



League of United Latin American Citizens
New Mexico State Office

Paul "Pablo" A. Martinez
NM State Director

April 27, 2010

Mr. Paul Bustamante, President
Socorro Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box H
Socorro, NM 87801

Re: *Complaint from SEC Consumers and member of the Community Alleging Racial Discrimination by Board Member Mr. Charles Wagner*

Dear Mr. Bustamante:

My office has received numerous complaints from several of your consumers/members of the Socorro Electric Cooperative concerning the above referenced matter. I have personally inspected some documentation, including an email distributed by Mr. Charles Wagner. In reviewing the subject documentation, speaking with consumers and both present and former trustee members, I was able to ascertain the following information.

The complaints specifically allege that Mr. Wagner has referred to at least one of the Hispanic Trustee Board member as a "Chihuahua" and made other racial or demeaning remarks towards Hispanic Trustees and consumers. On several occasions, it was reported that he has referred to Hispanic Trustee Board members as being "stupid". Evidently, Mr. Wagner perceives that those who speak only English are intellectual and that Hispanics are inferior. It is contended that he demeans those in which English may be ones second language. It is reported that he maliciously belittles others that speak with a Spanish accent and interrupts them in a pugnacious manner by telling Hispanics that he can't understand them because they do not speak in complete sentences. He is condescending and treats Hispanic staff and fellow trustees with such callous disregard.

In view of these mitigating circumstances, I am completely appalled that this type of conduct and behavior is tolerated by the SEC Trustees and the community of Socorro, NM. I further find this behavior to be not only inflammatory, but quite frankly, reprehensible.

I will be forwarding this information to the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. If this information is true, it would appear that Mr. Wagner may be using abusing his power under the color of authority. Your Cooperative is federally funded and you are subjected to all Codes of Federal Regulations and applicable federal and state statutes with respect

P.O. Box 1324, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Phone Number: (505) 312-6327

civil rights acts and non-discrimination. I feel compelled to also report this matter to the authority that funds your cooperative to investigate this matter. Should these allegations be true, Mr. Wagoner's behavior poses serious liability issues to the SEC as a whole.

It is imperative that you and the other trustees take immediate corrective action in this regard to minimize your potential threat of litigation and liabilities.

I will continue to follow up in this matter with the respective agencies to assure that this matter is properly addressed and that the appropriate corrective action is taken.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul "Pablo" A. Martinez
NM LULAC State Director

Cc: NM Attorney's Office
US Justices Department, Justo Garcia