

David Bacon for PRC4- Environmental issues

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New Mexico's Public Regulation Commission affects more than just insurance and utility rates and services. Decisions it makes have a profound effect on the safety and cleanliness of our air and water. For example, the two coal-fired electricity generators in the Four Corners use over 55,000 acre-feet of water every year, turning it into a toxic steam which pollutes our air with Mercury and other heavy metals.

PRC candidate David Bacon knows we don't have to keep polluting our environment to supply basic needs. "By supporting local production of energy in solar, wind, and biomass, we create a win-win solution. Not only do we eliminate the need for large, highly polluting coal plants, we also eliminate the long transmission lines that cost so much in loss of efficiency and in environmental destruction".

David Bacon addressed this and other predominantly environmental concerns in a questionnaire supplied by the Sierra Club. David has been involved in many forms of environmental activism throughout his life in New Mexico, from representing conservation interests on the State Land Trusts Advisory Board, to cofounding the Permaculture Credit Union, working with the Natural Resource Recovery Task Force, cofounding Local Energy, and more. David relished the opportunity to elaborate on some of his beliefs.

Some excerpts of David's responses:

"I am 100% opposed to recovery of stranded costs. Recovery of stranded costs essentially amounts to reimbursing utilities for the expense of building power plants they shouldn't have built in the first place. Utilities are businesses and there is no reason for ratepayers to underwrite bad investments."

"One of my goals as a Commissioner is to be independent of the utilities, as well as of the political power structure that has led to these poor decisions in the past."

"The PRC can encourage biomass for local thermal energy production, as an efficient alternate local energy source, reducing the need for long transmission lines and as a way to have forest thinning occur in a sustainable way that can have significant benefits to local economies."

"In the long term improvements in telecommunications could offer great opportunities for rural economic development, and reduce commuting by making it possible to work from home. It would also support clean, information-based technologies as a direction

for economic development, which have less environmental impact than most other types of industry.”

“Other PRC actions in areas not directly related to the environment, such as in helping to move the state toward universal health insurance coverage with a single payer system, would also improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.”

“My passion for many years has been an economy that builds a sustainable quality of life and a sustainable environment.”

For a complete transcript of the questionnaire and David’s answers, please see the attached file.

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