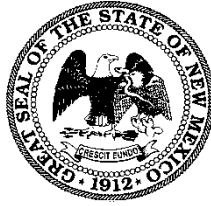


NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1 KAREN L. MONTOYA, CHAIRWOMAN
DISTRICT 2 PATRICK H. LYONS
DISTRICT 3 VALERIE ESPINOZA
DISTRICT 4 LYNDA LOVEJOY, VICE CHAIR
DISTRICT 5 SANDY JONES



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S. Vincent Martinez

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Patrick Lyons: ‘PRC Takes a Step Backwards to Gov. Richardson’s Big Spending Days’

SANTA FE—The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Resolution No. 3-1-11 declared that Commission employee’s salary be capped at \$99,000. On a 3-2 vote on March 18, 2015, Commissioners Patrick H. Lyons and Valerie Espinoza voted to continue with that cap, but the majority of the Commission rescinded the salary cap.

Commissioner Lyons stated that when he took office on January 1, 2011, several employees were making over \$99,000. One employee who lived in Kansas City and commuted to New Mexico made \$135,000, while another employee making \$115,000 lasted only six months.

“In a time of limited budgets, the salary cap should not have been lifted,” stated Commissioner Lyons. “State employees receive a lot of benefits, in addition to salary, and you need a strong private sector because the basis of all taxation is the private sector. When government employees make more that the private sector, the system is broken. The PRC should concentrate on more important business currently at hand and left the salary cap in place.”

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