

# SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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## OUR VIEW

# Don't let PRC reform die

**C**ongratulations to the New Mexico House of Representatives. Understanding the need for urgency, House members unanimously passed legislation to reform the troubled Public Regulation Commission. It's urgent because the PRC has been a mess nearly since its creation in the mid-1990s, and because changing the institution involves a constitutional amendment.

Now, of course, the legislation — three bills, in all — will go to the Senate. Unfortunately, Senate Majority Leader Michael Sanchez said earlier this week in an interview with Gwyneth Doland at [www.nmpolitics.net](http://www.nmpolitics.net) that he believes the reforms need more study. He wants to put off reform until a 60-day session. Delay would put off changes until next year, and the constitutional amendments needed to reform the PRC couldn't go on the ballot until the November 2014 election. That's two more years without reform — and that's unacceptable.

Further, Sanchez should be the first to realize there is little need for additional study of PRC reform. It's been studied to death. In 2002, he co-chaired a subcommittee looking into PRC reform. In the report, the subcommittee called for several reforms that still have not been passed 10 years later. Those include reducing PRC responsibilities by transferring nonutility duties elsewhere, as is being called for in current proposals.

Delay means the impetus for reform fizzles. This time, we must not let one powerful senator kill reform. As Senate majority leader, Sanchez controls the calendar — it's his call as to whether reform will get to the floor for debate and a vote. Let Sanchez know that the time for action is now. His email address is [senatormssanchez@aol.com](mailto:senatormssanchez@aol.com), and his Capitol phone number is 505-986-4727. We hope that Santa Fe-area senators, such as Peter Wirth, Phil Griego and Nancy Rodriguez, persuade their colleague to let these bills be heard.

Reform delayed is reform denied — witness the 2002 report, written, shelved and forgotten.