

October 12, 2010  
Resignation Speech, PSC Chairwoman Nancy Argenziano,  
Florida Public Service Commission

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Good morning (afternoon).

I have enjoyed my relationship with the press these past fifteen years; sometimes you even manage to distill what I mean from what I say. So, on the theory that a decent respect for the opinions of mankind - to quote Jefferson in an infinitely larger context - makes it appropriate to explain why I am resigning from the Florida Public Service Commission effective today, here it is:

Every Commissioner is prohibited by law from endorsing, supporting, or advancing political causes or candidates. (350.041(2)(e)) I have a choice, therefore, of doing nothing, and suffering the possibility that my inaction will be somewhat responsible for a catastrophe for honest people of the State, or resigning from the PSC and doing what I can - of telling what I know, and going all in - for the election of Alex Sink.

I do not know that I can effectively portray the immensity of the danger of a marriage between the clowns, cowboys and crooks of the current Republican led state legislature and Rick the fifth amendment Scott. There would be no balancing of power; no check on what Time Magazine described as a notoriously dysfunctional legislature; no check on an executive who, by his own published economic plan, schemes for a significant residential electric rate increase. I cannot imagine a more noxious mix of government than that which the legislative leaders and Rick Scott concoction would produce. There is not sufficient resilience in Florida to recover from the pit into which this cast of self indulgent politicians would consign us.

It strains belief that there should be any attempted comparison between the business acumen of Alex Sink, successful in a competitive free enterprise environment, and those of Rick Scott, gorged, tick-like, by manipulation of a government program begging to be abused. These are uncertain times, and Florida needs the governance which only someone with Alex Sink's honesty and integrity can provide.

While many politicians are legitimately subject to the demand to "throw the bums out", lets not be duped by the political propaganda that puts the bums in.

Secondly, most of you will understand the relief I feel at leaving the fetid pit of the PSC. I tell you that in my weirdest nightmare, I would not have expected to come upon the corruption; the bought and sold nature of everything related to the operation of the PSC; the reduction of the office of PSC legal to the office of regulated utilities' apologist; the subjugation of "the public" to the schemes of the regulated utilities, resulting in a de facto "Regulated Industries Service Commission"; the almost universal expectation that if you audition well, PSC employees and Commissioners will be rewarded with lucrative jobs with the utilities regulated; the blithe acceptance that intimidation of Commissioners or employees or the Public Counsel is acceptable; the blasé interference with fairness and justice by individual members of the legislature; the incidents of legislators currying favor with the regulated entities, in an effort to earn their part of the \$43,000,000 the regulated industry has contributed or expended in influencing public policy in the past eight years; the comfortable, smug circumvention of the letter and intent of the law by Commissioners; the inherently suspect legislation and judicial decisions by which the current PSC was born, and came to be the willing consort of the legislature.

I expect to tour and talk in my old Senate District until election day; to ask those who know me to trust and join me in supporting Alex Sink. I will be pleased to meet with any group which wants to understand the deep, dark, behind the scenes truths of what happens in your state government.

Time is critical and there is none to waste.

Thank you. Questions?