



NEW MEXICO LIBERTY

“Giving Freedom A Voice”

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico ~

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December 2015 Edition

A note about New Mexico Liberty-

If you are reading the electronic edition, the blue text means that it is a clickable link. I use the text of the link so that if you have a print copy instead, you can type the URL text into your browser's address bar. I hope this is helpful

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From Our State Chair



In just a few short months, the election cycle will begin for minor parties here in New Mexico. If you have been kicking around the idea of running for partisan public office, now is the time to begin organizing by assembling a campaign staff (which, to begin, may consist of only yourself), making lists of things to do *before* they need to be done, contacting potential donors, and writing the literature and speeches that will need to be delivered.

Minor party Nominating Petitions will be available from the State

of New Mexico's Secretary of State's website during the month of March, 2016. These petitions need to be filled out online with your name, office sought, and party affiliation, before they are printed. The SOS' office itself will have further information about your specific race, such as District boundaries, qualifications for office, and number of signatures required to put your name on the ballot.

It is very important that you do this as early as possible because, for some offices, the signature requirements can be quite high. The importance of early signature-gathering cannot be over-emphasized! Because of the great likelihood that many of your signatures will be rejected, you should aim to collect TWICE as many signatures as you will actually need.

The Libertarian Party of New Mexico needs people willing to step up and become candidates. Last election, *none* of our candidates were able to get on the ballot. In 2016, I would love to see *every* partisan race with a Libertarian candidate in it. While that may seem like a daunting (if not impossible) task, it has been said that, to hit the moon, one must aim for the stars.

It may be a lot of hard work (it is!), might even cost you some money to get on the ballot and even more to run your campaign, but as Thomas Paine once remarked, "If one wishes to reap the blessings of Liberty, one must undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

It may be a hard row to hoe, and failure is a definite possibility. But not trying at all *guarantees* failure. Good luck to us all!
---Marty Swinney

Saving The World From New Mexico's Coal Burners



Peter Burrows

For the past few years, Public Service of New Mexico (PNM) has been under an EPA mandate to reduce the haze around their San Juan Generating Plant. To meet EPA standards, PNM proposed shutting down two of four coal-generating plants at San Juan and replacing the lost power with natural gas, nuclear and solar power, including some coal generated electricity imported from Arizona.

You would think this would be a simple process, and you would be wrong. PNM has battled over the details with a number of intervenors. (Intervenors are somewhat analogous to individuals or groups filing amicus curiae briefs in court cases, advocating a particular court decision.) Last September, PNM reached an agreement with a majority of these groups and submitted a proposal to the Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) which accepted the agreement and expects to have a final vote by year end.

One of the intervenors that did not sign on to the agreement was New Energy Economy (NEE), a Santa Fe-based environmental group. NEE wants to replace the power from the two shuttered coal-generating plants entirely by wind and solar power.

From an 8/14/15 article in the Silver City Daily Press: NEE Executive Director Mariel Nanasi claimed that PNM's plan was both environmentally and economically unfeasible. "Coal is a loser compared to solar and wind. Check out who's going bankrupt. Check out who's losing market influence and spiraling job loss. Check out the very serious risks and liabilities from coal and the viable and cheaper solar and wind alternatives," Nanasi said in a press release. (1)

Ms. Nanasi's assertion that wind and solar are cheaper alternatives is an opinion not held by America's richest liberal and ardent Global Warmer, Bill Gates, who said the cost to use solar and wind to replace conventional fuels would be "beyond astronomical." Plus, Gates' occasional bridge partner and America's second richest lib, Warren Buffet, said this about wind farms: "They don't make (economic) sense without the tax credit." (He should know. His firm Berkshire Hathaway is one of the largest, if not the largest, wind farm operator in the country.)

Such realities aside, Ms. Nanasi may be correct that "coal is a loser" in the U.S., where it is being regulated to death, but what about the rest of the world?

A March 2015 research report, "Boom and Bust - Tracking the Global Coal Plant Pipeline" co-authored by the Sierra Club, shows that around the world coal is a big winner. Net new coal capacity totaled 733 gigawatts for the nine years 2005 through

2013, and as of 2014, there were 276 gigawatts of new coal generation capacity under construction and 1,083 gigawatts in the planning stage. (2)

If only half of the planned capacity is built, that half plus the total under-construction means new coal capacity would be 884 times as much as will be retired at PNM's San Juan Generating Plant -- 884 times as much! (3)

Hmmmm. Seems the rest of the world does not want to be saved from the global warming and deleterious health effects blamed on burning coal. There are even a few people right here in New Mexico who may not want to be saved. You may become one of them after you check the "Renewable Energy Rider" surcharge on your PNM bill.

