



*Montana Public Service Commission*

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## **Jergeson Re-Elected PSC Chair; Toole Elected Vice Chair**

Commissioner Greg Jergeson of Chinook was re-elected today as Chair of the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC). Commissioner Ken Toole of Helena was elected Vice Chair. The unanimous votes, held during the Commission's organizational session, were the first cast by two newly-elected Commissioners Gail Gutsche of Missoula and John Vincent of Bozeman. Commissioner Brad Molnar of Laurel completes the 2009-2010 five-member panel. All five Commissioners are former legislators, as was the case with the Commission in 2007-2008.

Jergeson was elected to the PSC in 2002 and 2006, and has been selected by his colleagues to Chair the Commission since 2005. He represents PSC District 1, which is comprised of 19 counties in northeastern and north central Montana. He served in the Montana Senate for 22 years, filling many leadership positions such as Majority Leader, Chair of the Audit Committee, and Chair of the Finance Committee. Jergeson's background also includes farming, working for the MSU-Northern Foundation, and serving on both the Montana Board of Investments and Consensus Council.

In 2006, Commissioner Toole was elected to represent the six counties in north central Montana which make up PSC District 5. He served in the state Senate for 6 years, including a session as Chair of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee and Vice Chair of both the Senate Tax and Senate Natural Resources Committees. An author on progressive issues and winner of numerous conservation and social justice awards, Toole is a founder of the Montana Human Rights Network and the Montana-based Policy Institute.

The PSC works to ensure that Montanans receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities while paying reasonable rates. Utilities regulated by the PSC generally include private investor owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water, and sewer companies. In addition, the PSC regulates certain motor carriers, and oversees natural gas pipeline safety and intrastate railroad safety.

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