

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Electronically Filed
Jul 22 2014 10:58 a.m.
Tracie K. Lindeman
Clerk of Supreme Court

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, and)
CHRISTOPHER CRAIG,)
Individually and on behalf of others)
similarly situated,)

Sup. Ct. No. 61681

Appellants,)

Case No.: A-12-661726-C

Dept. No.: XXVIII

Vs.)

BEFORE THE COURT EN BANC.

NEVADA YELLOW CAB)
CORPORATION; NEVADA CHECKER)
CAB CORPORATION; NEVADA STAR)
CAB CORPORATION,)

Respondents.)

RESPONDENTS' PETITION FOR REHEARING

MARC C. GORDON, ESQ.
GENERAL COUNSEL
Nevada Bar No. 001866
TAMER B. BOTROS, ESQ.
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL
Nevada Bar No. 012183
**YELLOW CHECKER STAR
TRANSPORTATION CO. LEGAL DEPT.**
5225 W. Post Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
T: 702-873-8012
F: 702-365-7864
mgordon@ycstrans.com
Attorneys for Respondents
NEVADA YELLOW CAB CORPORATION
NEVADA CHECKER CAB CORPORATION
NEVADA STAR CAB CORPORATION

1 **A. INTRODUCTION.**

2 Pursuant to NRAP 40(c)(2)(B), this Court may consider rehearing “[w]hen
3 the court has overlooked, misapplied or failed to consider a statute, procedural rule,
4 regulation or decision directly controlling a dispositive issue in the case.”
5 Respondents respectfully submit that this Court, in its June 26, 2014, Opinion: (i)
6 misapplied directly controlling authority in its analysis and application of the
7 standard and presumptions governing an implied repeal of a preexisting statute; (ii)
8 applying the correct standard and presumptions, Respondents respectfully submit
9 that the definition of “employee” in the Amendment and the occupational
10 exemptions set forth in NRS 608.250(2) can exist in harmony, just as they did prior
11 to the enactment of the Amendment; and (iii) Respondents respectfully submit that
12 this Court failed to consider certain Nevada statutes which, as a result of this Court’s
13 Opinion, can now only be read as producing absurd results, in violation of this
14 Court’s well-settled principles of statutory and constitutional construction.
15 Accordingly, Respondents respectfully request that this Court consider rehearing to
16 address the issues discussed herein.

17
18 **B. LEGAL ARGUMENT.**

19
20 **1. The applicable standard.**

21 Indisputably, the Constitutional Amendment did not expressly state it was
22 repealing the occupational exemptions contained in NRS 608.250(2). Thus, the
23 issue is whether an implicit repeal occurred. Respondents respectfully submit that
24 this Court misapplied controlling authority in its analysis and application of the
25 standard and presumptions governing an implied repeal of a preexisting statute. As
26 set forth in this Court’s opinion, “[t]he presumption is against implied repeal unless
27 the enactment conflicts with existing law to the extent that both cannot logically
28 coexist.” Opinion, at 5. Yet, this Court also stated that “[a]n alternative construction

1 that would attempt to make the Minimum Wage Amendment compatible with NRS
2 608.250, despite the plain language of the Amendment, would run afoul of the
3 principle of constitutional supremacy.” *Id.* at 7. Further, this Court applied an
4 *expressio unius* analysis in reaching its conclusion. *Id.* at 5. Respondents
5 respectfully submit that an application of constitutional supremacy and *expressio*
6 *unius* is contrary to the implied repeal considerations.

7 Specifically, Respondents first respectfully submit that this Court misapplied
8 controlling law in its application of the doctrine of constitutional supremacy to the
9 issue of whether a preexisting statute was impliedly repealed. Nevada law
10 demonstrates that the Constitution is treated no differently than any other statute or
11 law when determining whether it has impliedly repealed a preexisting statute. The
12 fact that the subsequently enacted law happens to be a Constitutional provision does
13 not overcome the presumption against implied repeals absent “irreconcilable
14 repugnancy” any more than any other subsequently enacted law. Respectfully, by
15 giving undue weight to the Constitutional provision, this Court misapplied the
16 correct standard and presumptions for an implied repeal. Indeed, the conclusion that
17 a constitutional provision automatically prevails **assumes** an irreconcilable
18 repugnancy between the two laws.

