying to or and
- 12 governing was, I think, the suggestion I had
- 13 earlier.
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN: Just like it's in Section 5,
- "applying to a public action or commercial dealing"?
- 16 MR. DOE: May --
- 17 CHAIRWOMAN: Sure, come on up. I think we
- need to say what is applying. Applying what?
- MR. DOE: I definitely don't like that
- 20 final at all. I think it's much better up above.
- 21 I want to go back to that first sentence
- 22 again, if I may. Could we -- I don't like the word
- "concerning". It's so blah.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN: We don't have any choice on
- 25 that.

- 1 MR. DOE: You don't?
- 2 CHAIRWOMAN: That's a statutory thing.
- 3 MR. DOE: Really?
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 5 MR. DOE: You can't say acknowledging or
- 6 anything?
- 7 CHAIRWOMAN: No.
- MR. DOE: Wow.
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: We don't like it either, but
- 10 it's --
- 11 MR. DOE: It just kind of -- well.
- 12 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, we're not big fans of,
- "in connection therewith" --
- MR. DOE: Yeah. Okay.
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN: -- but there are certain
- 16 things that we don't --
- MR. DOE: All right. So you know your job,
- 18 I don't. We just don't like that down at the end.
- 19 I think it's confusing. It makes it sound more
- 20 punitive than it is.
- 21 I would like to clarify one thing. Nowhere
- 22 in this initiative have we ever said that we would
- 23 go after people that were permitted prior to this
- for changes.
- 25 That was said today I think by you and we

- 1 have never said that. We know that can't be done.
- 2 I mean, it's illegal.
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN: Well, but if you had a permit,
- 4 somebody could bring a private action, right, to
- 5 stop you from --
- 6 MR. DOE: Well, if this becomes, you know,
- 7 part of the Constitution, of course.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN: Right.
- 9 MR. DOE: You might have a permit that's no
- 10 longer valid.
- 11 CHAIRWOMAN: Sure.
- MR. DOE: But you couldn't be fined for
- 13 what was valid when you did it.
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- MR. DOE: Okay. Just as long as we're
- 16 clear on that.
- 17 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, I understood that.
- MR. DOE: Did you have anything to say,
- 19 Barb?
- MS. MILLS-BRIA: Well, just this phrase
- 21 that we're struggling with about regardless of any
- 22 prior federal.
- It actually is better in line 7 where it
- 24 was originally because that whole phrase is
- 25 requiring the state, as trustee, to do certain

- 1 things regardless of any prior federal, state, or
- 2 local approval.
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, but the problem is, is
- 4 that it's not just the state that has -- that that
- 5 section applies to.
- I, as a private person, could bring an
- 7 action regardless of prior state, federal, or local
- 8 approval, right, not just the state.
- 9 If I don't -- you know, if somebody's going
- 10 to be drilling on a piece of land and I want to
- 11 bring an action, I can bring an action and their
- 12 permit is not -- the fact that they have a permit is
- not going to be some vested right for them.
- MR. DOE: Well --
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN: So it's not just the state.
- 16 It's me too or any other citizen.
- MR. DOE: The way I see this, if the state
- does its job, the citizen wouldn't be required to be
- 19 there.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: Sure. But that's an affect.
- 21 That's not the way it actually reads. I mean,
- that's how we would see that playing out.
- But there are more rights in the initiative
- 24 than maybe -- you know, I mean, we have to write it
- 25 for what it says, not what we think it's going to

- 1 do.
- 2 MR. GELENDER: There's no doubt that
- 3 paragraph 3 does that. There's just no --
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 5 MR. GELENDER: I'm still with applying to
- 6 what? Or what are we applying, I guess, is really
- 7 the better question?
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 9 MR. GELENDER: Can we just do it right --
- 10 as the first phrase after "in connection therewith"?
- 11 So we've established common ownership, public trust
- 12 resources. In connection therewith prohibiting
- 13 actions that would impair either public trust
- 14 resources or that common ownership, you know, and
- then even if or including actions previously
- 16 permitted or previously the subject of permits or
- 17 something like that.
- 18 CHAIRWOMAN: Well, it could be a permit or
- 19 something -- I mean, approval could be a land use
- 20 approval. It could be --
- 21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, maybe approval is
- the word then.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 24 MR. GELENDER: In connection therewith,
- 25 prohibiting actions, including previously approved

- 1 actions --
- MR. BLAKE: What if you just put it in two
- 3 places? Again, not to make it longer. I'm trying
- 4 to make it shorter, actually.
- 5 But again, put it in -- where is it? On
- 6 line 5 before "requiring" and then again on line --
- 7 now at least before line 9 where it creates the
- 8 private right of action.
- 9 And I'm looking at the proponent of the
- 10 rehearing to see if I've now captured all of the --
- 11 MR. DOE: I'm having trouble even following
- 12 this.
- 13 CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
- 14 MR. BLAKE: Fair enough. I'm mumbling. So
- 15 you have it in 5, and then put it again. The same
- 16 exact clause "regardless of any prior federal,
- 17 state, or local approval --
- 18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Where at?
- 19 MR. BLAKE: Just that same phrase, place it
- on line 10 before "allowing".
- 21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I quess you can take
- out what I suggested on 3.
- UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because that paragraph,
- 24 right, applies to everything above it. And there's
- 25 two different enforcement mechanisms, one from

- 1 private right of action and then there's the state.
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you want --
- 3 punctuation-wise, you're wanting the "regardless"
- 4 after resources, with a semicolon after "approval",
- 5 right? Or is it the beginning of the next one?
- 6 MR. BLAKE: Yes. There would be a -- yes,
- 7 a comma after "approval" in line 10. And don't do
- 8 it yet, but then we'd strike that, everything on
- 9 line 15 at the end.
- 10 I understand your concern. Your concern is
- it's broad, it's potentially all encompassing, it's
- 12 retroactive. I understand the concern. I
- understand why you think it's important.
- It was in there. I'm happy to keep it in
- 15 there. I understand your argument about it was too
- 16 narrowly applied vis-à-vis the state. I don't want
- 17 to restate the entire initiative in the title.
- MR. DOE: But the state is the trustee.
- MR. BLAKE: Yeah, but you've created
- another entity, that is anybody in the state who can
- 21 enforce this same right because it's a common right.
- 22 And the proponent of the hearing is arguing that
- that's not clearly conveyed here.
- MR. DOE: I think it is.
- MR. LEONHARDT: What's troubling to me

- 1 that's explicit in the initiative but not clear with
- 2 this revision of the title is the application of
- 3 commercial dealings.
- 4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'll just ask how or
- 5 why? This is pretty broad.
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Again, I go back to my
- 8 -- it's assumed that the voter reads and understands
- 9 the title is simply the mechanism that appears on
- 10 the ballot.
- 11 But it's assumed through the blue book that
- they have the information and we assume that they
- 13 read it and we assume that they understand it.
- 14 So we can't include every single word in
- the initiative in the title. Otherwise, we don't
- 16 need a title. And this doesn't exclude commercial.
- 17 That's clear.
- 18 CHAIRWOMAN: I mean, I would think most of
- 19 these actions are going to be commercial dealings.
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I agree.
- 21 CHAIRWOMAN: They're probably not going to
- 22 be public.
- MR. BLAKE: They're going to be commercial
- transactions that also have a permit, which is why
- 25 we don't -- I wasn't here when approval was used, or

