



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

ROD MONTOYA

Minority Whip

R - San Juan
District 1

4902 Camaron Avenue
Farmington, NM 87402
Cell Phone: (505) 360-1510
E-mail: rod.montoya@nmlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Energy, Environment & Natural Resources
Labor & Economic Development
Rules & Order of Business

December 9, 2019

Ms. Valerie Espinoza
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Ms. Cynthia Hall
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo De Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Mr. Jefferson Byrd
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo De Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Ms. T. Becenti Aguilar
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo De Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Mr. Stephen Fischman
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo De Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Chair Espinosa and members of the Commission:

To say I'm disappointed by what has taken place concerning the Energy Transition Act over the last few months would be a dramatic understatement. Since the introduction of the ETA, the public and the PRC have been given a shell game of partial information, overly optimistic predictions and unattainable promises.

I was on the receiving end of these vain promises when the ETA was being debated on the House floor. When I asked what protections would be in place to keep rates affordable, I was given a single response – The Public Regulation Commission, and when I personally tried to amend rate payer protections into the bill, my amendment was voted down because I was told the PRC was all the protection that was needed.

Fast forward to today and the ETA's supporters are criticizing the PRC for protecting rate payers. Members of this commission have been smeared as the "junior varsity" and have even been threatened with impeachment. **Impeachment for what?** – For doing exactly what they rightly stated **Is Your Job!**

The University of Chicago did a study outlining how laws like the ETA raise electric bills by no less than 17%. An extreme example of this is California Edison customers who have seen utility rates increase by 200% since 2008, and that was to reach a mere 30% renewable standard. If the ETA would actually lower utility rates, as the sponsors say, why were they so adamant to keep reasonable rate restrictions from being amended into the bill?

The architects of the ETA know that after the initial savings from securitization wear off, costs will skyrocket from the continual building and abandoning of new infrastructure. **Build – Abandon –Repeat!** How can rates not increase as this cycle is repeated over and over again for the next 25 years?

These legislators will undoubtedly direct all of the blame at the PRC when ratepayers begin to revolt. As they rightly stated before and will say again – It's the PRC's job to protect ratepayers.

I'd like to remind the commission that (just a few months ago) PNM put out a press release noting how they miscalculated the impact of the ETA on electric bills. If this commission had rushed to rubber stamp it, as the legislature did, you would be working with information that was even less accurate than it is today – Just like the legislature did.

The members of this commission are doing the right thing. Your effort to protect New Mexican pocketbooks highlights the legislature's failure to do so. I strongly encourage your continued efforts to protect rate payers throughout our state.

Respectfully,

Rod Montoya

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Montoya', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.