

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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**David Bacon suggests one way PNM can reduce our utility rates:
Quit spending so much on lobbying!**

Contact info:

David Bacon 920-5707

Rick Lass 920-0540

www.DavidBacon2006.org

David Bacon knows his most important responsibility as a Public Regulation Commissioner will be to ensure that utility and insurance rates are affordable for New Mexico citizens and businesses.

In light of PNM's forecast of rate increases of over 30% in the coming years and crippling health insurance costs, David has several suggestions for the providers. Chief among these is to eliminate its current spending on political candidates and on lobbying.

David Bacon points out that PNM alone spends hundreds of thousands of dollars every legislative session lobbying against the interests of its clients, such as during the deregulation proceedings that could have bankrupted New Mexicans a few years ago.

"Is that how you want your bill money spent? I sure don't," says David Bacon. "As your commissioner, I will work to limit lobbyist spending by corporations regulated by the Public Regulation Commission"

Referring to recent scandals in New Mexico's political realm, David points out, "That is exactly why I chose to run in a Clean Election this year. Taking corporate money out of politics is one of the most important things we can do to restore voters' faith in our government. The PRC Public Funding laws are an admission that corporate donors and lobbyists have an undue influence on our democracy."

Public sentiment is clearly in favor of taking corporate money out of elections. Maine, Massachusetts and Arizona have all enacted public funding mechanisms in recent years. And in June this year, voters in California's Humboldt County banned most corporations from donating to political campaigns. New Mexicans should do the same.

For more information on the David Bacon campaign, see www.DavidBacon2006.org

For more information on Arizona Clean Elections, see www.ccec.state.az.us

For more information on Humboldt's ballot initiative, see www.votelocalcontrol.org

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