

The petition, Luis Reyes and the 'Naughty Nine'

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The petition being circulated by a group of concerned citizens is a call for an issue, important to the collective membership of Kit Carson Electric, to be placed on the agenda and for both sides to be heard at the annual meeting on June 18.

The petition identifies nine trustees who, in the eyes of the citizens' group, have committed financial harm to the coop membership consistently supporting CEO Lu's Reyes in his non-electric endeavors without involving the comments and consensus of the co-op membership.

The petition will not only place the issue of the recall on the agenda but it will resolve the issue that the trustees have sought to block over the years, that of term limits for trustees.

Each of the trustees will have an opportunity to explain themselves, rebut the allegations and to make their case for not being removed.

By voting out the nine trustees, we will have ended the terms of the trustees. This will not prevent those trustees from running again when their seat comes up for election at the end of the unexpired term of those new trustees.

This is the democratic way.

We need a change and a new direction and leadership now!

We can no longer sit back and allow Reyes and a board of 11 trustees to set the fiscal agenda for the over 23,000 members without their input.

Each and every co-op member has a vote and say on every issue. We are all owners.

Trustees should be able to discuss issues of safety and infrastructure related to the membership as a whole such as the building and maintenance of the line system and substations that will ensure that each resident within the confines that KCEC serves is provided with safe and affordable electric service.

It is unfair for Reyes and the trustees to go into non-electric endeavors on the off chance that they will earn money. The co-op is not a casino, public stock offering or a lottery and members should not be unwillingly forced to gamble the financial futures of their families and businesses without a vote.

Time has come to take a stand against the excessive spending of the co-op and the unbridled expansion into non-electric entities without first asking the members whether they are willing to assume additional debt.

The latest addition to KCEC debts, the broadband project, will saddle us with \$19 million additional debt until 2031. Did Kit Carson do a poll to determine who and how many of us will leave our present providers to answer a low-ball, comeon package price that will inevitably lose money causing the rates to increase just as has happened with the propane business?

Is Kit Carson even sure that there is a need for the broadband that will be paid for, as Reyes says, by the subscribers to the broadband and not the electric rate payers as has been done in the past?

Linda Bence is an activist and Taos resident for 13 years.