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# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER LYNDA LOVEJOY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Commission Requests Legislative Council Service Assign Recusal Issue to Interim Committee

**SANTA FE** – On Wednesday, March 9, the elected members of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) unanimously voted to request that the Legislative Council Service (LCS) assign an interim committee to review and make recommendations pertaining to the issue of recusals for the Commission.

Created by statute in 1951, the Legislative Council Service is the drafting and legal research agency for the New Mexico Legislature. The director and the LCS staff serve all members of the state legislature without regard to their political affiliation, seniority or leadership position. The staff also draft legislation for executive, judicial and other state entities, and serve as a central contact point for the public seeking information from the legislative branch.

Four of the five commissioners faced individual recusal challenges last year, appearing before the New Mexico Supreme Court, where the Justices determined that the recusal of each of the commissioners was not warranted. Because the issue of recusal challenges could arise again in a future case, the Commission believes that a determination needs to be made regarding under what circumstances a commissioner should be recused and how they would be replaced in order for the case to continue.

The resolution signed on March 9 acknowledges the need for legislation addressing the aforementioned issues as well as calling for a determination as to which governmental body would be responsible for selecting a replacement for a recused commissioner, and spelling out the criteria that would be used in the selection of the replaced commissioner.

“The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission performs a vital function in regulating several entities that provide essential public services throughout the state,” said District 4 Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy, who introduced the resolution to the Commission. “This resolution aims to protect the continuity of critical processes undertaken and overseen by the PRC and a necessary aspect of the agency’s duties.”

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