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IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CO

WHITE PINE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

Michael Lemich.

DEPT. NO.: 1

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Plaintiff,

VS.

CASE NO.: CV 1307113

Cheryl Noriega, James Adams, Timothy McGowan, Ely Jet Center, Does 1 through 10, and Does Inc., 1 through 10, and Doe Trust, 1 through 10,

Defendants.

COMES NOW, Defendants, CHERYL NORIEGA, JAMES ADAMS, and TIMOTHY MCGOWAN, by and through their Attorneys of record, CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES and JEFFERY A. DICKERSON, and hereby Request a Review of their Special Motion to Dismiss filed August 28, 2013, all responsive pleadings have been filed and the matter is now ripe for review. Pursuant to NRS 41.660 (3)© the Court may now rule on the Special Motion to Dismiss as of September 30, 2013. If a hearing should be required Defendants respectfully request that such hearing be calendared on an expedited basis.

DATED this Attack day of

CÁVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES, LLC

JULIE CAVANAUGH-BILL NV Bar No.: 11533 401 Rairroad Street, Ste. 307 **JŲLIĘ C** 

Elko Nevada 89801 (Attorney for Defendants)

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White Pine County Clerk

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Case No. CV 13007113

Dept. 1

2013 SEP 27 PM 4: 53

CLERK

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COUNTY IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COUNTY WHITE PINE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

Michael Lemich,

Plaintiff.

VS.

REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

Cheryl Noriega, James Adams, Timothy McGowan, Ely Jet Center, Does I through 10. and Does Inc., 1 through 10, and Doe Trust, 1 through 10,

Defendants.

Comes now DEFENDANTS, CHERYL NORIEGA, JAMES ADAMS, and TIMOTHY MCGOWAN, by and through their counsel of record, CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES and JEFFREY A. DICKERSON, and hereby respectfully submit their Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Special Motion to Dismiss. Defendants' Reply is made and based upon the attached affidavit in support of this reply, Memorandum of Points & Authorities attached and all pleadings and evidence contained in the court file.

day of September, 2013.

CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES, LLC 401 Railroad Street, Suite 307 Elko, Nevada 89801

LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY A. DICKERSON 9653 Gateway Dr., Suite B Reno, Nevada 89521

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill Nevada Bar No. 11533 1

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## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Plaintiff's Opposition focuses on the fact that a draft petition for recall was erroneously published in the local newspaper. What Plaintiff completely fails to address is that there can be no other conclusion but that the lawsuit at issue in the Special Motion To Dismiss is based upon the recall petition itself. This fact is evidenced by statements made to the press following the filing of the lawsuits as specified in the Special Motion To Dismiss but also given the entirety of the circumstances involved with these lawsuits. In fact, in a recent news article on September 19, 2013. counsel for Plaintiff repeatedly refers to the lawsuits as involving the "recall petitions". See Exhibit A, attached hereto to the Affidavit of James Adams (wherein Counsel for Plaintiff is quoted as saying: "I don't know if this has ever been before,...But the statements in the recall petitions ..." and "I really haven't looked into it....It would be an interesting point if anyone who signed the petitions could also be named in the defamation suit." (Emphasis added). With respect to the draft petition for recall - it is not at issue whether to prove or disprove the statements made therein but only to note the Mr. McGowan did in fact clarify that the draft that appeared in the paper was in fact "a rough draft that was inadvertently released to the media before it could be checked for mistakes and refined." See Exhibit C to Plaintiff's Opposition To Motion To Dismiss. The distinction Plaintiff fails to recognize is that this motion is not a general Motion For Summary Judgment, this is a Special Motion To Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660.

Despite Plaintiff's arguments to somehow try to "criminalize their behavior" the argument contained in their Opposition To Dismiss would in fact encompass almost any complaint the public should have against a public official. Plaintiff claims he never saw the petition for recall prior to filing his lawsuit; however, it behooves the Defendants how this statement can be made when the Plaintiff has admitted that he was reacting in response to a newspaper article discussing the petition for recall which is what instigated the current lawsuit. In fact, the newspaper article attached to Defendant's Special Motion To Dismiss and the recent article on September 19, 2013 again admits quite clearly that the intent behind the lawsuit was to question the credibility of the recall petitions and in fact implied a threat to anyone who should come forward to sign the recall petitions that

potential litigation could be brought against them as well. The letter referenced by Plaintiff by Finance Director Elizabeth Frances is the appropriate type of response to a recall petition, not a lawsuit. If Defendants and other members of the public somehow and yet in good faith misconstrued the information they were receiving at the public Commissioner's meetings the appropriate response to their petitions for recall was as Director Frances did, seeking public clarification of same. That does not mean however, that Defendants are under some certain obligation to set aside their petition for recall if in good faith they continue to feel that those elected officials are not behaving in the public interests

As detailed in the Special Motion To Dismiss, NRS 4.6601 is specifically geared to prohibit "SLAPP" lawsuits intended to "censor, intimidate, and silence critics by burdening them with the costs of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition." The lawsuit at issue in the Special Motion To Dismiss is exactly that.

The Defendants have made the threshold showing that the lawsuit is targeted at "good faith communication [s made] in furtherance of the right to petition" in their Special Motion to Dismiss John v. Douglas County School District, 125 Nev. 746, 754 (2009). Plaintiff's arguments to the contrary and the obvious attempt to distract this Court from the real matter at hand is disingenuous at best, should the Court desire additional detail as to all factual matters contained in the recall petitions, it shall be provided through testimony at the hearing in this matter.

Plaintiff's Motion To Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.066 should be granted with attorney fees and costs granted and Defendant's Opposition denied in whole.

Dated this 27 day of September, 2013.

CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES, LLC 401 Railroad Street, Suite 307 Elko, Nevada 89801

LAW OFFICES OF JEFFREY A. DICKERSON

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill Neyada Bar No. 11533 6

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## IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

WHITE PINE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

John Lampros,

CASE NO.: CV 1308115

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Plaintiff,

VS.

Cheryl Noriega, James Adams, Timothy McGowan, Does 1 through 10, and Does Inc., 1 through 10, and Doe Trust, 1 through 10,

Defendants.

COMES NOW, Defendants, CHERYL NORIEGA, JAMES ADAMS, and TIMOTHY MCGOWAN, by and through their Attorneys of record, CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES and JEFFERY A. DICKERSON, and hereby Request a Review of their Special Motion to Dismiss filed September 9, 2013, all responsive pleadings have been filed and the matter is now ripe for review. Pursuant to NRS 41.660 (3)© the Court may now rule on the Special Motion to Dismiss as of September 30, 2013. If a hearing should be required Defendants respectfully request that such hearing be calendared on an expedited basis.

DATED this 27 day of <u>september</u>, 20

CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES, LLC

JULIE CAVANAUGH-BILL

NV Bar No.: 11533 401/Raifroad Street, Ste. 307

Elko Nevada 89801 (Attorney for Defendants) White Pine County Clerk

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## FILED

Case No. CV 1308115

Dept. 1

2013 SEP 27 PM 4: 53

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTS
WHITE PINE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

John Lampros,

Plaintiff.

VS.

REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

Cheryl Noriega, James Adams, Timothy McGowan, Ely Jet Center, Does 1 through 10. and Does Inc., I through 10, and Doe Trust, 1 through 10,

Defendants.

Comes now DEFENDANTS, CHERYL NORIEGA, JAMES ADAMS, and TIMOTHY MCGOWAN, by and through their counsel of record, CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES and JEFFREY A. DICKERSON, and hereby respectfully submit their Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Special Motion to Dismiss. Defendants' Reply is made and based upon the attached affidavit in support of this reply, Memorandum of Points & Authorities attached and all pleadings and evidence contained in the court file

Dated this of 1 day of September, 2013.

CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES, LLC 401 Railroad Street, Suite 307 Elko, Nevada 89801

LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY A. DICKERSON 9655 Gateway Dr., Suite B Reno, Nevada 89521

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill

Nevada Bar No. 11533

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Coveneugh-Bill Law Office 401 Roulead Street, Suite 307 Elko, Nevada 8780] 775-755-4557, 775-753-4360 [Exx]

## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Plaintiff's Opposition focuses on the fact that a draft petition for recall was erroneously published in the local newspaper. What Plaintiff completely fails to address is that there can be no other conclusion but that the lawsuit at issue in the Special Motion To Dismiss is based upon the recall petition itself. This fact is evidenced by statements made to the press following the filing of the lawsuits as specified in the Special Motion To Dismiss but also given the entirety of the circumstances involved with these lawsuits. In fact, in a recent news article on September 19, 2013, counsel for Plaintiff repeatedly refers to the lawsuits as involving the "recall petitions". See Exhibit A, attached hereto to the Affidavit of James Adams (wherein Counsel for Plaintiff is quoted as saying: "I don't know if this has ever been before,... But the statements in the recall petitions ..." and "I really haven't looked into it....It would be an interesting point if anyone who signed the petitions could also be named in the defamation suit." (Emphasis added). With respect to the draft petition for recall - it is not at issue whether to prove or disprove the statements made therein but only to note the Mr. McGowan did in fact clarify that the draft that appeared in the paper was in fact "a rough draft that was inadvertently released to the media before it could be checked for mistakes and refined." See Exhibit C to Plaintiff's Opposition To Motion To Dismiss. The distinction Plaintiff fails to recognize is that this motion is not a general Motion For Summary Judgment, this is a Special Motion To Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660.

Despite Plaintiff's arguments to somehow try to "criminalize their behavior" the argument contained in their Opposition To Dismiss would in fact encompass almost any complaint the public should have against a public official. Plaintiff claims he never saw the petition for recall prior to filing his lawsuit; however, it behooves the Defendants how this statement can be made when the Plaintiff has admitted that he was reacting in response to a newspaper article discussing the petition for recall which is what instigated the current lawsuit. In fact, the newspaper article attached to Defendant's Special Motion To Dismiss and the recent article on September 19, 2013 again admits quite clearly that the intent behind the lawsuit was to question the credibility of the recall petitions and in fact implied a threat to anyone who should come forward to sign the recall petitions that

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As detailed in the Special Motion To Dismiss, NRS 4.6601 is specifically geared to prohibit "SLAPP" lawsuits intended to "censor, intimidate, and silence critics by burdening them with the costs of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition." The lawsuit at issue in the Special Motion To Dismiss is exactly that.

The Defendants have made the threshold showing that the lawsuit is targeted at "good faith communication [s made] in furtherance of the right to petition" in their Special Motion to Dismiss John v. Douglas County School District, 125 Nev. 746, 754 (2009). Plaintiff's arguments to the contrary and the obvious attempt to distract this Court from the real matter at hand is disingenuous at best, should the Court desire additional detail as to all factual matters contained in the recall petitions, it shall be provided through testimony at the hearing in this matter.

Plaintiff's Motion To Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.066 should be granted with attorney fees and costs granted and Defendant's Opposition denied in whole,

day of September, 2013.

CAVANAUGH-BILL LAW OFFICES, LLC 401 Railroad Street, Suite 307 Elko, Nevada 89801

LAW-OFFICES OF JEFFREY A. DICKERSON

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill Meyada Bar No. 11533