

*AS* SWARD

FINAL VERSION

**Initiative to Amend ARTICLE XVI, Section 6, of the Colorado Constitution**

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado,

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 6 of article XVI as follows:

**Section 6. Diverting ~~unappropriated water - priority preferred uses~~ LIMITATIONS.** (1) The right to divert ~~the unappropriated waters of any natural stream~~ WATER WITHIN THE STATE OF COLORADO to beneficial uses shall never be denied, BUT MAY BE LIMITED, OR CURTAILED, SO AS TO PROTECT NATURAL ELEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC'S DOMINANT WATER ESTATE BY HOLDING UNLAWFUL ANY USUFRUCT USE OF WATER CAUSING IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE PUBLIC'S ESTATE. Priority of appropriation shall give the better right as between those using the water for the same purpose; but when the waters of ~~any natural stream~~ are not sufficient for the service of all those desiring the use of the same, those using the water for domestic purposes shall have the preference over those claiming for any other purpose, and those using the water for agricultural purposes shall have preference over those using the same for manufacturing purposes.

(2) THE USE OF WATER IS A USUFRUCT PROPERTY RIGHT, GRANTED BY THE PUBLIC TO WATER USERS, THAT SHALL REQUIRE THE WATER USE APPROPRIATOR TO RETURN WATER UNIMPAIRED TO THE PUBLIC, AFTER USE, SO AS TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC'S USE AND ENJOYMENT OF WATERS.

(3) THE COLORADO DOCTRINE OF APPROPRIATION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE PUBLIC CONFERS THE PRIVILEGE, BY GRANT, FOR THE USE OF ITS WATER, AND THE DIVERSION OF THE SAME, TO ANY APPROPRIATOR FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

(4) ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION THAT CONFERS, BY GRANT, THE USE OF THE PUBLIC'S WATER TO USERS AND THAT STIPULATES THAT USES OF WATER SHALL BE PROTECTIVE OF THE PUBLIC'S RIGHTS AND INTERESTS, ARE MANDATED TO THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF COLORADO STATE GOVERNMENT TO ACT, AS STEWARDS, TO PROTECT AND ENFORCE THE PUBLIC'S INTERESTS IN ITS WATER ESTATE.

(5) ANY CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF COLORADO SHALL HAVE STANDING IN JUDICIAL ACTIONS SEEKING TO COMPEL THE STATE OF COLORADO TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(6) PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION ARE SELF-ENACTING AND SELF-EXECUTING, BUT LAWS MAY BE ENACTED, SUPPLEMENTARY TO, AND IN PURSUANCE OF, BUT NOT CONTRARY TO, PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.