

# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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DISTRICT 2 PATRICK H. LYONS

DISTRICT 3 VALERIE ESPINOZA

DISTRICT 4 LYNDA LOVEJOY, VICE CHAIR

DISTRICT 5 SANDY JONES



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NEWS RELEASE

## PRC Vice-Chair Lovejoy Awarded for Years Of Service at Tribal Telecom Conference

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) Vice Chair Lynda Lovejoy attended the Fourth Annual Tribal Telecom & Technology Conference – held Monday, May 4 through Thursday, May 7 – at Hotel Albuquerque-Old Town, where she was recognized for her role as a leader in state government.

Commissioner Lovejoy delivered an informational speech that united her personal experiences as a proud Native American with her experiences as a longtime and influential member of public service at the state level.

Lovejoy represents the PRC's District 4, which comprises the northwestern quadrant of the state, including sovereign tribal nations in the Four Corners region as well as pueblos in northwest New Mexico, serving the counties of Cibola, McKinley and San Juan, and part of Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Socorro, Sandoval and Santa Fe counties. Commissioner Lovejoy refers to this area as the state's most important region for energy and electricity.

The Tribal Telecom & Technology Conference is a gathering place to share information, explore options, and pursue solutions to advance digital opportunities for American Indian and Alaskan Native communities. The conference combines introductory workshops; panel discussions highlighting success stories and best practices, regulatory developments, and industry updates; breakout sessions; and specific workshops and opportunities to meet with relevant government agencies. The conference also serves as a forum for tribal leaders to meet with telecom carriers to discuss the delivery of telecom services on tribal lands.

Tribal Telecom 2015 brought together tribes, the communications industry, professionals, nonprofits, and government agencies to share information, explore options, and pursue solutions to advance digital opportunities for tribal communities. The theme for this year's conference, hosted by the Isleta Pueblo and sponsored by the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, is "Weaving Digital Pathways Across the Digital Divide."

At the award presentation Tuesday afternoon, attendees were told that Lovejoy's public service career spans nearly a quarter-century, and includes being elected to the lofty roles of state senator and state representative as well as twice to the Public Regulation Commission.

In these roles, Lovejoy has always remembered that the northwestern region of New Mexico produces energy, and that the jobs it creates are a vital component of the economy and quality of life in District 4. This district has characteristics of small farms, ranching, small towns and isolated communities that are underserved. In these areas, many residents still do

not have the luxury of having a telephone, running water, electricity, adequate health care, paved roads and reliable transportation.

Commissioner Lovejoy thanked the committees who nominated her for the award and for the recognition bestowed upon her at the annual conference.

### **About the NMPRC**

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.

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