Surcharge? What about the claim that renewables are cheaper? Only if you add in humongous health costs society allegedly pays due to breathing air polluted by burning coal, and equally humongous costs the world will eventually pay due to predicted global warming costs, although none -- none -- of those alleged global warming costs are yet apparent.

By the same reasoning, you could say that the automobile industry imposes huge costs on society because of all the foul air we breathe from auto exhausts, plus the huge toll from auto accident deaths and injuries, plus all the green stuff we could grow where highways are now I'm surprised there isn't a movement to shut down the auto factories and force people to ride bicycles and take rickshaws until electric autos take over, speed limit 20 mph.

If you're like me, you're tired of paying for other peoples' causes. I would like PNM to assign all renewable surcharges to people who advocate renewables. In a perfect world, if not enough people paid for renewables, there wouldn't be more renewables shoved down our throats. Ain't gonna happen.

The best that PNM can do is something called the Sky Blue program, where PNM's customers can voluntarily choose to pay extra for a renewable mix of 85% wind, 15% solar. I'm told there are a couple thousand customers actually doing this but, alas, the list of such customers is confidential.

I wonder if NEE's Mariel Nanasi is on the list. I wonder if PNM could publish a list of Sky Blue customers who had no objections to being identified. I would think such environmental champions would be quite happy to be recognized for their green bona fides. Of course, the idea is to identify those environmentalists NOT on the list. I can't think of any nice, libertarian way to do that, can you?

Sources:

- (1)<http://www.scdailypress.com/site/2015/08/14/pnm-opponents-reach-deal-on-coal-plant-cutback/>
- (2) Boom and Bust - Tracking the Global Coal Plant Pipeline <http://endcoal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BoomBustMarch16embargoV8.Pdf>.

(3) Wild Earth Guardians: Powering Past Coal at the San Juan Generating Station. This report notes the four coal-fired generators produce 1,848 megawatts of electricity. One half is 924 megawatts or 924,000,000 watts. From (2), under construction = 276 gigawatts + one half of the 1,083 gigawatts planned = 276 + 541 = 817 gigawatts or 817,000,000,000 watts. $817,000,000,000 / 924,000,000 = 884$

http://www.wildearthguardians.org/site/DocServer/San_Juan_Generating_Station_Fact_Sheet.pdf?docID=1342

At the website www.PowerForProgress.com, PNM puts the San Juan Generating Station current capacity at 1,683 MW, of which 836 MW will be retired. $817,000,000,000 / 836,000,000 = 977$. This report uses the lower figure of 884 to be conservative. Regardless, anything New Mexico does to reduce coal burning is trivial.

--Peter Burrows is a retired financial analyst who has lived in Silver City for ten years. He writes the column Libertarian Leanings for The Grant County Beat, an online newspaper based in Silver City. He was chairman of the Silver City/Grant County TEA Party in 2011 and blogs at silvercityburro.com.



Industrial Hemp: The Right Crop For New Mexico **Editorial - Sherry G. Heim**

Recently, we have witnessed North Carolina legalizing the growing of industrial hemp in their state, offering a huge boost to their local farming industry. This is excellent news for that state, and for the American farmer in general, provided other states take North Carolina's lead.

At this point in time, it is not illegal to grow industrial hemp in any state; but, in order to do so, the farmer must obtain a permit from the DEA; and the DEA just categorically refuses to issue them. Even if a permit should be issued, there will be restrictions as to the reasons for growing the crop, which varieties of industrial hemp can be grown, and federal inspections to guarantee compliance. Governor Pat McCrory has decided to exercise state's rights and sign into law the right for North Carolina farmers to add industrial hemp to their crop lists. Kudos to Governor McCrory!

New Mexico is currently under the governorship of Susana Martinez, who has stated that she will veto any legislation for the growing of industrial hemp or marijuana. Either or both of these crops would be a huge boost to the New Mexico farming industry. I could certainly elaborate on legalizing marijuana in our state, and cite justifications for allowing it to be grown, but there are reasons that topic remains controversial; and I will wait for the data from states where it is legal to grow to fight that battle.

