

# Letter to the Editor -The Dominion Post:

## *Lets Help Tomblin improve the West Virginia Public Service Commission.*

We as citizens need to ask our Acting Governor Tomblin to select a “NEW” Public Service Commissioner. He will be making a decision on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 so there is not much time.

Tomblin, could appoint a new WV PSC Commissioner in June to establish a new and stronger PSC leadership to begin to “rebuild” WV’s energy economy for greater self-reliability and rate control.

We heard a lot in the Democratic gubernatorial primary from the different candidates, about how to make the PSC do a better job. Candidates proposed all kinds of “solutions” to the unresponsiveness of the PSC process to focus on the concerns of average West Virginia citizens.

Legislators have been talking for years about adding two more commissioners “to give greater representation” across more regions in our large state, or having the commissioners “elected” rather than just being appointed by the governor with possible “special backroom interests” involved.

Commissioner Jon McKinney’s current term ends in June. Instead of simply rubber stamping Mr. McKinney for another six year term, Commissioner McKinney, a career Monsanto Corporation engineer is just the kind of corporate representative that we don't need on the WV PSC. His actions in the past, particularly as the primary author of the TrAIL PSC decision, have shown that he does not have the state's best interests at heart.

Acting Governor Tomblin could undertake a search for an innovative, citizen-focused commissioner who has not spent the bulk of his career working for a large out of state corporation, as Mr. McKinney has, or as a lawyer for out of state power companies, as the current PSC, Chairman Mike Albert has.

So there is actually a very simple way to begin fixing the PSC - Governor Tomblin needs to appoint a commissioner who is knowledgeable about the concerns of average citizens, who places the reliability of West Virginia’s electrical system first and who will protect property owners and businesses from the new costly projects of out of state corporations.

We need creative solutions to our state’s utility and energy future. We need leadership from our PSC, not the same old corporate favors.

The Service to West Virginia customers should come first.

What about it, Acting Governor Tomblin? Are you willing to start fixing the PSC by appointing someone who will work for the interests of WV citizens?

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