Subject: Statement of PSC President Jeffrey Welborn
Date: Monday, November 9, 2026 at 4:00:44 PM Mountain Standard Time
From: Turner, Michael
To: Jay, David
CC: pscmedia, Welborn, Jeffrey, Petersen, Jamey
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png

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Please see below the statement from President Welborn on the allegation that Commissioner Pinocci's votes on the NWE rate case were incorrectly tallied (aka the "stolen vote" matter).

"Commissioner Pinocci voted "yes" in public on every decision that was part of the final order. A vote cast on camera and recorded in the minutes can't be stolen, and it can't be changed by email after the fact.

1. **Commissioner Pinocci voted "yes" — in public, on the record.**

At the publicly noticed business meeting on November 18–19, 2025, Commissioner Pinocci voted "yes" on all 13 decisions that make up the Final Order in the NorthWestern rate case. He also voted "yes" to authorize Commission leadership to finalize the written order with staff. Both are documented in the meeting video on YouTube and in the official minutes, which the Commission, including Commissioner Pinocci, unanimously approved on December 2, 2025.

2. **You can't steal a vote that was cast in public.**

Under Montana law, Commission votes happen in open, publicly noticed meetings, not by email. An email sent more than a month later, on December 23, does not undo a vote cast in public. If any commissioner wanted to revisit a decision, there is a clear process: request a work session through the President before the December 24 deadline. No such request was made.

3. **Finalizing the written order changed no one's vote.**

Leadership's job was narrow: make sure the written order accurately reflected what the full Commission decided in public. Leadership has no power to change any decision or vote, and none was changed. The Final Order lists each of the 13 decisions alongside the vote that approved it.

4. **The outcome was never in question.**

None of the 13 decisions were close. Each passed with no more than one dissent. Even if

Commissioner Pinocci had switched every one of his votes, all 13 decisions would still have passed. The only thing that would have changed is how his name appeared in the signature block.

5. **PSC took the complaint seriously and are cooperating fully with DOJ.**

The Commission's Legal Department reviewed the evidence and found no wrongdoing. We have willingly given the Montana Department of Justice everything it asked for, and more, including the documents and video recordings. We respect that process and won't comment further on an active investigation.

6. **The record is public and anyone can check it.**

The video, the minutes, and the Final Order are all publicly available. We encourage anyone with questions to watch the meeting and read the record for themselves. The facts speak clearly."

There will be no further statements from President Welborn and the PSC staff on this matter unless determined otherwise. I hope this helps clarify matters for you. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if I can be of any further assistance.

Kind regards,
Michael

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