1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
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3	SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC., :
4	Petitioner : No. 12-815
5	v. :
6	ELIZABETH S. JACOBS, ET AL. :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Tuesday, November 5, 2013
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 11:06 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	TIMOTHY J. SIMEONE, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
16	Petitioner.
17	DAVID J. LYNCH, ESQ., Des Moines, Iowa; on behalf of
18	Respondents.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:06 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will next hear
4	argument in Case 12-815, Sprint Communications v.
5	Jacobs.
6	Mr. Simeone.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF TIMOTHY J. SIMEONE
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. SIMEONE: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	The IUB's arguments here would transform
12	Younger abstention from the exception into the rule for
13	State agency adjudications. Virtually, all State agency
14	decisions, even on issues of Federal law, would be
15	subject to challenge only in State court.
16	There's no basis for that broad rule in this
17	Court's decisions. Younger abstention began with the
18	traditional principle going back to the time of the
19	framing that Federal courts sitting in equity shouldn't
20	intrude on State criminal cases.
21	This Court's decisions have, of course,
22	expanded Younger slightly beyond criminal cases. In
23	Huffman, in Moore, in Trainor, the Court extended
24	Younger to civil enforcement actions in aid of State
25	criminal laws.

- 1 In Middlesex County, in Dayton, the Court
- 2 extended Younger to administrative disciplinary actions.
- 3 But all of these cases are still coercive civil
- 4 enforcement actions, where the State's enforcement
- 5 interests are similar to those in criminal cases.
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, one of the
- 7 problems I have is I don't know how to define
- 8 "coercive." The line seems very hard to draw. There
- 9 are plenty of examples in the brief where some courts
- 10 have said this kind of proceeding is coercive and that
- 11 kind is not. So --
- MR. SIMEONE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- is it -- is it
- 14 worthwhile using that distinction at all? Or should we
- 15 be thinking about going back to basic principles and
- 16 doing something like the Second Circuit does, which is
- 17 to say it's a sovereign interest, rather than a personal
- 18 interest?
- MR. SIMEONE: Your Honor, we've argued that
- 20 there is no magic to the -- to the word "coercive."
- 21 Coercive is a sort of shorthand that the lower courts
- 22 have used to mean coercive in the ways that this Court's
- 23 Younger decisions are coercive.
- 24 So I think the question of how far this
- 25 Court has extended Younger is really the heart of this

- 1 case, as opposed to sort of what is the meaning of the
- 2 word "coercive." And I think, as I was saying, the
- 3 Court started with criminal cases, and it extended that
- 4 principle somewhat in Huffman and Moore and Trainor.
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Those were when most of
- 6 them involved State proceedings.
- 7 MR. SIMEONE: Yes. There's -- they're --
- 8 but they're a specific kind of State enforcement action.
- 9 In each of those cases, this Court held that the State
- 10 enforcement action was in aid of criminal law. So it's
- 11 a small extension of the traditional principle that
- 12 courts sitting in equity don't intrude on State criminal
- 13 cases.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But then we went further
- in Pennzoil and in New Orleans -- well, perhaps not.
- 16 MR. SIMEONE: Yes, the Court went further in
- 17 a couple of different directions, and I want to try to
- 18 address them separately, if I may.
- 19 The first direction is, really, the Dayton
- 20 Middlesex County cases. Those were administrative
- 21 disciplinary actions. And I think the Dayton case is
- 22 actually especially helpful here in drawing the kind of
- 23 line that you're looking for, Your Honor. The Dayton
- 24 case helps to give some substance to exactly what is a
- 25 civil enforcement proceeding.

So in in Dayton, the Ohio Civil Righ	ıts
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- 2 Commission conducted an investigation and found that the
- 3 school there had engaged in discrimination on the basis
- 4 of sex. The commission proposed a consent order, and it
- 5 told the school, if you don't agree to this consent
- 6 order under which you need to hire back the professor --
- 7 I mean, the teacher and pay her back pay, then we're
- 8 going to proceed to disciplinary action; we're going to
- 9 file an administrative complaint.
- 10 The school ignored the consent order,
- 11 refused to show up for a hearing that the commission had
- 12 scheduled. And so, in Dayton, the State filed an
- 13 administrative complaint, charging violations of the
- 14 Ohio Civil Rights Act. And those violations that were
- 15 charged were third-degree misdemeanors, subject to
- 16 fines, subject to jail time, up to 60 days in jail.
- 17 So we think that Dayton gives some substance
- 18 to what is a civil enforcement action. It's the sort of
- 19 proceeding where you have an investigation. You have
- 20 factual findings. You have an administrative complaint.
- 21 You have the possibility of -- of civil penalties, and
- 22 potentially, in that case, there was jail time as well.
- 23 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Simeone, this -- the
- 24 background of this case, I don't quite grasp. You
- 25 originally said that you wanted to make sure you --

- 1 there was no disconnection, pending the FCC's resolution
- 2 of the issue.
- 3 MR. SIMEONE: That's exactly right, Your
- 4 Honor.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Has the FCC had a
- 6 proceeding to resolve it?
- 7 MR. SIMEONE: Yes, although the FCC is
- 8 surprisingly adept at not resolving the issue in the
- 9 proceedings that it holds to resolve the issue. So, in
- 10 fact, the FCC had a proceeding pending before it at the
- 11 time that this case was before the IUB, in which Sprint
- 12 expected that the -- that the FCC would resolve this
- 13 issue.
- 14 What the FCC did was resolve the issue of
- 15 what inter-carrier compensation regime applies going
- 16 forward, but it didn't address these calls that have
- 17 already occurred. So this is a sort of strange corner
- 18 of telecommunications law now.
- 19 Going forward, the FCC has applied specific
- 20 inter-carrier compensation regime under Federal law to
- 21 this kind of call. But going backwards, the appropriate
- 22 inter-carrier compensation regime to apply under the
- 23 1996 Act, under the federal law is -- is still at issue.
- 24 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, why wouldn't --
- 25 let's say you -- you -- there were no abstention. You

- 1 have your case in Federal court. And the Federal judge
- 2 says, the FCC hasn't spoken, so I don't want to step out
- 3 in front of the FCC on this -- on this question.
- 4 MR. SIMEONE: We -- we strongly urged the
- 5 IUB not to address these issues of Federal law. The
- 6 IUB, I think, was frustrated with the FCC, which had not
- 7 implemented the relevant provisions of Federal law, and
- 8 the IUB reached out to make decisions on Federal law.
- 9 And all we're saying in this case is that
- 10 we -- we think that we ought to be able to challenge
- 11 those decisions that the IUB made as to what's an
- 12 information service, what's a telecommunications
- 13 service.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, you could. You
- 15 could challenge it in the State court or this Court
- 16 and -- eventually, but there's a proceeding going on in
- 17 the State court, and there's a review -- State review
- 18 attached to that.
- 19 And you're -- you're saying we can cut off
- 20 this administrative process that ends in State review.
- 21 We could cut it off and go to the Federal court.
- MR. SIMEONE: To be clear, Your Honor, we
- 23 actually aren't seeking to enjoin any proceeding in the
- 24 State. We filed the action in State court because we
- 25 were required to by Eighth Circuit law. The Eighth

- 1 Circuit has a line of cases --
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Then you explain that.
- 3 But -- but in the review -- in your review petition from
- 4 the State court -- to -- to the State court, you brought
- 5 up more than just this -- the question of these -- these
- 6 charges.
- 7 MR. SIMEONE: Yes, Your Honor. This
- 8 could -- this is a situation quite comparable to the
- 9 England case. In the England case, the -- the Federal
- 10 court plaintiffs thought that they were required to go
- 11 to State court with their Federal law issues.
- 12 And this Court said that they didn't have to
- 13 go to Federal court -- to State court with their Federal
- 14 law issues. And since they did, they were still
- 15 entitled to reserve their Federal law issues for Federal
- 16 court.
- In our case, we actually were required by
- 18 Eighth Circuit precedent to go to State court. The
- 19 Eighth Circuit rule is that, if you don't go to State
- 20 court with your Federal law issues, then abstention --
- 21 Younger abstention applies anyway, even though there is
- 22 no State proceeding whatsoever.
- 23 So in this case, we went to State court, but
- 24 only because we had to under Eighth Circuit -- under the
- 25 Eighth Circuit's unusual law of Younger abstention.

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- 2 essentially do an England reservation. We said to the
- 3 State court: We'd like to stay the Federal issues while
- 4 they go forward in Federal court because, of course, the
- 5 Federal court has jurisdiction and a virtually
- 6 unflagging obligation to exercise that jurisdiction.
- 7 The -- the State court actually held those
- 8 issues in abeyance for 2 years while the abstention
- 9 issues were heard in Federal court. When -- when the
- 10 Federal abstention issues were decided by the Eighth
- 11 Circuit, incorrectly, we think, the State court decided
- 12 to go forward.
- But our -- our argument here is that in a
- 14 system of concurrent jurisdiction, where we have the
- 15 right to be in Federal court, to get review of our
- 16 Federal law issues, the fact that we were forced by
- 17 Eighth Circuit law to go to State court, too, shouldn't
- 18 preclude the Federal court proceeding from going
- 19 forward.
- 20 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, what would have been
- 21 the ruling, do you think -- what would have been the
- 22 correct ruling if you had filed your Federal action
- 23 while the case was still -- the issue was still pending
- 24 before the Iowa board?
- In other words, before the State judicial

- 1 review process kicked in? Would the -- would your
- 2 analysis of the case be the same or would we apply a
- 3 different --
- 4 MR. SIMEONE: It would not be the same, Your
- 5 Honor, but we do think that we should --
- 6 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Because it would be an --
- 7 because it would be Burford at that point or what?
- 8 MR. SIMEONE: I don't think it would be -- I
- 9 don't think it would be Burford because the State
- 10 doesn't argue that there's a complex regulatory regime
- 11 here of the sort that's covered by Burford.
- 12 What we think is that, if this were still
- 13 before the IUB, that would really take us back to our
- 14 main argument here in this case. Our argument is that
- 15 neither the State court proceeding, nor the IUB
- 16 proceeding, was the kind of civil enforcement action to
- 17 which this Court has extended Younger.
- 18 So even if we'd filed in Federal court at
- 19 the time that proceeding was still pending before the
- 20 IUB, we think that Younger still shouldn't apply. But
- 21 here, there's an additional reason why it shouldn't
- 22 apply.
- We waited for the IUB proceeding to
- 24 conclude. And, by the way, we then paid the invoices
- 25 that Windstream wanted us to pay. There's -- there's

- 1 nothing further that we could be obliged to do here.
- 2 We've already paid.
- 3 But the -- but the additional reason why we
- 4 think we would -- we should prevail here really goes to
- 5 the issue that this Court reserved in NOPSI. So in
- 6 NOPSI, the Court assumed, without deciding, that the
- 7 agency proceeding and the State court review of the
- 8 agency proceeding were a unitary proceeding. We think
- 9 that those proceedings should only be treated as unitary
- 10 in situations where the State interests at the two
- 11 levels are similar.
- 12 So in Burford, to go back to your question,
- 13 Your Honor, in Burford, the State appellate court was
- 14 participating in the regulatory process with the State
- 15 agency. And, of course, this Court treated that as a
- 16 unitary proceeding.
- 17 In this case, the State court proceeding, as
- 18 the IUB discusses on pages 33 and 34 of its brief, has
- 19 nothing to do with the partnership with the -- with the
- 20 agency. The relevant partnership here -- the relevant
- 21 place to review the Federal law issues is Federal court.
- The State's only interest in the State court
- 23 proceeding here is a State interest in State court
- 24 review, as opposed to Federal court review, of Federal
- 25 law issues. That's not the same kind of interest that

- 1 it had at the regulatory proceeding level.
- 2 So our view here is that issue in NOPSI
- 3 of -- you know, is the State interest, for purposes of
- 4 Younger, the interest at the agency level, or is there a
- 5 separate interest when it comes to State judicial review
- 6 of State agency action and Federal judicial review of
- 7 State agency action, we think that that should be
- 8 resolved in our favor.
- 9 So that's a --
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Simeone?
- 11 MR. SIMEONE: Yes.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could I take you back to --
- 13 to the agency proceeding? So I guess I understood, from
- 14 your respective briefs, that you say the agency
- 15 proceeding was not an enforcement proceeding, and the
- 16 agency says it was an enforcement proceeding because you
- 17 might have brought it initially, but you tried to get
- 18 out, and then the agency compelled you to keep on going
- 19 in its process.
- So could you explain that to me.
- 21 MR. SIMEONE: I can do my best. It's
- 22 somewhat complicated. We went to the agency with an
- 23 issue of State law. We went to the agency to ask the
- 24 agency to hold that Windstream was not entitled to stop
- 25 connecting our calls to its customers without IUB

- 1 approval under Iowa's consumer protection rules. So
- 2 that's the issue that we took to the State agency.
- 3 When we got to the State agency, Windstream
- 4 said, oh, no, no, we are not going to really stop
- 5 connecting your calls to our customers because that's a
- 6 big no-no in the telecommunications world. You are not
- 7 supposed to stop connecting calls. So they -- so that
- 8 dispute went away.
- 9 What the IUB did was it reached out to
- 10 decide a different set of issues, the underlying
- 11 question of what inter-carrier compensation regime
- 12 should apply to -- to these calls.
- 13 So at that point, the IUB's theory, now, is
- 14 when they reached out to decide these Federal issues
- 15 under the 1996 Act -- you know, what's -- what's an
- 16 information service, what's a telecommunication service,
- 17 what inter-carrier compensation regime applies here --
- 18 when they reached out to decide those Federal issues
- 19 they say this case became a civil enforcement
- 20 proceeding.
- 21 But this takes me back to my description of
- 22 Dayton. Dayton was a civil enforcement proceeding.
- 23 There was an investigation there. There was a finding
- 24 of violations of the Ohio civil rights statute. There
- 25 was an administrative complaint charging third degree

- 1 misdemeanors and threatening penalties and jail time.
- 2 That is the kind of civil enforcement
- 3 proceeding to which this Court has applied Younger.
- 4 That's the kind of proceeding that's like a criminal
- 5 case, that takes us back to that traditional principle
- 6 that courts -- Federal courts sitting in equity don't
- 7 intrude on -- into State criminal proceedings.
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: On Dayton, if the only
- 9 relief available had been reinstatement and back pay,
- 10 would that matter?
- 11 MR. SIMEONE: No, I don't think it would
- 12 matter, Your Honor. I think that, again, the posture of
- 13 the case was very different. There, you know, there
- 14 was -- again, there was an investigation, there was a
- due process right to a hearing. There was an agency
- 16 that was enforcing existing State law.
- 17 Here, the agency was essentially
- 18 implementing Federal law. The FCC hadn't implemented
- 19 these provisions. Everyone in the industry was
- 20 frustrated. We were frustrated. We had taken these
- 21 issues to the FCC -- you know, please decide what
- 22 inter-carrier compensation regime applies here. The FCC
- 23 hadn't done it.
- 24 And so the IUB, quite understandably,
- 25 reached out to decide those issues. But in announcing

- 1 the kind of inter-carrier compensation regime that ought
- 2 to apply to these calls, the IUB wasn't conducting an
- 3 enforcement proceeding against Sprint.
- 4 An interesting point here, I think, is that
- 5 the IUB's position makes for something very strange
- 6 under Ex Parte Young -- you know, agencies generally
- 7 have the choice to proceed either by rulemaking, which
- 8 they often do, or by adjudication. And they can make
- 9 the exact same rules in either way.
- 10 Under the -- under the IUB's theory, if the
- 11 agency proceeds by rulemaking under Ex Parte Young, you
- 12 can go to Federal court and get an injunction. If the
- 13 agency proceeds by adjudication, making the exact same
- 14 rules, you can't because you -- there is a unitary
- 15 proceeding up through the State court appeals, and you
- 16 are stuck with that, and certiori review by this Court,
- 17 of course.
- 18 That, to me, makes no sense under Ex Parte
- 19 Young. The agency's decision to proceed by rulemaking
- 20 versus proceeding by adjudication -- which, by the way,
- 21 the IUB had in this case. The IUB, when -- when the
- 22 dispute disappeared between Sprint and Windstream, the
- 23 IUB could have said, we'll close that docket, and we're
- 24 going to start a rulemaking to implement these
- 25 provisions of Federal law that the FCC can't seem to get

- 1 around to implementing.
- In that case, we would, of course, have been
- 3 entitled under Ex Parte Young -- and this is an Ex Parte
- 4 Young case -- we could have gone to Federal court and
- 5 gotten an injunction -- a declaratory ruling and
- 6 injunction. And, of course, it didn't -- it really
- 7 doesn't make sense to distinguish whether that relief is
- 8 available on the basis of what -- how the agency decides
- 9 to proceed.
- I want to go back to a question that came up
- 11 earlier about Pennzoil and Juidice and how they fit into
- 12 this Court's extension of that traditional principle
- 13 that -- that courts of equity shouldn't intrude into
- 14 State criminal proceedings. Juidice and Pennzoil are a
- 15 kind of unusual corner of Younger abstention law because
- 16 they both involve challenges to the processes that the
- 17 States use to enforce their judgments.
- 18 So in Juidice, the Federal Plaintiff was
- 19 asking -- what challenging under -- under the due
- 20 process clause New York's contempt procedures, sort of
- 21 how they went about holding folks in contempt.
- In Pennzoil, Texaco was challenging the bond
- 23 requirements to appeal in Texas, but they were both
- 24 Federal court cases bringing challenges to aspects of
- 25 the way -- the way that the States enforce their

- 1 judgments.
- In this case, Sprint has no quarrel at all
- 3 with any aspect of Iowa law. We followed Iowa law to a
- 4 T and -- and filed the State court appeal that the
- 5 Eighth Circuit required us to file.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, those cases are
- 7 different. But why is there a -- why is there a greater
- 8 federalism concern in those cases than in this case
- 9 where the IUB has a legitimate interest in how much
- 10 citizens of Iowa pay for a telephone service?
- 11 MR. SIMEONE: Well, I think this really goes
- 12 back, Your Honor, to the traditional principle that I
- 13 started with. The -- the basic idea of Younger is that
- 14 Federal courts sitting in equity don't intrude into
- 15 State criminal proceedings.
- 16 That's a very important traditional rule
- 17 because that's where the State police power is really at
- 18 its zenith -- you know, enforcing State criminal law.
- 19 We think that the Pennzoil and Juidice cases are very
- 20 similar.
- 21 The -- the idea that a State can't enforce a
- judgment once its courts have gone through the process
- 23 of coming to judgment is -- would be very unsettling.
- 24 That's -- that's the kind of police -- you know, State
- 25 police power at its absolute zenith.

- 1 Now, all the things that State regulatory
- 2 agencies do are important -- you know, but -- but -- you
- 3 know, not every rule of a State agency is at that same
- 4 level of importance as a State criminal court.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: But then, if the question is
- 6 whether something is tied to something that can be
- 7 regarded as criminal or quasi-criminal, what about
- 8 Middlesex County? That's not criminal -- or is not
- 9 criminal.
- 10 MR. SIMEONE: Well, Middlesex County is not
- 11 criminal, certainly. It's a -- I call it an
- 12 administrative disciplinary proceeding. And I think
- 13 that the State's interests in that kind of disciplinary
- 14 proceeding is, in fact, very similar to its interest in
- 15 a criminal case.
- 16 In -- in Middlesex County itself, of course,
- 17 a lawyer had referred to a trial as a kangaroo court and
- 18 a legalized lynching. And -- and the New Jersey Ethics
- 19 Committee -- you know, said that that was the sort of
- 20 conduct that -- that couldn't be permitted under the
- 21 State bar rules.
- 22 So that is not literally a criminal case.
- 23 It is one of this Court's extensions of -- of the
- 24 principle to the civil enforcement proceeding context;
- 25 but it does seem to me to be motivated by very much the

- 1 same sorts of interests.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What do you say about the
- 3 argument that -- that once the IUB decided to go on with
- 4 this proceeding, you didn't want them to, but they did,
- 5 that that then became a proceeding for them to enforce
- 6 the access charge?
- 7 MR. SIMEONE: Well, I think, again, Your
- 8 Honor, that that goes back to the differences between
- 9 this sort of case and the Dayton case. In this case,
- 10 what the IUB really was doing was announcing its
- 11 understanding of -- of these provisions of the Federal
- 12 act.
- In -- in a case like Dayton, where this
- 14 Court has applied Younger, the -- the commission there
- 15 was -- you know, seeking to penalize wrongdoing by
- 16 the -- by the school. And it seems to me that
- 17 there's a -- there's an important difference with
- 18 respect to that traditional principle that Younger
- 19 reflects of not interfering with State criminal actions.
- There's a big difference between when the
- 21 State announces rules that will be broadly applicable
- 22 throughout the industry, like here, and when the State
- 23 is actually seeking to punish wrongdoing, as in Dayton
- 24 or as in Middlesex County.
- 25 If there are no further questions, I will

- 1 reserve the balance of my time.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 3 Mr. Lynch?
- 4 ORAL ARGUMENT OF DAVID J. LYNCH
- 5 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- 6 MR. LYNCH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 7 please the Court:
- 8 Under Sprint's proposed test, after Sprint
- 9 chose to invoke the jurisdiction of the Iowa Utilities
- 10 Board, Windstream could have gone to Federal court at
- 11 any time to enjoin the board proceedings because, under
- 12 Sprint's test, the board proceedings were remedial and
- 13 the -- Younger abstention was not applicable to those
- 14 proceedings.
- That's true despite the fact that, at that
- 16 time, when the petition was filed, the board was faced
- 17 with a compelling State interest; that is, an immediate
- 18 and direct threat to public health and welfare.
- 19 If Windstream had been able to go to the
- 20 Federal court and interrupt the State proceedings at
- 21 that moment, that very act would unavoidably cast
- 22 dispersions on the State's ability to resolve the
- 23 Federal issues here in the context of that important
- 24 State interest, and that is precisely one of the evils
- 25 that Younger abstention is directed to.

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So -- but, I mean,
- 2 is there a different category, some of the normal
- 3 regulatory interests are important and other regulatory
- 4 interests are not? I mean, it seems to me the line that
- 5 Younger drew -- or that I thought it was drawing,
- 6 between criminal and civil has been eroded to a
- 7 considerable extent.
- 8 But your friend analogized that the other
- 9 cases, for want of a better word, to -- they're sort of
- 10 quasi-criminal or at least touching upon the process as
- 11 opposed to a particular proceeding. I mean, do you
- 12 think that the abstention applies in the case of every
- 13 regulatory proceeding?
- MR. LYNCH: No, Your Honor, we do not.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, how do you --
- 16 how do you tell which --
- 17 MR. LYNCH: The -- let me give you two parts
- 18 to that answer. First of all, that -- we believe that
- 19 it applies when the agency proceedings are engaged in
- 20 enforcement of a State statute, State law, that that's
- 21 kind of the touchstone for when you're more likely to
- 22 see an important State interest.
- 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: When -- when aren't they?
- 24 MR. LYNCH: I've got to take this case and
- 25 make two changes to it, and I have an example for you.

- 1 Instead of having Sprint in the position of saying that
- 2 the access -- intrastate access charge tariff does not
- 3 apply at all, imagine that the dispute between Sprint
- 4 and Windstream was over merely the calculation of the
- 5 amounts, over un -- over ambiguous language within that
- 6 tariff. And because Sprint admitted that the tariff
- 7 applied, whatever it meant, there would be no threat of
- 8 disconnection.
- 9 Under those circumstances, you truly do have
- 10 the garden variety commercial dispute between two
- 11 parties that Sprint tries to characterize this case as,
- 12 but this case involved more.
- 13 This case involved the Filed Tariff
- 14 Doctrine, a statutory provision the Court's familiar
- 15 with, that the board is charged with enforcing. This
- 16 board, at least initially -- or excuse me -- this case
- 17 also involved, initially, that threat of disconnection,
- 18 which added an element of exigency to the board's action
- 19 that is not present in most of these cases.
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, what's left of
- 21 Colorado River, under your view of this case? I mean,
- 22 in Colorado River, we made it very clear that abstention
- 23 should be the exception. I always thought that was a
- 24 driving principle, which Federal law should be announced
- 25 by Federal courts.

- 1 If we take the Eighth Circuit rule, where
- 2 everything is unitary and required and your rule that
- 3 any time it involves a State agency, essentially, it's
- 4 subject to abstention, what's left of Federal courts
- 5 having any jurisdiction?
- 6 MR. LYNCH: Well, first of all, let me say
- 7 that the question of whether it's a unitary proceeding
- 8 or whether there's a -- a fork in the road after the
- 9 agency has completed its proceedings, that question is
- 10 not part of the question presented here in this case
- 11 today.
- 12 The Court does not need to reach that
- 13 question. It can do as it did in New Orleans Public
- 14 Service and simply assume that it is a case of the
- 15 unitary requirement without deciding it.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, the Eighth Circuit
- 17 has decided that question. You're right. We didn't --
- 18 MR. LYNCH: There's --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: They say it is.
- 20 MR. LYNCH: There is, in fact, under our
- 21 research, about a 4-3 split among the circuits on that
- 22 question. The parties haven't really briefed it.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, I --
- 24 MR. LYNCH: And if you're going to get to
- 25 that question, in fact --

- 1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But why don't you get to
- 2 the essence of my question?
- 3 MR. LYNCH: Thank you. Then what's left of
- 4 the Colorado River case is what it has always been
- 5 there, which is when the -- there is not an important
- 6 State interest, Younger abstention does not apply. And
- 7 that is always the touchstone of this analysis.
- 8 You know, the three Middlesex County
- 9 factors, the first one's easy, is there a pending State
- 10 proceeding or not? That's always -- either its there or
- 11 it isn't. That's not a problem.
- 12 In much that way, when Sprint chose to come
- 13 to the Iowa Utilities Board, it could have gone to
- 14 Federal court instead, I assume. It chose to come to the
- 15 board for relief, even though it says that the issues
- 16 involved are Federal law.
- 17 The third factor in Middlesex County, the
- 18 ability of the courts -- the State courts, through a
- 19 state process, to address the Federal questions, also
- 20 typically not an issue in this type of proceeding.
- 21 There is the right of appeal to the State courts, and
- 22 that is going to provide an adequate remedy.
- 23 Sprint has not challenged that in this case.
- 24 JUSTICE SCALIA: Counsel, especially in
- 25 cases that involve jurisdictional issues. It seems an

- 1 awfully -- awful waste of counsel's time and client's
- 2 money to be litigating about which court you ought to be
- 3 in, and it seems to me, to avoid that, the lines ought
- 4 to be clear.
- 5 And it doesn't seem to me that the
- 6 line -- you know, whether there is a significant State
- 7 interest involved or not, is a clear line. You can
- 8 argue about that in almost any case. So I'm disinclined
- 9 to use that kind of a -- of a test along with any
- 10 others.
- 11 Why can't we just limit -- limit Younger
- 12 abstention to the three categories discussed in NOPSI,
- 13 and say, that's it, no more?
- 14 MR. LYNCH: The -- because it would, if you
- 15 were to take that approach, it would result in a denial
- 16 of abstention in cases like this one that present
- 17 exactly the evils, the concerns that were presented in
- 18 Younger, in terms of disrespect for the State's ability
- 19 to resolve Federal questions, the concerns of
- 20 federalism, the concerns of avoiding duplicative --
- 21 duplicative cases in the courts.
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: Any purely civil case that
- 23 raises that kind of an issue can arguably be subject to
- 24 Younger abstention; is that right?
- 25 MR. LYNCH: It would be up to the judges to

- 1 decide whether there was an important State interest
- 2 there or not.
- 3 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Are you saying, then,
- 4 that in every State agency adjudication attended by
- 5 State court review -- Younger would apply?
- 6 MR. LYNCH: No, Your Honor, I'm not.
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So can you -- so can you
- 8 then -- we have only the two cases. We have Middlesex
- 9 and Dayton, and you say this case belongs in that
- 10 Younger category. What State court adjudication --
- 11 State agency adjudications attended by State court
- 12 review would fall outside Younger on your rationale of
- 13 what Younger covers?
- 14 MR. LYNCH: A State agency adjudication that
- 15 did not involve the State agency attempting to enforce a
- 16 State statute or State law. And that's, as I tried to
- 17 describe in my earlier example, if that would be the
- 18 case here, if the dispute between Sprint and Windstream
- 19 had been something other than does the --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What was the State law
- 21 here? They were interpreting Federal law.
- MR. LYNCH: The State law here was Iowa Code
- 23 Section 476.5, the filed tariff doctrine, which requires
- 24 that, in this case, that Windstream charge Sprint for
- 25 providing intrastate access services --

- 1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That mimicked the Federal
- 2 law.
- 3 MR. LYNCH: On the State side. That's --
- 4 it's our version of that Federal law, yes.
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you don't derive any
- 6 power independent of that Federal law?
- 7 MR. LYNCH: Oh, no, I'm sorry. I
- 8 misunderstood. This is an independent State statute.
- 9 It is not -- it is analogous to the Federal interstate
- 10 filed tariff doctrine, but it is not dependent upon it
- 11 at all. It's existed for I don't know how many years.
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: By the way, there are
- 13 other abstention doctrines that can take care of State
- 14 interests, aren't there? There's Burford, and there are
- 15 many others.
- 16 MR. LYNCH: In appropriate cases, yes.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So I don't know why
- 18 Younger as you're -- in following up on Justice Scalia's
- 19 question, why Younger has to be the only vehicle, why we
- 20 need to create more categories than NOPSI did to protect
- 21 State interests when we have an awful lot of other
- 22 doctrines that do that already.
- 23 MR. LYNCH: I don't know that we're asking
- 24 you to create a new category or a new extension. We
- 25 felt that this case fit, very clearly, within the

- 1 Middlesex test under Younger abstention. And it was a
- 2 straightforward application of that three-part test, and
- 3 obviously, a district court judge agreed.
- 4 It was not -- it does not require any
- 5 extension of Younger to apply that principle to this
- 6 case.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: By the way, have we ever
- 8 used the Younger abstention in a case where the Federal
- 9 plaintiff also filed the Federal -- the State action as
- 10 well?
- 11 MR. LYNCH: Do you mean the State action
- 12 before the board or before --
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Before anybody, court or
- 14 a board.
- MR. LYNCH: Not that I'm aware of, no.
- 16 But that brings me to my second point, which
- is that, if the court were to decide to apply the
- 18 coercive-remedial distinction as a test in this case,
- 19 the results before the Eighth Circuit should still be
- 20 affirmed because the board proceedings were, in fact,
- 21 coercive.
- 22 As has already been alluded to here today,
- 23 after Sprint filed its petition with the board,
- 24 Windstream came back and said, in essence, we will not
- 25 disconnect Sprint as long as they pay the access

- 1 charges, going forward. They can hold the money going
- 2 back. We won't disconnect them as long as they pay,
- 3 going forward.
- 4 Sprint came back and said, we're not going
- 5 to pay you, going forward, but we've got -- you're not
- 6 going to disconnect us. We've got what we want. We
- 7 want to withdraw our petition.
- 8 And at that point, the board said, that's
- 9 fine; you can take your petition, but don't go anywhere.
- 10 Stay here. We're going to get to the bottom of this
- 11 because, if we let you go, it's going to reoccur.
- 12 This case --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm sorry, it's
- 14 going to what?
- 15 MR. LYNCH: Reoccur.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Oh.
- 17 MR. LYNCH: The case would inevitably be
- 18 before the board again, perhaps next time with Sprint --
- 19 with Windstream filing, instead of Sprint, or Sprint
- 20 saying they're threatening us with disconnection again.
- 21 There was no point in letting it start over. We got to
- 22 the bottom of it, to see what was going on.
- 23 The lower courts have identified various --
- 24 this goes to your -- to your earlier question, Justice
- 25 Sotomayor, about how to define coercive proceedings.

- 1 And the lower courts have identified a number of factors
- 2 that they've considered in this, including who initiated
- 3 the proceeding, was participation in the proceeding
- 4 mandatory, does the Federal Plaintiff contend that the
- 5 State proceeding is unlawful, or do they -- does the
- 6 Federal plaintiff, instead, seek a remedy from some
- 7 other State-initiated inflicted wrong, is the Federal
- 8 plaintiff alleged to have committed a bad act, and
- 9 finally, whether the proceeding involved the State's
- 10 enforcement of its laws.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, don't all --
- 12 it's sort of like the important State interests. I
- 13 assume the State's not doing anything, unless they think
- 14 it's important. And any type of administrative
- 15 proceeding, remedial or otherwise, has to a have some
- 16 bite to it.
- 17 There has to be something that is going
- 18 happen to you if you don't do what they tell you to do.
- 19 So in that sense, I mean, almost every administrative
- 20 proceeding is coercive.
- 21 MR. LYNCH: If it can be backed up, as this
- 22 one could. When the board issued its order and directed
- 23 Sprint to make payment to Windstream, had Sprint failed
- to do that, Sprint could have been subject to civil
- 25 penalties assessed by the board. So I think to the

- 1 extent that the agency proceedings are backed up with
- 2 that kind of enforcement --
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, my point is it
- 4 doesn't seem like much of a limiting test, if you can
- 5 say any time -- sort of any time anything bad can happen
- 6 to you as a result of an administrative proceeding,
- 7 that's coercive. It doesn't seem like a serious
- 8 constraint on the application of Younger.
- 9 MR. LYNCH: And what that -- what that may
- 10 go to, Your Honor, is the fact that the
- 11 coercive-remedial distinction is not any easier to apply
- 12 than the important State interest test.
- 13 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, could you give me an
- 14 example of State administrative proceedings that would
- 15 not fall within your understanding of the scope of
- 16 Younger?
- MR. LYNCH: With respect to my own agency,
- 18 for instance, a -- well, there is all the obvious
- 19 examples, legislative action, the cases where there is
- 20 no State agency -- or no State proceeding pending.
- 21 But in terms of a quasi-judicial agency
- 22 action that would not be entitled to Younger abstention,
- 23 I've given the earlier example if the parties were in what's
- 24 called the garden -- truly in a garden-variety
- 25 commercial dispute between two parties and the agency is

- 1 simply resolving that dispute between the two parties,
- 2 the State's interest is substantially diminished in that
- 3 proceeding.
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: I think --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why is -- I'm sorry.
- 6 I was just going to say why is that? Presumably, the
- 7 State is resolving that dispute pursuant to some State
- 8 law or State regulation, State policy. I don't know why
- 9 the -- the State interest is unimportant simply because
- 10 it's the resolution of a private dispute.
- 11 MR. LYNCH: Let me be clear. I don't say
- 12 the State interest is unimportant; it is simply
- 13 diminished. And at some point, it would be diminished
- 14 to the point where Younger abstention would not be
- 15 appropriate.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: Does it matter if it's just
- 17 purely Federal law? I mean, think of a civil case
- 18 involving a State on one side and private parties on
- 19 another in a State court, which has jurisdiction over
- 20 Federal laws. The State claims that the defendant has
- 21 violated, civilly, a Federal statute. There's an action
- 22 also in Federal Court.
- 23 In your view, does the Federal Court have to
- 24 abstain?
- 25 MR. LYNCH: If the Federal plaintiff brought

- 1 the Federal action in order to enjoin the State court
- 2 proceedings --
- 3 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no. There's no action
- 4 for an injunction. What they want is the judge to
- 5 decide the case. The private party wants the Federal
- 6 judge to decide his case. That's all. It's a matter of
- 7 interpreting Federal law.
- 8 Now, in your opinion, is Younger -- does
- 9 Younger, not some other doctrine, does Younger require
- 10 abstention?
- 11 MR. LYNCH: Yes.
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes. Okay. So on your
- 13 view, we can never have a case proceed in Federal court
- 14 even on a purely Federal issue if, in fact, there is
- involving this estate civil case on the same question?
- 16 MR. LYNCH: Involving the same parties?
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.
- 18 MR. LYNCH: Yeah.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I can't think of a --
- 20 doesn't it often happen that there are such cases? I
- 21 mean, I -- I would think that wouldn't be too difficult.
- 22 I mean, either there never is one and you tend to be
- 23 right, or there are a whole lot of them and you tend to
- 24 be wrong.
- I've just never heard it put in that extreme

- 1 way, and maybe you're right. I don't know. What's
- 2 your -- do you have authority for it or any light to
- 3 shed?
- 4 MR. LYNCH: I think my authority for it is
- 5 in this case -- in this Court's Younger abstention
- 6 decisions. The Middlesex County test is a simple
- 7 three-part test that focuses always on the second
- 8 factor, what is the State's interest -- what is the
- 9 important State interest?
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, suppose it's a
- 11 licensing procedure. Somebody's been denied a license
- 12 to be a barber or a hairdresser and the person wants to
- 13 challenge that in Federal court. Would Younger apply
- 14 there?
- 15 MR. LYNCH: No, I don't think that would
- 16 be a --
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Why?
- 18 MR. LYNCH: I don't believe that would be
- 19 agency action in a judicial manner.
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: Why not?
- 21 MR. LYNCH: I'm assuming that they filed
- 22 a -- a form, filled it out, gave it to the agency, and
- 23 it was denied. That seems more to me to be of an
- 24 executive character.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, suppose there's

- 1 some -- there's an -- an administrative agency in the
- 2 State that hears appeals from that.
- 3 MR. LYNCH: If the person applying for that
- 4 license had then gone on to ask for a hearing before
- 5 that department that hears administrative appeals, and
- 6 it had a quasi-judicial proceeding in order to make that
- 7 determination, then I believe that Younger would --
- 8 could apply there, if there's an important State
- 9 interest attached to the denial of that license.
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: I quess, Mr. Lynch, the
- 11 concern is, given that we think agencies are doing
- 12 things that implicate important State interests most of
- 13 the time, that's why they do them, that -- that your
- 14 test -- and not just your test, but the Eighth Circuit's
- 15 tests, would turn agency adjudicators into the primary
- 16 legal decision-makers in our system on all matters that
- 17 they were -- you know, wanted to get into, including
- 18 matters of Federal law.
- 19 MR. LYNCH: That would -- to the extent that
- 20 the cases are brought before the State agencies in the
- 21 first place, and the Federal issues are raised there,
- 22 before it goes to the Federal court, that would be
- 23 correct.
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: That does seem like a big
- 25 proposition -- no? I mean, do you think that

- 1 Younger says that or that Middlesex says that or that
- 2 we've ever said that?
- 3 MR. LYNCH: I think that Middlesex, combined
- 4 with Huffman, providing for the State a unitary
- 5 proceeding does, in fact, provide for that result.
- 6 Leads logic --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: Does Younger say "before"?
- 8 MR. LYNCH: I'm sorry?
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: Does Younger say "before"?
- 10 MR. LYNCH: No. Middlesex --
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: You just said before.
- 12 MR. LYNCH: Middlesex --
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: No. So -- so in your view,
- 14 it doesn't matter which is brought first, I guess.
- 15 MR. LYNCH: No. Middlesex County requires
- 16 that there be a pending State proceeding.
- 17 There is one other argument I'd like to
- 18 address --
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: Is it correct that, under
- 20 Eighth Circuit law, the -- the party that wants to bring
- 21 the Federal lawsuit has to go to State court first?
- 22 MR. LYNCH: You mean following the agency
- 23 proceedings, the unitary proceeding -- that is the
- 24 Eighth Circuit's approach, yes, that once you've gotten
- 25 on the -- the State train, you have to ride that through

- 1 to the end of the State process.
- 2 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I thought that -- I
- 3 thought that Sprint was -- said that they had to go to
- 4 State court whether they wanted to or not or else they
- 5 wouldn't be able to go to Federal court.
- 6 MR. LYNCH: I believe Sprint's argument -- I
- 7 don't care -- don't want to speak for them, but I
- 8 believe their argument on that point was, following the
- 9 board's decision, they feel that the Eighth Circuit law
- 10 required them to file petitions in both Federal court
- 11 and to invoke the judicial review process in State
- 12 district court.
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: If Younger only applies
- 14 to -- to State proceedings that are brought first, then
- 15 I guess we could have a -- a criminal defendant, who's
- 16 not yet one, bring an action in Federal court to say
- 17 that the law is unconstitutional or something or
- 18 violates a Federal law. And then the State prosecutes
- 19 him criminally, and the Federal court couldn't -- and
- 20 the Federal court could enjoin the criminal proceeding.
- 21 MR. LYNCH: That would be the -- very much
- 22 like the case in this Court's decision in Steffel
- 23 against --
- 24 JUSTICE BREYER: So we've said they can't --
- 25 you can enjoin a criminal decision -- a criminal

- 1 proceeding in a State court, as long as the criminal
- 2 proceeding wasn't brought first. Is that what this
- 3 Court has said?
- 4 MR. LYNCH: As I read it, what this Court
- 5 has said is that there's no Younger abstention when
- 6 there's no pending State criminal proceeding.
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no. There is a pending
- 8 one by the time they get around to it. Then what? I
- 9 mean, I --
- 10 MR. LYNCH: So -- I'm sorry. I
- 11 misunderstood.
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: I'll ask you to clarify.
- 13 You've come up with a couple of rules that strike me as
- 14 counterintuitive, and so I'm trying to figure that one
- 15 out.
- The before or after one doesn't seem to work
- 17 too well in my mind because it would seem -- you know,
- 18 you couldn't -- Federal court couldn't. Federal court
- 19 could enjoin a criminal proceeding that came up later in
- 20 your view, I guess.
- 21 MR. LYNCH: Yes. I think the Federal court,
- 22 at least, could answer the Federal question presented.
- 23 I guess I have a hard time seeing --
- 24 JUSTICE BREYER: All right.
- MR. LYNCH: Okay.

- 1 The last thing I wanted to address is there
- 2 is a lot of discussion, particularly in some of the
- 3 amicus briefs, to the effect that the board was acting
- 4 under Federally delegated authority here under some --
- 5 as some kind of deputized Federal agent. That is not
- 6 the case at all here. The board was acting under its
- 7 State law authority.
- 8 Sprint relies, for instance, on the AT&T vs.
- 9 Iowa Utilities Board case for the proposition that the
- 10 1996 Telecommunications Act asserted Federal authority
- 11 to regulate local telecommunications matters.
- 12 That's true, insofar as it goes, but that
- 13 case is limited to matters addressed by the '96 Act,
- 14 which was addressed to create in competition within the
- 15 local exchange marketplace.
- 16 What we're talking about in this case is
- 17 access services by which a long distance carrier, such
- 18 as Sprint, delivers a long distance call to the local
- 19 exchange carrier, such as Windstream, for completion to
- 20 Windstream's customers. That service remains
- 21 practically a monopoly service.
- 22 Sprint has no way to get those calls to
- 23 Windstream's customers, other than by connecting it to
- 24 Windstream and letting Windstream -- compensating
- 25 Windstream for carrying those calls to the end.

- 1 Because of that, the Federal
- 2 Telecommunications Act of '96, in Section 251(g),
- 3 expressly reserved the tariffed access charge regime and
- 4 did not affect the State's jurisdiction over intrastate
- 5 access charges. Sprint acknowledges that in its reply
- 6 brief at pages 22 and 23, but claims that the situation
- 7 is unclear as to what applied between 1996 and 2011.
- 8 But the fact remains that Sprint paid those
- 9 intrastate access charges without protest from 1996 to
- 10 2009, when it made the unilateral decision to change the
- 11 process and start withholding those payments.
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, then why wouldn't
- 13 you say that Sprint was not the initiator of this State
- 14 process? Because Sprint withdrew its complaint, right?
- 15 MR. LYNCH: I'm sorry. I missed a few words
- 16 there.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Sprint -- Sprint withdrew
- 18 its complaint.
- 19 MR. LYNCH: Sprint was allowed to withdraw
- 20 its complaint.
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes. So, at that point,
- 22 it becomes the board's proceeding. It becomes a
- 23 proceeding initiated by the board and not by Sprint.
- 24 MR. LYNCH: That is correct.
- 25 Thus, even under the first-to-file test, we

- 1 believe that this case was coercive at the time it was
- 2 before the board, to the extent that the
- 3 coercive-remedial distinction matters.
- 4 Those are the points I had to cover. If
- 5 there are no further questions, thank you.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you counsel.
- 7 Mr. Simeone, you have 6 minutes remaining.
- 8 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF TIMOTHY J. SIMEONE
- 9 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 10 MR. SIMEONE: I hope to be very brief. But
- 11 there was a lot of discussion about the problem with the
- 12 IUB's approach lacking sort of meaningful limits. And I
- just want to say a couple words about the Middlesex
- 14 County test because I don't think that that lack of
- 15 meaningful limits necessarily follows from -- from the
- 16 Middlesex County test, although I do think some
- 17 clarification of the test would be -- would be helpful.
- 18 Under Middlesex County, of course, Younger
- 19 requires an ongoing State judicial proceeding, and it
- 20 requires an important State interest. So with respect
- 21 to ongoing State judicial proceeding, the IUB
- 22 understands "judicial" to be any adjudicative
- 23 proceeding. But as we argue in our briefs, that's not
- 24 necessarily consistent with the rest of this Court's
- 25 cases under -- applying Younger.

- 1 "Judicial," we think, means an exercise of
- 2 the State's judicial enforcement authority. So limiting
- 3 that prong of Middlesex County to an exercise of the
- 4 State's judicial enforcement authority would help to
- 5 draw this line.
- 6 A second similar point is with respect to
- 7 the State interest prong of Middlesex County, we argue,
- 8 of course, that the relevant State interest is the
- 9 State's interest in the ongoing State proceeding. Here
- 10 the ongoing State proceeding was this -- was judicial
- 11 review of the agency proceeding.
- 12 So by -- by limiting the proceeding that
- 13 you're looking at to the ongoing State judicial
- 14 proceeding required by the first prong of Middlesex
- 15 County, then you're really just looking at the State's
- 16 interest in State judicial review of Federal law
- 17 questions, as opposed to Federal court judicial review
- 18 of -- of Federal law questions.
- 19 And, again, that seems to me to help to --
- 20 to draw a line.
- 21 Unless there are further questions, that was
- 22 all I had.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 24 Counsel.
- The case is submitted.

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