19 Moreover, Respondents respectfully submit that application of more-
20 generalized canons of construction that contain something other than an
21 “irreconcilable repugnancy” standard cannot be used to address questions of implied
22 repeal.

- 23 **a. Nevada law already holds that the doctrine of constitutional**
24 **supremacy is not implicated when addressing the question of**
25 **implied repeal of a preexisting statute.**
26
27
28

1 The doctrine of constitutional supremacy serves as a restraint on the
2 legislature's ability to enact laws **in conflict with** the constitution. *See, e.g.,*
3 *Galloway v. Truesdell*, 83 Nev. 13, 20, 422 P.2d 237, 242 (1967) (“[L]egislative
4 power is the power of law-making representative bodies to frame and enact laws,
5 and to amend or repeal them. This power is indeed very broad, and, except where
6 limited by Federal or State Constitutional provisions, that power is practically
7 absolute. Unless there are specific constitutional limitations to the contrary, statutes
8 are to be construed in favor of the legislative power.”). And when the Legislature
9 enacts a statute **prior to** the enactment of a constitutional provision, there can be no
10 conflict with a constitutional provision which does not yet exist. Where, as here,
11 NRS 608.250(2) was enacted in 1965, long before the Amendment was passed in
12 2006, there could be no concern that the Legislature was trying to change the
13 Constitution by ordinary enactment, or enact a conflicting statute “pursuant thereto.”
14 Opinion, at 7.

15 More importantly, the doctrine has no application because it is not pertinent
16 to the issue: whether there is an irreconcilable repugnancy between the two laws.
17 Where the preexisting statute and the constitutional provision are both laws of the
18 State of Nevada, it is of no consequence that one is a constitutional provision. Just
19 as a statute can be expressly repealed by both subsequent statute or subsequent
20 constitutional amendment, the implied repeal standard must be applied regardless of
21 whether the subsequent law is a statute or a constitutional amendment. All laws of
22 the State of Nevada must be harmonized, if possible. Any other analysis avoids the
23 implied repeal standard.

24 Accordingly, Nevada applies the same implied repeal standard where a
25 constitutional amendment is alleged to have impliedly repealed a statute.
26 *Mengelkamp v. List*, 88 Nev. 542, 546, 501 P.2d 1032, 1034 (Nev. 1972) (addressing
27 such an argument, and stating: “[i]mplied repeal of one **law** through enactment of
28 another does not occur, save when one is irreconcilably repugnant to the other, or by

1 some other means intent to abrogate the earlier law is made evident.”). In
2 *Mengelkamp*, this Court stated:

3
4 Petitioners suggest that NRS 218.010 was repealed by implication
5 when the people voted in 1971 to amend our Constitution to grant
6 18-year-olds the right to vote. Implied repeal of one law through
7 enactment of another does not occur, save when one is
8 irreconcilably repugnant to the other, or by some other means intent
9 to abrogate the earlier law is made evident. *Thorpe v. Schooling*, 7
10 Nev. 15 (1871). We cannot say that members of the public who cast
11 their ballots to allow 18-year-olds to vote thereby manifested intent
12 to abolish age requirements theretofore imposed on candidates for
13 state office.

14 *Id.* at 545-46, 501 P.2d at 1034; *see also State v. Hallock*, 16 Nev. 373, 378
15 (1882) ("constitutional amendment, adopted subsequent to the enactment of the
16 statute relied on by counsel for petitioner, is controlling" over the statute *that*
17 *addresses the same issue*—thus, the pertinent analysis is whether the two laws
18 address the same issue). Indeed, “[w]hen construing constitutional provisions, [this
19 Court] use[s] the same rules of construction used to interpret statutes.” *Nevada*
20 *Mining Ass’n v. Erdoes*, 117 Nev. 531, 538, 26 P.3d 753, 757 (2001); *see also*
21 *Landreth v. Malik*, 127 Nev. ---, ---, 251 P.3d 163, 166 (2011) (noting that “the
22 interpretation of a . . . constitutional provision will be harmonized with other
23 statutes”); *Rogers v. Heller*, 117 Nev. 169, 176 n.17, 18 P.3d 1034, 1038 n.17 (2001)
24 (“[T]he rules of construction that apply to statutes should also be applied to
25 constitutional provisions.”).

26 The conclusion that a constitutional provision automatically prevails *assumes*
27 an irreconcilable repugnancy between the two laws. The argument avoids the issue:
28 whether there is any possible way to reconcile the Amendment with the exemptions.
See, e.g., Martinez v. Maruszczak, 123 Nev. 433, 448-49, 168 P.3d 720, 730 (2007)
(stating that this Court presumes that a statute is constitutional, and a party who
challenges the constitutionality of the statute must clearly show its invalidity).

1 **b. The implied repeal standard is a canon of construction, which**
2 **cannot be eviscerated through application of other, more**
3 **generalized, canons of construction.**

4 The implied repeal standard requires that, where there has been no express
5 repeal, separate laws be harmonized if at all possible. This standard is, itself, a canon
6 of construction since it dictates how statutes are to be interpreted. Accordingly,
7 application of more-generalized canons of construction that contains something
8 other than an “irreconcilable repugnancy” standard cannot be used to address
9 questions of implied repeal.

10 The Opinion erroneously adopts Appellants’ argument when it states:
11 “Nevada's constitutional minimum wage disregards the canon of construction
12 ''expressio unius est exclusio alterius,' the expression of one thing is the exclusion
13 of another." Appellants’ Reply Brief, page 11. Opinion at 8, citing *Galloway v.*
14 *Truesdell*, 83 Nev. 13, 26, 422 P.2d 237, 246 (1967).¹ Applying a canon that
15 automatically excludes “the other” law fails to follow the implied repeal canon,
16 which requires that the two laws be harmonized if at all possible.

17 If the Court’s Opinion stands, it will allow practitioners, and the District
18 Courts, to find implied repeal wherever some other canon of construction can be
19 argued contrary to the implied repeal canon of construction. Given the many self-
20 conflicting canons of constructions in existence, this will result in avoidance of the
21 implied repeal standard to nullify the State’s laws.

22 The implied repeal standard’s “irreconcilable repugnancy” canon is the only
23 canon of construction that applies. Application of alternative canons results in
24 erroneous results.

25
26
27 ¹ Respondents also respectfully note that unlike the present situation, *Galloway v.*
28 *Truesdell* 83 Nev. 13, 422 P.2d 237 (1967), examined **legislatively-enacted** constitutional
 provisions rather than constitutional provisions approved by **voters**.

1 **c. The Attorney General’s Opinion cited the wrong standard when it**
2 **cited case law that addressed “express appeal” rather than**
3 **“implied repeal.”**

4 The Opinion references an Attorney General Opinion, 2005 Nev. Op. Atty.
5 Gen. No. 4 (“AG Opinion”), to support the implied repeal argument. The AG
6 Opinion provides no support because it cited the *express repeal* standard, rather than
7 the standard that applies to questions of implied repeal. This is the opposite legal
8 standard than that required by this Court. The AG Opinion primarily relied on the
9 following reasoning:

10 The effect of the proposed amendment on the NRS 608.250
11 exclusions is controlled by two presumptions. First, the voters
12 should be presumed to know the state of the law in existence related
13 to the subject upon which they vote. Op. Nev. Att’y Gen. 153
14 (December 21, 1934). Second, it is ordinarily presumed that
15 “[w]here a statute is amended, provisions of the former statute
16 omitted from the amended statute are repealed.” *McKay v. Board of*
17 *Supervisors*, 102 Nev. 644, 650, 730 P.2d 438, 442 (1986).² In
18 keeping with these presumptions, the people, by acting to amend the
19 minimum wage coverage and failing to include the statutory
20 exclusions in the proposed amendment, are presumed to have
21 intended the repeal of the existing exclusions so that the new
22 minimum wage would be paid to all who meet its definition of
23 “employee.” Accordingly, the proposed amendment would effect an
24 implied repeal of the exclusions from minimum wage coverage at
25 NRS 608.250(2).

26 The AG Opinion never applied the rules required by the Nevada Supreme Court for
27 engaging in an implied repeal analysis.

28 Rather than apply the presumption against finding an implied repeal, the AG
Opinion *presumes the opposite*, that implied repeal should be presumed. The first

² This quoted portion of *McKay* (“provisions of the former statute omitted from the amended statute are repealed”) states the standard for express repeal. It mirrors the canon of construction that holds that “the expression of one thing is the exclusion of another.” Such canon is the *express repeal* standard. It is inapplicable here because NRS 608.250 was not expressly repealed.

1 presumption announced in the AG Opinion is that “the voters should be presumed
2 to know the state of the law in existence related to the subject upon which they
3 vote.” The Attorney General cites itself, the Attorney General, as its own
4 authority. Stating that voters are presumed to know the state of the law is just a
5 circular argument that assumes its own conclusion.

6 The AG Opinion cites *McKay v. Board of Supervisors*, 102 Nev. 644, 730
7 P.2d 438 (1986), which further shows the improper use of the presumption. In
8 *McKay*, the court reviewed the *express* amendment of NRS 241.030. The
9 amendment was of the *same statute*, NRS 241.030. In 1977, the statute was
10 amended and replaced with a new statute. The new statute eliminated certain
11 provisions. The court held that the provisions omitted from the new statute were
12 repealed. This was because the legislature is presumed to know what was in the
13 prior version of NRS 241.030 that it *expressly* amended.

14 The presumption only applies when the amendment is to the exact same
15 statute. The presumption has no place in the law of implied repeal, i.e., where one
16 law allegedly causes a separate law to no longer have effect.

17 The same argument represented by the AG Opinion’s two “presumptions”
18 was made in the Ninth Circuit case of *Nigg v. U.S. Postal Service*. The argument
19 was rejected by the court because the issue did not concern express amendment of
20 the same statute, but rather, concerned implied repeal of a different statute. The
21 Postal Service made the following argument:

22
23 The Postal Service argues that the Supreme Court's analysis in
24 *Lorillard v. Pons*, 434 U.S. 575, 580-81, 98 S.Ct. 866, 55 L.Ed.2d
25 40 (1978), suggests that through § 1003(c) Congress intended to
26 maintain the status quo of denying FLSA overtime to postal
27 inspectors because when “Congress adopts a new law it can be
28 presumed to have had knowledge of the interpretation given to the
incorporated law, at least insofar as it affects the new statute.” *Id.* at
581, 98 S.Ct. 866.

1 *Nigg v. U.S. Postal Service*, 555 F.3d 781, 787 (9th Cir. 2009) (emphasis
2 added). This is the same argument made in the AG Opinion.

3 The Ninth Circuit rejected the Postal Service’s argument, stating:

4 “This argument lacks traction for two reasons. First, the
5 presumption of Congressional awareness of existing interpretations
6 of a given statute ordinarily applies to situations where Congress re-
7 enacts the same statute. See, e.g., *Albemarle Paper Co. v. Moody*,
8 422 U.S. 405, 414 n. 8, 95 S.Ct. 2362, 45 L.Ed.2d 280 (1975).
9 Second, as in *Lorillard*, where awareness of a different statutory
10 scheme is presumed, sections of that other statute were incorporated
11 in the statute in question; such is not the statutory scheme here. 434
12 U.S. at 580-81, 98 S.Ct. 866.”

13 *Id.* (emphasis added). The presumption at issue only applies when the legislature in
14 question “re-enacts the same statute”.

