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STATE AND PROVINCIAL REGULATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

Katharine Braid†

I have been to a number of these conferences over the years, and I am always impressed with the careful thought and the way in which Henry divides up a dauntingly comprehensive and complex topic into these specific issues. The order in which these topics are addressed is an important aspect of his technique: to look at a puzzle, pull it apart and put it back together again.

We started with a high-level overview of the current status and the specific problems of greenhouse gases, waste, specific resources such as water, and specific new energy sources. This afternoon, we have moved back up the abstraction ladder and looked at national energy policy, and we are now to move on to state and provincial regulations. Our next two speakers will address both energy and other resource allocations from the point of view of the state and provincial regulations.

Our first speaker, William Mogel, will speak about state regulation of natural resources, and specifically on energy. He will start with California, which has been already a subject of general interest – if only because we do not want to do it that way again – and move to the other seventeen states that are in the process of considering deregulation. Mr. Mogel is a partner with the Washington office of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey. His practice specializes in energy law, representing both producers and industrial consumers both in the United States and in the restructuring of the energy industry abroad. He is also the founder of the Energy Law Journal and a co-editor of a six-volume set of resource material for lawyers in the energy business. Mr. Mogel will concentrate on the restructuring of electricity, touching on both the lessons learned from California and the movements in other states.

Mr. Mogel will be followed by Martin Kaga from the Department of Energy of the Province of Alberta. Martin is the head of the legal group for the business unit of the Alberta Department of Energy. Martin’s own specialty is in the legal policy relating to royalty structures in the energy business, but he is going to talk about Alberta’s regulation framework for its natural resources in a more comprehensive way, looking at water, mines and

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minerals as well as energy. The exuberant wealth of Alberta’s natural resources is matched only by the fierceness with which it protects its rights to regulate those things.

I think we will have an interesting juxtaposition, which will show some of the difficulty in getting unanimity of policy here. Please join me in welcoming our speakers.