

PRESS RELEASE

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The Public Regulation Commission and working people

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New Mexico's 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 multinational corporations.

"These multinational corporations have been operating under a shroud of secrecy for too long," 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."

When recently asked in a questionnaire provided by AFSCME about legislation requiring the state to compile and publicize a list of government contracts, David replied, "Such legislation would be in line with my proposals to open up the PRC to the public, with a restoration and enhancement of the provision of information about matters before the PRC to the public including full online information, and a legal structure to represent ratepayers in front of the PRC."

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 responses on the AFSCME questionnaire, highlighting a few ways the PRC could enhance the lives of New Mexico's working people.

"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.”

“There are a number of ways the PRC can promote clean renewable energy and local generation. Ideas like ‘efficiency and conservation first’ rules and a feed-in rate for local producers of wind and solar energy have been very successful in places like Europe. Reforms like these will not only create a boom in renewable energy construction and help protect the environment, but can also lower consumers’ energy costs.”

“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. I want to make sure this system is a success so that it will eventually be implemented for all elections in New Mexico.”

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.

For the completed AFSCME questionnaire, please see the attachment.