

Commissioner Skop Response to PSC Nominating Council Decision

June 30, 2010

The PSC Nominating Council met today to designate the list of the “most qualified” applicants to be interviewed for term vacancies on the Florida Public Service Commission. Despite my multi-disciplined education (JD, MBA, BS Engineering) and extensive professional experience (Nuclear Power and Renewable Energy) I was not afforded the opportunity to interview to keep my job. This determination was allegedly made without any debate or discussion.

Many of the letters of recommendation in my application suggested that I am extremely well qualified to serve on the Florida Public Service Commission, and arguably have the best qualifications of any regulatory utility commissioner in the United States. Accordingly, it is evident that the selection process had nothing to do with selecting the “most qualified” applicants to be interviewed in accordance with the statutory criteria. If it did, it stands to reason that my name would be included on the interview list. A comparison of my qualifications to those included on the list clearly demonstrates this point.

Today is a very sad day for the people of the State of Florida; a day that reflects the status quo and the desire to keep Commissioners who exhibit an open willingness to exchange PIN messages and engage in secret communication at bench with FPL, while removing honest public servants seeking to uphold the public trust and confidence in the Florida Public Service Commission. This concern is overwhelmingly shared by the editorial boards of every major newspaper in the State of Florida which supported my reappointment.

As a quasi-judicial regulatory panel that makes billion dollar decisions on a frequent basis, the role of the Florida Public Service Commission is to decide cases on the merits in a fair and impartial manner. Today’s outcome clearly illustrates the substantial role that money, influence, special interest, and politics play in the nominating process and why the process is in need of substantial reform.

While apparently afforded no consideration by the PSC Nominating Council, I greatly appreciate the letters of recommendation that Congressman Stearns and members of the Florida Legislature wrote on my behalf, and commend these elected officials for recognizing the importance of having fair, impartial, and ethical representation on the Florida Public Service Commission on behalf of their constituents.

Sincerely,

Nathan A. Skop, Esq.
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission