



Dear Elected Official/Candidate,

ReNew Mexico is a coalition of statewide community groups, economic development professionals, business advocates, and residents dedicated to working toward the development of renewable energy and transmission projects for the betterment of New Mexico's economic and sustainable future.

ReNew Mexico will soon be launching our 2020 New Mexico Voter Guide to help voters make informed decisions about candidates in the upcoming elections, especially on the issues of climate change and the economic impact of renewable energy project development.

If you wish to be considered for our 2020 ReNew Mexico Voter Guide, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it no later than Friday, October 23rd, but earlier if at all possible. The best way to return your questionnaire is to fill out the attached document and email your completed responses to Arcelia Isais-Gastelum at arcelia@renewmexico.org.

Your completed questionnaire will be shared with the public via our social media pages, website, and newsletter.

Best,

Ben Kelahan
Co-Founder
ReNew Mexico

ReNew Mexico Candidate Questionnaire – 2020

Elected Official/Candidate Name: Paul Kinzelman District: House 8

1. Our state has started to make unparalleled progress in the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy these last few years. What role do you think renewable energy should play in our state's economic future?

I very much support robust R&D and implementation of renewable energy generation wherever possible. I support the several Community Solar Garden Acts that my opponent opposed. See 2017/HB338, 2019/HB210, and 2020/HB9. I support the 2017/SB227 State Facility Renewable Energy Use Bill that my opponent also opposed. My convictions about this issue of renewable energy are on my website (see http://www.votepaulk.org/climate_change.html).

I believe climate change is real, that it is an existential threat to all of us, and that it is significantly exacerbated by human activity. Seriously addressing climate change is going to be quite expensive, but less expensive than doing nothing. I support the following legislative actions:

- State investment in renewable energy programs
- Encouraging the private sector and the public to invest in renewable energy through limited use of tax incentives (IRBs).
- Considering and accounting for the effects on climate for all state legislative projects
- Attempting to minimize the environmental footprint of all projects

We need to establish policies to help transition from a fossil-fuel based energy system to one that is renewable. We should cancel all fossil fuel subsidies and use that money to fund renewable infrastructure research and implementation. This research is critical to fund efforts to develop alternative energy technology, especially energy storage technology which is way behind what we need.

I oppose large uranium-based nuclear power plants because of the problems they present regarding safety and environmental contamination. In addition, these nuclear plants centralize power generation when we should be decentralizing it. However, research into smaller thorium-based reactors looks quite promising and is a topic New Mexico should support.

Renewable energy projects and technology **are** our future.

2. There have been discussions about implementing a tax on wind energy (and renewable energy more broadly). At these critical, early stages of clean energy development, such legislation would be extremely detrimental to New Mexicans living in rural communities and would prevent future renewable energy investment from bringing needed jobs and revenue to New Mexicans. If elected, will you oppose a wind tax that could jeopardize future rural jobs in the wind industry?

Yes, I oppose a wind tax. I think the technology is too new to burden with a tax, just like internet sales were not burdened with a tax until they became mature. Not taxing it is kind of like a subsidy to get things going. When new technology becomes mainstream and the price has come down, that would be the time to discuss whether to tax or not.

3. How should Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) be utilized as a tool to support new renewable energy projects in your district?

IRBs allow corporations to pay little or no tax to the municipality where their project is located. Many corporations already do not pay their fair share of taxes, and so IRBs should be used in very limited cases. In addition, IRBs encourage a 'race to the bottom' as different municipalities bid against each other, each one trying to out tax-incentive the others.

IRBs might be necessary when a company is negotiating where to locate their facility, for instance Facebook, Walmart, Tesla, or Amazon, but I don't think IRBs should be necessary for building transmission lines because the company cannot threaten to move the project someplace else.

In addition, where IRBs are negotiated, there should be **very** significant penalties for companies that do not hold up their end of the bargain. And end of life remediation (if appropriate for the project) should be included in the negotiation.

4. Updates to our transmission system and energy infrastructure are critical in order to ensure that we have low-cost, reliable energy and to best support our growing population. If elected, what will you do to support upgrades to our transmission infrastructure?

Transmission infrastructure is just part of the equation for solving our energy problems. While transmission infrastructure needs to keep up with our energy demand, we should invest in other technology as well; for instance, energy storage to provide around-the-clock energy from generators that cannot generate power 24/7.

In addition, we should be investigating the decentralization of our energy generation. I have been reading about efforts, starting in Australia, to decentralize energy production for neighborhoods and towns. This looks very promising as a way to reduce the need for high power energy transmission. Energy can be produced closer to where it is used, which eliminates the need for expensive infrastructure to ship power someplace else. We should also be looking to Germany, because they have

been very successful at implementing renewable energy in decentralized ways. In 2010, I installed solar panels at my house and now produce almost as much electricity as my home and electric car use. We should continue to encourage and support people and communities to do this.

Another promising technology is thorium nuclear reactors. I oppose building any more big traditional uranium reactor power generation facilities, but thorium reactors promise to be smaller – even neighborhood sized - and they do not produce the dangerous waste that uranium reactors produce. In fact, thorium reactors may actually be able to burn radioactive waste from uranium reactors and render it safe in a short period of time.

We should also be studying the effects of EMF on people and animals living near these high tension transmission lines. In addition, the use of underground or high voltage DC power transmission should be investigated and used where needed to mitigate the negative effects of high AC tension lines.

5. There are two major transmission projects in development with the potential to transmit thousands of megawatts of renewable energy to our grid as well as bring hundreds of clean energy jobs to our communities and millions in revenue and investments. What are some ways we can bring more projects like Western Spirit and SunZia to New Mexico?

I think we should be focused more on generating what we need, where we need it, instead of trying to ship power around through very expensive transmission projects that take a decade to implement. I fly freight between Albuquerque and the Four Corners area and have been seeing renewable energy generation sites sprouting up like mushrooms after a rainstorm, both solar and wind. The more we do this decentralization, the less we need big transmission lines - unless our objective is to export energy. Expensive transmission projects should be reserved for energy export. If the state has the opportunity to generate power for export to other states (like Western Spirit), that is where we should invest in transmission lines as part of the entire project.

6. Will you sign our “Save Rural Jobs” pledge to promote more job creation and more renewable energy project revenue for our state? (SEE ATTACHED)

Yes, I will sign the pledge. I fully support the pledge to protect rural jobs in renewable energy development, certainly at this time. I don't think that New Mexico has properly taken advantage of the opportunities for renewable energy development. With our sun, we should be the leader in renewable energy development and that would create many well-paying jobs. In addition, we should be leading the research into energy storage technology because energy storage is what is really holding renewable energy back from supplying energy around the clock.