Acknowledging Representative Brian F. Egolf, Jr.

Brian Egolf: A New Generation Tackles Water, Energy and the Environment

Representative Brian Egolf (D-District 47) has addressed natural resources, water and the environment from the beginning of his legislative career. His efforts have led to his appointment as chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Representative Egolf's role on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has put him into the midst of significant controversies. The regulation of the oil and gas industry has been before an administrative agency (the Oil Conservation Commision), the judiciary (in a review of executive branch action in repealing regulations), and has been heard in Representative Egolf's committee. He has pledged to continue to press for state regulation of the groundwater pollution associated with these operations, including an examination of fracking and its potential for groundwater pollution. Assessment of the existing groundwater quality, the composition of fracking compounds, and the integrity of casings are among elements of a regulatory structure.

Protecting rivers is another priority. New Mexico is unique in not yet protecting instream flows (environmental flows) in its rivers under state law, although it does so in some instances. Representative Egolf is considering means of increasing water left in rivers, and how the agricultural sector can be given incentives to do so.

Representative Egolf is from Santa Fe. He attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the University of New Mexico's School of Law, from which he graduated *magna cum laude*. With his wife Kelly, he and his two children live in Santa Fe, where he has a legal practice that includes natural resources and water law.

By Denise Fort,
Director of Utton Center (2013)

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