

FW: Governor Susana Martinez Announces Cabinet Appointments at New Mexico Environment Department and Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department

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From: Winchester, Jim, NMENV
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From: Governor Susana Martinez [mailto:martinezpressoffice@state.nm.us]
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**Governor Susana Martinez Announces Cabinet Appointments at
 New Mexico Environment Department and Energy, Minerals &
 Natural Resources Department**

SANTA FE – Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced two appointments to cabinet secretary positions in her administration.

New Mexico Environment Secretary F. David Martin will move to the position of Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department. Martin will fill the vacancy of current Secretary John H. Bemis, who will retire on April 16th.

"Secretary Martin has provided tremendous, steady leadership at the New Mexico Environment Department since he was appointed at the beginning of my administration in 2011," said Governor Martinez. "We have worked closely together to preserve New Mexico's natural treasures in a balanced and responsible way, and his engineering background and knowledge of working with the federal government will continue to serve him – and the State of New Mexico – well as the new cabinet secretary for the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department."

David Martin's career includes extensive experience in the field of energy as an engineer and as a policy coordinator between the state of New Mexico and the United States Department of Energy. Prior to his appointment as Cabinet Secretary at the New Mexico Environment Department, Martin served as an Adjunct Associate Professor at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Outgoing EMNRD Secretary John Bemis retires after finishing a career that included military service in the Army, private and corporate law practices and, for the past ten years, service in state government positions. "I will turn sixty two at the end of April and have always planned to retire at that time," said Secretary Bemis. "When I informed the Governor of my decision several weeks ago, I thanked her for allowing me to end my career in the best job in New Mexico." Secretary Bemis also lauded the selection of David Martin. "I have worked with Secretary Martin for two years and know he is a stellar choice to lead EMNRD."

"Secretary Bemis has done an outstanding job as EMNRD secretary and I congratulate him on wrapping up an outstanding career in public service and in the private sector," Governor Martinez added. "He has helped to transform the department into a more responsive, professional operation, and I have appreciated his oversight of State Forestry during two of the worst wildfire seasons in New Mexico history."

"While it is difficult to leave a great staff behind at the New Mexico Environment Department, I'm looking forward to working with all of the divisions within the Energy,

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Minerals and Natural Resources Department," said Secretary Martin. "I congratulate Secretary Bemis on his retirement and thank him for his leadership at EMNRD. I especially thank Governor Martinez for giving me this exciting opportunity."

Governor Martinez has also announced that she has appointed New Mexico Environment Department General Counsel Ryan Flynn to the position of Cabinet Secretary.

"Ryan Flynn has played a key role in brokering strong, responsible agreements to long, legal disputes between industry representatives, environmental groups, and state regulators. He's also protected the interests of the state with regards to Los Alamos National Laboratory by negotiating a framework agreement to remove above-ground TRU waste from the site at an accelerated pace," said Governor Martinez. "Most recently, he was the lead negotiator for the state as we crafted a compromise with the federal government and PNM that implemented tighter environmental controls at the San Juan Generating Station. That agreement prevented higher prices for New Mexico ratepayers, while protecting employment in the region and transitioning to New Mexico natural gas. He has been a tireless advocate for common sense approaches to regulations that protect the environment while continuing to encourage economic growth."

Ryan Flynn graduated from Harvard University and the University of Arizona College of Law. Prior to joining the Environment Department, Flynn worked for Modrall Sperling law firm, where he practiced in the firm's Commercial Litigation and Renewable Energy practice groups. Flynn also serves as an Assistant Judge Advocate General in the United States Air Force Reserve.

"I am grateful for the opportunity Governor Martinez has given me to continue the work Secretary David Martin has begun at the Environment Department," said Ryan Flynn. "As the General Counsel for the past two years, I witnessed firsthand the dedication of the Environment Department's employees. I look forward to continuing to work with them to protect our environment for present and future generations."

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