



WHEREAS, these initiatives attack individual property rights in water and land, and it would be a mistake to wipe out historical ownership of water and turn it over to the uncertainty of courts, attorneys, and lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives will increase the filing of frivolous lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, it would be a mistake to shift control of our water supply from local providers; and

WHEREAS, allowing uncontrolled access to streams and rivers across private land will damage sensitive streambeds and banks, could lead to dangerous and unsafe conditions, and cause conflict with property owners; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives may undermine Colorado's existing environmental protections, which require an amount of water flow in streams and rivers and maintaining certain lake levels; and

WHEREAS, we need to protect Colorado's water supplies, as in many years these initiatives will allow for more of Colorado's water to go to downstream states than interstate compacts require; and

WHEREAS, Coloradoans have built water projects and managed our water for more than 150 years, which has maintained Colorado's economy and improved Coloradoans' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives will jeopardize the historical operation of Colorado water projects and make improvements impossible, which would be a mistake; and

WHEREAS, Coloradoans need to store water to use during drought, and these initiatives will stop projects to store water; and

WHEREAS, Justice Hobbs stated in his dissenting opinion in *re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause for 2011-12 #3*, Colorado Supreme Court Case No. 12SA8, that such initiatives "would drop what amounts to a nuclear bomb on Colorado water rights and land rights," and "would strip members of the public, cities, farms, and families throughout this state of their most valuable interests."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Elbert County Board of Commissioners opposes adoption of a public trust doctrine as unwise, unnecessary, disruptive to the fair and responsible allocation and stewardship of Colorado's scarce water resources, and an unwarranted taking of vested property interests.



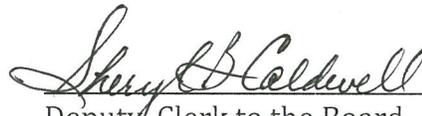
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:


_____ Aye
KURT C. SCHLEGEL, CHAIRMAN


_____ Aye
ROBERT ROWLAND, COMMISSIONER


_____ Aye
LARRY ROSS, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: DALLAS SCHROEDER
COUNTY CLERK

BY: 
Deputy Clerk to the Board

