

~~HB 08-1003~~

Carl Filler

Attachment H

Address to the Honorable Senators of the State of Colorado –  
Members of the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:

in opposition to HB081007; sponsored by the Honorable  
Representative, Marsha Looper and co-sponsored by the  
Honorable Senator, Abel Tapia, dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008:

*Good afternoon, Honorable*

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Carl Filler. I <sup>currently</sup> ~~currently~~ live in the City of Fort Lupton, in Weld County,  
in the United States of America (or at least I THINK I do) <sup>however</sup> ~~we~~ have scratched and  
<sup>to put together</sup> clawed and fought ~~for~~ the money for my family's small farm in Adams

County located about 2 miles west of this corridor. I think you will know why  
<sup>own +</sup> soon. My fiance and I also run a small preschool and kindergarten approximately  
3 miles west of this corridor. In 2005, we were smack dab IN THE MIDDLE of <sup>this very same</sup> the

corridor. We have been fighting this Land Grab scheme ever since. As you can  
already tell, my fiance's family and I have a lot -- strike that -- ALL of our life's  
savings invested in this area, just as <sup>so many others</sup> ~~everyone else~~ I see in this audience. I am

here today on behalf of these neighbors, my son and daughter, my grandparents  
and ESPECIALLY all the young children and their families whose futures we  
nurture on a daily basis at the Meadowlark Montessori School. We have no

need to add an 85 mile-per-hour, hazardous material transporting ~~Mexican~~  
~~nationals on speed truck~~ <sup>ing</sup> ~~driving~~ roadway and freight railroad anywhere near this  
quiet, peaceful and beautiful community.

I feel as though those children are depending on what I say to you this day. They are our future. I look into those faces each day and I wonder what our Legacy to them will be. Are their parents at this moment struggling to stave off foreclosure of the family home?; <sup>are their</sup> ~~is the~~ financial burdens and resulting stress and turmoil affecting their young and impressionable minds? Do they have a father or mother, older sister or brother deployed overseas? Will they ever be able to buy a parcel of their own ~~and~~ build THEIR family's homes and dreams, or will ALL <sup>in their</sup> the land belong to big business, just as most of the small family farms today no longer exist. How many MORE ways can we come up with to destroy our nation's families; <sup>very</sup> the fabric of this country?

From the time the first settler came out West in the first prairie schooner, land- and the water beneath it-were recognized as the life-blood of the West. The first town that sprung up; the first farmer that turned the first spade of earth, the first miner who panned out the first golden nugget in Clear Creek ALL knew the importance of the land and had WATER on their minds.

From that early time to this, every generation in this great State has had to deal with those same two issues. Land--how best we can use it, and water--how best we can save it. In this state, they don't make any more land, and no water flows in to us; only away.

I said earlier I was also here for my Grandparents. My grandpa, Carl Dwyer (and you can look this up in El Paso County records) once owned a small ranch at the foot of Pike's Peak. He worked for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad his entire life. He raised his family and was able to survive the Great Depression, at least partly because of the bounty of his land. He had a wife (my grandmother) Leah, and five daughters: Lois, Nora, Delores, Eva and Carol. He lost it ---not from the lack of ~~fight~~ <sup>grit</sup> (he was ~~Irish~~ <sup>anti-Irish</sup> in a very ~~hateful~~ <sup>hateful</sup> time)--- but to Eminent Domain, when the United States government took it to build the Air Force Academy. ~~He was forced to move~~ <sup>But he was a patriot</sup> his family from that beautiful lifestyle to a small 1 bedroom house on a 30' x 60' lot in Pueblo, Colorado, three houses from the walls of the <sup>Colorado</sup> State Hospital. Now REMEMBER, this was with a wife and 5 daughters whom he had to leave each day to go to work. The compensation this family received for their land? It was never mentioned, but I know that every penny of it was used to pay for my grandmother's needed dentures.

When I was a junior in high school, I went to visit my grandfather for <sup>what turned out</sup> ~~one~~ of our <sup>to be</sup> last talks we had before he passed. This was in 1973. His message to me that day was this:

"You have inherited this beautiful state we live in, this Colorful Colorado. I have tried to be a good steward of ~~this~~ <sup>it</sup> and now I am passing the responsibility on to you. You must protect this or it will be gone. The developers are already starting to carve it up. If YOU don't pay attention, you will have nothing left

to give your children." Although, out loud and out of respect, I agreed to be that sentry, inside <sup>myself</sup> I thought, "Yeah, sure gramps, there is <sup>some</sup> a huge conspiracy to steal everyone's land."

This is why I am here today. Please vote against this bill. Help me remain true to my promise to those <sup>stewards who came before</sup> ~~who passed me this torch~~ and all those little ones who need us today.

Thank you. *for your time and attention to this matter.*

HB-1007 leaves the three-mile wide corridor of the Front Range Toll Road Company to exist in perpetuity while disallowing corridors for other future roads. It also gives them immunity for past negligent and intentionally unlawful acts. Voiding the recorded documents does no good as long as the corridor is left intact. Please vote no on HB-1007.

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38-2-101 Statutes.