Industrial hemp is a non-psychoactive, low THC oil/fiber plant that grows with minimal water and in nearly all conditions. It grows in poor soil and will even clean up and restore soil that has been damaged by such crops as cotton. Industrial hemp is a multi-purpose plant with uses ranging from food, to oil, to paper, to fabric, to biodegradable plastics, just to name a few. The entire

plant can be utilized or parts tilled under as composting material if the farmer so chooses. Another bonus of industrial hemp is that hemp grows quickly making it possible to harvest multiple crops per year. So what is the problem with industrial hemp, why is it being treated like a mean and ugly stepchild? The answer is a simple one: industrial hemp will cut into the market of many industries that have strong lobbies in Washington, and it seems our governor is not interested in potentially alienating any of those big money industries or supporters of those industries.

We have probably all heard the argument that if the growing of industrial hemp is permitted, that farmers will grow marijuana in the same fields, and nobody will be able to tell the difference. This is a senseless argument. Because growing marijuana near industrial hemp would render the psychoactive properties of the marijuana impotent as it would cross pollinate with the non-psychoactive hemp. Use of marijuana grown in such a situation might result in a headache, but certainly not the desired effects of smoking or ingesting marijuana. Growing medical or recreational marijuana is steeped in science, and no serious grower of marijuana would want their fields near the fields of industrial hemp, so let's just end that argument altogether.

The New Mexico farmer faces many challenges when producing crops, especially drought. We simply don't have enough water in many growing years. Other years we have serious flooding, and that destroys our local crops as well. We have weak or poor soil in many areas, making those areas undesirable for farming most marketable crops. Hemp is essentially a wild weed that at one time grew nearly everywhere, and it adapts well to nearly all growing conditions. At one point our leaders, realizing the necessity and versatility of hemp, actually required that everyone grow it.

I think it is time for us to revisit the industrial hemp issue, and start applying pressure on our representatives to legalize this useful and needed crop for our local farmers.



Roster

A complete list of how to contact your Central Committee members can be found on the LPNM website.

<http://lpnm.us/contact.html>



"The income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government." ~Barry Goldwater

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it." ~Thomas Jefferson

"I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency, even if I'm in a cabinet meeting." ~Ronald Reagan



Libertarian Party of New Mexico
Enrollment / Renewal / Donation Coupon
(Please print in all areas)

Note: The date on the envelope of your newsletter is the date which your membership expires. If there is no date, we would really appreciate if you would renew your membership or join the Libertarian Party of New Mexico. Together we can give liberty a voice.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Employer _____ Occupation _____

I am registered to vote as "Libertarian" in the State of New Mexico and wish to join or renew as a caucus member. I am paying \$25 annual dues. I will receive a one year (4 issues) subscription to the LPNM state newsletter "New Mexico Liberty" (the national "LP NEWS" IS NOT included) and I will have delegate status at state conventions. **I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.**

Signed _____

I am not registered to vote as "Libertarian" in the State of New Mexico **and/or** I do not wish to sign the statement opposing the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals. I am paying \$25.00 for a one year (4 issues) subscription to the LPNM state newsletter *New Mexico Liberty* (the national *LP News* is **NOT** included). I understand that I will receive no other benefits.

I am making a DONATION to the LPNM in the amount of \$ _____

TOTAL of DUES or SUBSCRIPTION plus DONATION \$ _____ to be paid as follows:

by enclosed CHECK payable to "LPNM" (Sorry, we cannot accept corporate checks)

by CREDIT CARD (circle one): VISA / MASTERCARD / DISCOVER / AMERICAN EXPRESS

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ Expires: ____/____

CVV# _____ (3 digit number on the back of your card)

Signature: _____

Government mandated notices:

- The US Postal Service requires us to notify you that the annual New Mexico Liberty subscription cost is included in your LPNM membership dues of \$25.00.
- The Internal Revenue Service requires us to print "political contributions are not tax deductible" on all fundraising appeals.
- The Federal Election Commission requires us to ask for the employer and occupation of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

The preceding notices alone should be enough reason to join the Libertarian Party, the only political party working to increase your freedom.

COPY OR PRINT, FILL OUT, AND SEND TO:

LPNM c/o Ron Bjornstad
918 IVORY RD SE
RIO RANCHO NM 87124

New Mexico Liberty