- 1 created. That was in 89 or 103?
- MR. GELENDER: I quess I'll just ask a
- 3 really basic question. Put aside commercial, are we
- 4 addressing the two constituencies that you were
- 5 concerned about having enforcement ability
- 6 regardless of time?
- 7 Because now you're arguing there would be a
- 8 third thing put in or another concept of commercial.
- 9 MR. LEONHARDT: Yeah, I think it does place
- 10 the loosening of the bonds of any prior approvals in
- 11 the two main places in the title where it comes into
- 12 play, the requirement of the state as trustee and
- 13 the allowing enforcement actions. Just the omission
- 14 of commercial dealings strikes me as material.
- MR. GELENDER: Here's a question. I don't
- 16 know the answer. Notwithstanding the initiative
- talks about applies to a public action or commercial
- dealing that would violate and then regardless of
- these permits, which is what we're doing.
- I mean, are the public actions -- I guess
- 21 we're talking -- well, yeah, I guess public entities
- 22 have to be approved too sometimes. Never mind. So
- 23 I guess the Feds have to approve the state or the
- state has to approve the local or whatever
- 25 sometimes.

- 1 CHAIRWOMAN: Right, yeah. That's not going
- 2 to be where all the litigation is.
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Steve, on line 5, just
- 4 put a common in after "approval".
- 5 MS. MILLS-BRIA: So I'd just like to say
- 6 that if you have that phrase "regardless of any
- 7 prior federal, state or local approval" three times
- 8 in the title --
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: Well, I think we're going to
- 10 take it out at the bottom there.
- 11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We'll take it out at
- 12 the end.
- 13 MS. MILLS-BRIA: I think it should be in
- 14 there once.
- 15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well --
- 16 MS. MILLS-BRIA: And otherwise we're going
- 17 to be focusing on that, which is not the focus of
- 18 the initiative.
- 19 MR. DOE: It does tend to change the focus.
- The focus where somebody else is taking our
- 21 initiative and made it something we didn't intend.
- 22 All we intended here was that if, with this
- initiative, the public trust has to be protected.
- 24 And that's regardless of any prior approvals.
- That's all we're -- you know, and the

- 1 mechanisms are, first of all, the state. But the
- 2 public has a right to challenge the state if it
- doesn't do its job. I mean, that's the problem we
- 4 have now.
- 5 MR. BLAKE: Let me stop you there. I
- 6 appreciate it. I don't it changes the focus. And
- 7 what you've just articulated is, the state should
- 8 did its job first. If the state fails, there's a
- 9 second mechanism to back up state failure.
- 10 So you have in this created two enforcement
- 11 mechanisms. And the paragraph 5, which weighs
- timeliness of when those actions can be brought and
- applied, applies to both of those enforcement
- 14 mechanisms.
- 15 That's proponent's -- that's part of the
- rehearing's argument, and I'm sympathetic to it.
- 17 So the question is, how do you structure
- 18 it? Both of those -- those two entities have
- 19 different things under the initiative, but what they
- 20 share is regardless of the date of the applicable
- 21 approval. So that is shared by both of these two
- 22 entities that can act under this new public trust
- 23 resource.
- 24 MR. DOE: But they wouldn't be acting if
- 25 the state followed its actions as a trustee.

- 1 MR. BLAKE: That's irrelevant. They still
- 2 can if the state doesn't.
- 3 MR. DOE: Fine. But it's the fallout.
- 4 It's a fallout position. I mean, our argument is
- 5 the state cannot circumvent this initiative by
- 6 saying they already have a permit. That is our only
- 7 intent.
- 8 I mean, otherwise I can see, you know,
- 9 administratively this thing -- well, whatever goes
- 10 before this date is what goes. And that is not our
- 11 intent.
- 12 MR. BLAKE: I understand. Fair enough.
- But that may or may not be what the words say on the
- 14 paper. And we've copied the words from the paper.
- MR. DOE: Well --
- 16 MR. BLAKE: Because you've created a
- 17 private right of action --
- 18 MR. DOE: Right.
- 19 MR. BLAKE: -- independent of what the
- 20 state does. It's not contingent on --
- 21 MR. DOE: That's the only (inaudible) we
- have.
- MR. BLAKE: Well, but it's not contingent
- upon the state. The state does its job. You're
- 25 right. There's no reason that somebody else, but if