15 In this case, the Minimum Wage Amendment was a constitutional
16 amendment. It was not a new NRS 608.250(2). Because of this, the AG Opinion’s
17 *express repeal* presumptions cannot be used. Instead, the Opinion should have
18 applied the implied repeal analysis, where “the presumption is always against an
19 intention to repeal an earlier statute” *Lemberes v. State*, 97 Nev. 492, 499, 634 P.2d
20 1219, 1223 (1981). The AG Opinion fails to engage in the proper analysis.

21 This Court’s adoption of the AG Opinion is erroneous. It will invite
22 practitioners and District Courts to apply the express repeal standard to questions of
23 implied repeal, which will result in numerous inappropriate holdings that Nevada
24 laws have been repealed.

25 **2. Application of the “irreconcilable repugnancy” standard.**

26 Applying the correct standard and presumptions, Respondents respectfully
27 submit that the definition of “employee” in the Amendment and the occupational
28 exemptions of NRS 608.250(2) can exist in harmony, just as they did for many years
prior to the enactment of the Amendment.

1 **a. The “employee” definition in the Amendment addressing**
2 **treatment of minors has always been reconcilable with the separate**
3 **occupational exemptions.**

4 This Court concluded that the “Employee” definition of the Constitutional
5 Amendment is irreconcilably repugnant to the occupational exemptions of NRS
6 608.250(2). Opinion, at 6. Yet, the employee definition and the occupational
7 exemptions have coexisted harmoniously as part of Nevada law since the inception
8 of Nevada’s minimum wage. They have further coexisted under Nevada law since
9 the most recent amendment of NRS 608.250 in 2001, which required the Labor
10 Commissioner to look to the federal law of minimum wage—which also has an
11 employee definition that coexists with occupational exemptions. The provisions
12 cannot be in conflict when they have coexisted harmoniously for decades.

13 “In making this determination, we look to the text of the statutes, legislative
14 history, the substance of what is covered by both statutes, and when the statutes were
15 amended.” *Washington*, 117 Nev. at 739, 30 P.3d at 1170, citing *Jackson v. State*,
16 93 Nev. 677, 681, 572 P.2d 927, 930 (1977). Applying the proper analysis, the
17 Amendment and the occupational exemptions are easily reconciled.

18 **i. Nevada has always treated the employee definition separately from**
19 **the occupational exemptions.**

20 Nevada’s Minimum Wage Law has historically treated the “employee”
21 definition section different from the occupational exemption section. Because the
22 two items were treated differently under Nevada law, they cannot conflict with one
23 another. The “employee” definition section of the Minimum Wage Amendment
24 deals entirely with one issue: how to treat employees who are minors.³ In other

25 ³ The Minimum Wage Amendment’s “employee” definition section states:
26 As used in this section, "employee" means any person who is
27 employed by an employer as defined herein but does not include an
28 employee who is under eighteen (18) years of age, employed by a
 nonprofit organization for after school or summer employment or as
 a trainee for a period not longer than ninety (90) days.

1 words, minors will not be treated as “employees” under the Minimum Wage
2 Amendment. The definition section is squarely addressing the issue of how minors
3 are to be treated, even to the point of redundancy, capturing the same minors within
4 its exception to “employee” by age, by “after school” employment, and by
5 employment during summer break.

6 For most of its existence, the Minimum Wage Law, NRS 608.250, contained
7 both a definition section relating to treatment of minors and a separate section listing
8 occupational exemptions. Prior to 2001, NRS 608.250 stated:

9
10 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the minimum
11 wage which may be paid to employees in private employment within
12 the state is \$3.35 per hour. The labor commissioner shall prescribe
13 increases in the minimum wage in accordance with those prescribed
14 by federal law, unless he determines that such increases are contrary
15 to the public interest. ***The minimum amount which may be paid to
16 a minor is 85 percent of that amount.***

17 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to:

18 (a) Casual babysitters.

19 (b) Domestic service employees who reside in the household
20 where they work.

21 (c) Outside salespersons whose earnings are based on
22 commissions.

23 (d) Employees engaged in an agricultural pursuit for an
24 employer who did not use more than 500 man-days of agricultural
25 labor in any calendar quarter of the preceding calendar year.

26 (e) Taxicab and limousine drivers.

27 (f) Severely handicapped persons whose disabilities have
28 diminished their productive capacity in a specific job and who are
specified in certificates issued by the rehabilitation division of the
department of employment, training and rehabilitation.

3. It is unlawful for any person to employ, cause to be employed
or permit to be employed, or to contract with, cause to be contracted
with or permit to be contracted with, any person for a wage less than
that provided in this section.

NRS 608.250 (2000 version).

1 The section addressing payment of the minimum wage to minors was totally
2 separate from the section addressing which types of occupations that would be
3 exempt. The “employee” section addresses how minors are treated. The
4 “exemption” section addresses whether there are certain types of occupations that
5 should be exempt. Nevada has historically treated these issues separately. The
6 Minimum Wage Amendment only addresses the “employee” issue and how minors
7 are to be treated. It does nothing to address the occupational “exemptions” of NRS
8 608.250(2).

9 Thus, given the presumption against an implied repeal, the presumption that
10 a statute is constitutional unless demonstrated otherwise, and the fact that the
11 occupational “exemptions” and the definition of “employee” have historically been
12 treated differently, have and can coexist, Respondents respectfully request that this
13 Court reconsider its conclusion that the Amendment implicitly repealed NRS
14 608.250 (2).

15 **ii. Nevada’s Wage and Hour Law was repeatedly updated, largely to**
16 **increase the amount of minimum wage, without ever eliminating**
17 **the occupational exemptions.**

18 A common scenario that displays the lack of implied repeal is the situation
19 where a statute is merely updated over time. A common reason for updating is to
20 increase the amount referenced in a statute stating an amount. Where the statute is
21 not indexed to inflation or some other key barometer, it must be amended from time
22 to time.

23 Thus, after NRS 608.250 was established in 1965, it was amended in 1969,
24 1973, 1975, 1977, 1987, 1989, 1993, and 2001. These updates primarily increased
25 the amount of the minimum wage. None of them eliminated the occupational
26 exemptions that have existed since 1965.

27 Updating the amount of Nevada’s minimum wage has never effectuated an
28 implied repeal of the occupational exemptions. Accordingly, the Amendment’s

1 updating of the amount is not irreconcilably repugnant to the continued vitality of
2 the occupational exemptions.

3 **iii. The 2001 Amendment updated the amount by resorting to federal**
4 **standards regarding the amount and the employee definition, without**
5 **eliminating the occupational exemptions; the 2006 Amendment is a**
6 **return to Nevada’s old form by having a set amount and employee**
7 **definition, without repealing the occupational exemptions.**

8 As stated above, in 2001, NRS 608.250 was amended. Rather than increase
9 the monetary amount in subsection 1, the new law allowed the Labor Commissioner
10 to increase the minimum wage in accordance with federal law. Because the Labor
11 Commissioner was permitted to apply federal standards, the “employee” definition
12 was eliminated, presumably because the Commissioner would look to the federal
13 definition of “employee.”

14 Even at this time, the occupational exemptions were not altered or amended.
15 They continued in force. There was no repeal of the exemptions.

16 **iv. Federal law has an “employee” definition that coexists with**
17 **occupational exemptions.**

18 In 2001, the Minimum Wage Law, NRS 608.250, was amended, changing
19 NRS 608.250(1).⁴ As far as how to treat minor “employees,” the Labor
20 Commissioner shall act “in accordance with . . . federal law.”

23 ⁴ This section now states:

24 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Labor
25 Commissioner shall, in accordance with federal law, establish by
26 regulation the minimum wage which may be paid to employees in
27 private employment within the State. The Labor Commissioner shall
28 prescribe increases in the minimum wage in accordance with those
prescribed by federal law, unless he determines that those increases
are contrary to the public interest.

NRS 608.250(1).

1 The Minimum Wage Amendment largely follows the structure of the FLSA.
2 Under the FLSA, § 203 defines “employee” and “employer.” A completely different
3 section of the FLSA is used to list all of the “exemptions.” In that section, § 213,
4 the FLSA lists nearly all the same exemptions, or exclusions, that are listed in NRS
5 608.250(2).

6 **3. This Court’s opinion will likely result in absurd results and implied repeal**
7 **of many other statutes and laws.**

8 Finally, Respondents respectfully submit that this Court failed to consider
9 certain Nevada statutes which, as a result of this Court’s Opinion, can now only be
10 read as producing absurd results, in violation of this Court’s well-settled principles
11 of statutory and constitutional construction. In fact, the legal errors contained within
12 the Opinion will likely result in implied repeal of many of Nevada’s statutes that
13 would not previously have occurred.

14 Amendment of a general rule does not ordinarily result in a finding of implied
15 repeal of the various exceptions or exemptions from the rule. Here, the general rule
16 stating an amount of the minimum wage was amended, while the occupational
17 exemptions were not addressed at all. NRS 608.250(2) provides a specific list of
18 exclusions. This Court’s Opinion can be read to state that the exemptions are
19 impliedly repealed where they are not included in the amended version of the general
20 rule. This will result in implied repeal of numerous statutes containing exceptions
21 or exemptions from the general rule.

22 Moreover, respectfully, this Court’s interpretation of the Amendment could
23 produce a variety of absurd results in violation of this Court’s well-settled principles
24 of statutory and constitutional interpretation. For example, in addition to the absurd
25 result recognized by the dissent, that casual babysitters are now entitled to minimum
26 wage, the implicit repeal of NRS 608.250 would also have an absurd result upon this
27 state’s overtime regime. Specifically, NRS 608.018(3)(a) expressly exempts from
28 overtime “[e]mployees who are not covered by the minimum wage provisions of

1 NRS 608.250,” among others. While many of the categories exempted in NRS
2 608.250(2) are separately exempted in NRS 608.018(3), other categories, such as
3 “casual babysitters,” or “domestic service employees who reside in the household
4 where they work,” or “persons with severe disabilities whose disabilities have
5 diminished their productive capacity in a specific job,” are not. *Id.*; *see also* NRS
6 608.250(2)(a), (b), and (f). Thus, applying this Court’s opinion as it currently stands,
7 this means that either (1) by intending to impliedly repeal NRS 608.250’s
8 exemptions, the Amendment also sought to ensure that the aforementioned
9 employees are now also entitled to overtime – a result which would be well beyond
10 the scope of the Amendment; or (2) the formerly-exempted employees listed in NRS
11 608.250(2) are now entitled to minimum wage, but still not to overtime – a result
12 which would be inexplicable and arbitrary. Either result is absurd, demonstrating
13 that such a reading of the Amendment would be in violation of this Court’s well-
14 settled principles of statutory and constitutional construction.

15 Further, by applying the doctrine of *expressio unis* to conclude that **any**
16 employee not excluded in the Amendment’s definition of “employee” is now entitled
17 to minimum wage, one could logically conclude, for example, that public employees
18 are now entitled to minimum wage per the terms of the Amendment. Indeed, while
19 NRS 608.250(1) limited minimum wage to “employees in **private** employment,” the
20 Amendment contains no such limitation, even defining employer so broadly as to
21 include any “other entity that may employ individuals or enter into contracts of
22 employment.” Similarly, while NRS 608.250(1) limited minimum-wage entitlement
23 to employees “within the State,” the Amendment’s definition of “employee” is not
24 limited to those within the State. In fact, an employee, with certain exceptions, is
25 “any person who is employed by an employer,” and an “employer” is “**any**
26 individual, proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, limited liability
27 company, trust association, or other entity that may employ individuals or enter into
28 contracts of employment.” (Emphasis added). It would be absurd to conclude, based

1 on *expressio unius* or any other doctrine, that by addressing certain exceptions but
2 by failing to exclude out-of-state employees of Nevada employers, the Nevada
3 voters intended to repeal the NRS 608.250(1) requirement that minimum wage
4 applies to those employees “within the State.”⁵

5 Because this Court seeks to avoid interpretations that yield unreasonable or
6 absurd results, Respondents respectfully request that this Court reconsider the
7 reading of the Amendment to avoid the results set forth herein. See *J.E. Dunn Nw.,*
8 *Inc. v. Corus Const. Venture, LLC*, 127 Nev. ---, ---, 249 P.3d 501, 506 (2011) (“This
9 court seeks to avoid interpretations that yield unreasonable or absurd result[s].”);
10 *State v. Webster*, 102 Nev. 450, 453, 726 P.2d 831, 833 (1986) (noting that “statutory
11 construction should always avoid an absurd result”); case law cited *supra* stating
12 that this Court applies principles of statutory construction in interpreting the
13 Constitution.

14 **C. CONCLUSION**

15 Respondents respectfully request that the Opinion issued on June 26, 2014
16 should be reconsidered as to all issues presented herein.

17 ///

18 ///

19 ///

25 ⁵ Indeed, reading the Amendment in such a way would also render meaningless the scope of
26 the Legislative Declaration of the compensation, wage, and hours statutes: “[t]he Legislature
27 hereby finds and declares that the health and welfare of workers and employment of persons **in**
28 **private enterprise in this State** are of concern to the State and that the health and welfare of
persons required to earn their livings by their own endeavors require certain safeguards as to hours
of service, working conditions, and compensation therefor.” NRS 608.005 (emphasis added).

1 DATED this 21st day of July, 2014.

2
3
4 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

5 /s/ Marc C. Gordon

6 MARC C. GORDON, ESQ.
7 GENERAL COUNSEL
8 Nevada Bar No. 001866
9 TAMER B. BOTROS, ESQ.
10 ASSOCIATE COUNSEL
11 Nevada Bar No. 012183
12 YELLOW CHECKER STAR
13 TRANSPORTATION CO. LEGAL DEPT.
14 5225 W. Post Road
15 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
16 Attorneys for Respondents
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

2 I hereby certify that this Petition for Rehearing complies with the formatting
3 requirements of NRAP 32(a)(4), the typeface requirements of NRAP 32(a)(5) and
4 the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because it has been prepared in a
5 proportionally-spaced typeface using 14-point Times New Roman typeface in
6 Microsoft Word 2013.

7 I further certify that this brief complies with the page-or-type-volume
8 limitations of NRAP 40 or NRAP 40A because it is proportionately spaced, has a
9 typeface of 14 points or more and it does not exceed 4,667 words.

10 Finally, I hereby affirm under NRS 239B.030(4) that the Petition for
11 Rehearing has nobody's social security number.

12
13 Dated this 21st day of July, 2014.

14 /s/ Marc C. Gordon
15 **MARC C. GORDON, ESQ.**
16 **GENERAL COUNSEL**
17 Nevada Bar No. 001866
18 **TAMER B. BOTROS, ESQ.**
19 **ASSOCIATE COUNSEL**
20 Nevada Bar No. 012183
21 5225 W. Post Road
22 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
23 Attorneys for Respondents
24
25
26
27
28

1 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

2
3 The undersigned certifies that on July 21, 2014, they served the within:

4
5 **RESPONDENTS' PETITION FOR REHEARING**

6
7 by depositing the same in the U.S. mail, first class postage, prepaid, addressed as
8 follows:

9
10 **TO:**

11
12 Leon Greenberg, Esq.
13 A Professional Corporation
14 2965 S. Jones Blvd., Suite E-4
15 Las Vegas, NV 89146

16
17
18
19 Dated this 21st day of July, 2014.

20
21
22 /s/ Sheila Robertson

23 _____
24 Sheila Robertson
25
26
27
28