



SENATE RESOLUTION 21-006

BY SENATOR(S) C Hansen, Moreno.

CONCERNING THE APPROVAL BY THE SENATE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT OF COLE WIST TO THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Section 5 (2)(a)(I) of article XXIX of the state constitution requires the Colorado Senate to appoint one member to the Independent Ethics Commission created in section 5 (1) of said article, hereafter referred to as the "Commission", and section 24-18.5-101 (2)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, directs the Senate President to appoint that member with the approval of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to this authority, Senate President Leroy Garcia has appointed Cole Wist to succeed Commissioner William Leone as the Senate appointee to the Commission for a four-year term commencing July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Cole Wist, a resident of Centennial, Colorado, is a well-respected and experienced attorney, of counsel with the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs in Denver, Colorado, where he engages in a national legal practice representing employers in complex labor and employment matters and focusing on workplace safety and health and crisis risk management, which practice often requires extensive interaction with state and federal regulatory authorities, elected officials, and the media; and

WHEREAS, Over his decades-long legal career, Cole Wist has earned the respect of and been recognized by his peers in the legal community for his outstanding professional achievements and, based on peer review,

has been selected as one of the few attorneys to garner the distinction of being a Colorado "Super Lawyer" each year from 2007 to the present and as one of the "Best Lawyers in America", Employment Law - Management, from 2014 to the present; and

WHEREAS, Cole Wist is a highly sought-after speaker at conferences across the nation and has authored multiple articles and publications addressing legal matters in his field of practice; and

WHEREAS, Cole Wist has been and remains an active member of the legal and non-legal communities, having been appointed by Colorado Governor Bill Owens to serve as a trustee on the Colorado Mesa University Board of Trustees in 2004 and 2005 and as a member of the Governor's Task Force on Civil Justice Reform in 1999 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, Cole Wist, who is affiliated with the Republican Party, was appointed by a vacancy committee in 2016 to replace outgoing Representative Jack Tate and was sworn in on January 12, 2016, as a member of the Colorado House of Representatives representing House District 37; and

WHEREAS, Representative Wist served as a distinguished member of the Colorado House of Representatives for two terms, rapidly rising to the post of Assistant Minority Leader during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, While a member of the Colorado General Assembly, Representative Wist served as an esteemed and thoughtful member of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee; the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee; the House Judiciary Committee; the joint Committee on Legal Services; and the Commission on Uniform State Laws and was appointed to serve on the Sentencing in Criminal Justice System Interim Committee in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his brief but exemplary legislative career, Representative Wist quickly earned a reputation as being an ethical and principled legislator, a creative problem solver, a civil justice reform advocate, and a productive bipartisan lawmaker who demonstrated experienced and reasoned leadership; and

WHEREAS, Representative Wist was a legislator to whom members

from both sides of the aisle turned for guidance and balanced advice and who was admired by his legislative colleagues for his intelligence, fairness, civility, and grace; and

WHEREAS, On the basis of his dedicated public service as a respected member of the Colorado House of Representatives, his extensive career as a highly regarded and well-respected attorney for over thirty years, and his outstanding qualifications and reputation in the community as an individual of integrity and the highest ethical standards, Cole Wist has demonstrated the temperament and personal qualities that will enable him to serve as a respected member of the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission in an exemplary manner and in a way that will reflect well upon the Senate, the Colorado General Assembly, and the State of Colorado; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado,*

That the Senate hereby approves President Garcia's appointment of Cole Wist to the Independent Ethics Commission for a term commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2025.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Senate Resolution be sent to the Chair of the Independent Ethics Commission, the Executive Director of the Independent Ethics Commission, and Cole Wist.

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Leroy M. Garcia  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE