

PRESS RELEASE

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AFSCME endorses David Bacon for Public Regulation Commission

AFSCME's statewide PEOPLE committee has endorsed David Bacon to serve as Public Regulation Commissioner representing district 4. AFSCME gave a rare dual endorsement to both candidates for the position. "David Bacon has shown a commitment to ensuring that consumers are protected, and that was important to our members when deciding to endorse him," said AFSCME's PEOPLE Committee Chair Len Montoya of Santa Fe.

The American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees endorsement means a lot to David. "I believe that the PRC's primary responsibility is to represent the needs of working people. My commitment as your commissioner will be to do just that."

The Public Regulation Commission makes decisions that effect every New Mexican, and David Bacon wants to make sure the concerns of people who pay utility bills and insurance premiums are more important than the profits and convenience of corporate CEO's and shareholders.

"These corporations have been operating under a shroud of secrecy," says David. "I will bring rigorous and independent oversight to the regulatory process. I will ensure that utility, insurance, and telecommunications companies doing business in New Mexico have up-to-date audits, offer just and reasonable rates, and provide efficient and honest service."

In its questionnaire, AFSCME pointed out that there are literally hundreds of different tax breaks and loopholes in current New Mexico law, which deprives the state of hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. David Bacon agreed, pointing out that "arguments against the provision of decent benefits to workers often rely on claims of poverty on the part of the government. The money would be available were it not for the huge tax subsidies being provided to highly profitable multinational corporations."

Here are some of David's other responses to the AFSCME questionnaire, highlighting a few ways the PRC could enhance the lives of the people who make New Mexico governments function.

"I think one of the most important things I can do as an elected official is to oppose the power of large multinational corporations. I believe this corporate power is fundamentally opposed to the democratic ideals of this country."

"The PRC's regulation of insurance can help New Mexico move towards universal and affordable health coverage. I believe we should have a single payer system."

"We need better elections in New Mexico, so that our democratic choices are based on a search for the best ideas, not a race for the biggest donors. I'm proud to be participating in the new Public Financing system for elections to the PRC."

David Bacon understands that we will not have a just and equitable society as long as corporate interests dominate important government policy decisions. "I see labor as a key part of the coalition we need to build to make fundamental changes in how the economy of New Mexico works," says David.