- 1 somebody's unhappy with what the state does or the
- 2 state fails to do what you expect them to do, then
- 3 you can step into the state's shoes under the plain
- 4 language of this and do it regardless of the time.
- 5 We have in the title bifurcated that
- 6 because there are different ways to enforce and I
- 7 think the "regardless" phrase, which is at the end,
- 8 applies to all which proceeds it. And that's what
- 9 we're trying to convey.
- 10 I'm sympathetic to the proponent of the
- 11 rehearing's concern. That's my -- in order to make
- 12 the record clear, why I'm making the suggestion I
- am, that it appear twice. Because it does, in fact,
- 14 apply in two different significant places in the
- 15 initiative.
- 16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right.
- 17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm good with the title
- 18 as it appears, I think. I'll want to look at it
- 19 clean, but I think we're set from our perspective.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. And do you want to
- 21 clean it and I'll read it?
- 22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN: This is an amendment to the
- 24 Colorado Constitution concerning common ownership by
- 25 all Coloradans of public trust resources and in

- 1 connection therewith defining public trust resources
- 2 as clean air, clean water, and the preservation of
- 3 the environment and natural resources.
- 4 Regardless of any prior federal, state, or
- 5 local approval requiring the state, as trustee, to
- 6 conserve and maintain public trust resources by
- 7 using the best science available to protect them
- 8 against any substantial impairment, to seek natural
- 9 resource damages from anyone who is substantially
- 10 impairs them and to use damages -- from anyone who
- 11 substantially impairs them and to use damages
- 12 obtained to remediate the impairment.
- 13 Regardless of any prior federal, state, or
- 14 local approval allowing Colorado citizens to file
- 15 enforcement actions in court, requiring anyone who
- is proposing an action or policy that might
- 17 substantially impair public trust resources to prove
- that the action or policy is not harmful, requiring
- 19 referral for prosecution of any criminal offense
- 20 involving the manipulation of data, reports, or
- 21 scientific information in an attempt to use public
- trust resources for private profit.
- UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And other than that, we
- 24 just (inaudible) an "and" on line 11 after
- 25 "harmful".

- 1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't have any
- 2 further comments.
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
- 4 MR. GELENDER: My only comment is just for
- 5 the record indicate that I will be voting no on the
- 6 motion just because I don't agree that we should be
- 7 setting a title, but I do think that this title is
- 8 quite a bit an improvement over what we had before.
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN: All right. Then do you want
- 10 to make the motion?
- 11 MR. BLAKE: I would make a motion to adopt
- the title as it appears on the screen.
- 13 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. And can we just deny
- 14 the rehearing except to the extent that we're
- 15 adopting?
- MR. BLAKE: And to deny the rehearing --
- 17 CHAIRWOMAN: You're denying the rehearing
- 18 except to the extent that we have changed the title.
- MR. BLAKE: And denying the rehearing
- 20 except to the extent that we have modified the
- 21 title.
- 22 CHAIRWOMAN: Right. Second. All those in
- 23 favor? Aye.
- MR. BLAKE: Aye.
- 25 CHAIRWOMAN: Opposed?

1	MR. GELENDER: No.
2	CHAIRWOMAN: All right. Okay. That
3	concludes the meeting of the Title Board. And the
4	time is 2:25. And we are adjourned until the next
5	session. Thank you.
6	(The hearing was concluded at 2:25 p.m.)
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF COLORADO)) ss.
3	COUNTY OF ADAMS)
4 5	I, Geneva T. Hansen, do hereby certify that I am a Professional Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within the State of Colorado.
6	I further certify that the foregoing
7	transcript constitutes a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability to hear and understand the audio recording.
9	I further certify that I am not related to, employed by, nor of counsel for any of the parties or attorneys herein, nor otherwise interested in the
10	result of the within action.
11	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my
12 13	signature and seal this 19th day of January, 2015.
14 15	My commission expires 11-18-15.
16	GENEVA T. HANSEN
17	(303-465-9004)
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13	
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15	S
16	GENEVA T. HANSEN (303-465-9004)
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18	T. HANS
19	NOTARY EZ
20	PUBLIC &
21	NA PUBLICADO
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