

SHAUN TSABETSAYE

Candidate for Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Albuquerque, New Mexico | [REDACTED]

August 13, 2026

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Nominating Committee

Attn: Sarah E. Valencia | Santa Fe, New Mexico

Re: Application for NMPRC Commissioner - Term Beginning January 1, 2027

Dear Chair Seguin and Members of the Nominating Committee:

I respectfully submit my application to serve as a Commissioner of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. I am a registered member of the Democratic Party. As a New Mexico electrical engineer, Executive MBA graduate, senior utility-scale energy leader, and enrolled member of the Pueblo of Zuni, I offer more than twenty years of experience applying engineering, finance, statistics, business administration, policy, and public-interest judgment to complex infrastructure decisions.

I meet NMSA 1978, Section 62-19-4(B)(1). I hold a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico, and I have more than 10 years of professional experience in engineering and the energy sector. My record includes more than six years at NextEra Energy Resources; service through August 6, 2026, as Head of Tribal Technical Assistance and Project Development at the Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy; renewable-energy consulting for the Pueblo of Zuni; and work with NREL and Sandia National Laboratories.

My experience aligns directly with the Commission's responsibility to ensure fair and reasonable rates and adequate, reliable service. I have evaluated solar, wind, battery storage, transmission, interconnection, power purchase, and project finance matters across New Mexico and the West. At NextEra, I helped develop a portfolio exceeding 5.4 GW and worked on projects involving PNM, El Paso Electric, Tucson Electric Power, NV Energy, APS, WAPA, CAISO, BPA, and public utility districts. Most recently, at the Alliance, I led independent technical and project diligence for Tribal Nations on projects ranging from community-scale systems to 1.5 GW, helping leaders evaluate utility service, reliability, affordability, ownership, procurement, financing, and the tradeoffs embedded in developer and utility proposals.

The Commissioner role also demands disciplined adjudicative judgment. My career requires me to test expert analyses, identify unsupported assumptions, weigh technical, financial, legal, environmental, and community evidence, and explain recommendations to governing bodies, executives, agencies, engineers, and attorneys. I would bring that preparation and impartiality to testimony, hearing-examiner recommendations, open meetings, rate cases, rulemakings, and contested proceedings. My telecommunications exposure includes digital infrastructure and rural connectivity initiatives, as well as the convergence of communications, advanced metering, and grid operations. I would approach telecommunications matters with the same evidence-based rigor, grounded in the record and Commission expertise.

I would also bring a vital New Mexico perspective. I grew up on the Zuni reservation, am fluent in Zuni, and have spent my career at the intersection of infrastructure, affordability, economic development, cultural protection, and Tribal sovereignty. Through Major Market, my family's Zuni-owned grocery store, I have experienced reliability from the customer side: outages, clean-water needs, distributed solar, backup generation, and EV charging are not abstractions when a rural community depends on them for food and safety.

I understand the statutory independence and full-time-service requirements. My employment with the Alliance, an Indigenous-led nonprofit and not a Commission-regulated public utility, concluded on August 6, 2026. If appointed, I will relinquish all remaining active business duties and offices for profit before January 1, 2027, devote my entire professional time to Commission business, and complete all required disclosures, recusals, and divestments necessary to comply fully with New Mexico law and preserve public confidence in the Commission's independence.

New Mexico needs commissioners who can master a complex record, question assumptions without prejudging outcomes, protect affordability and reliability, and implement legislative policy through fair, durable decisions. I would be honored to bring my engineering discipline, executive judgment, statewide roots, and commitment to public service to that work.

Sincerely,

Shaun Tsabetsaye

SHAUN TSABETSAYE

UTILITY REGULATION | ENGINEERING | ENERGY POLICY | PUBLIC-INTEREST LEADERSHIP

Albuquerque, New Mexico | [REDACTED]

COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE PROFILE

New Mexico electrical engineer and senior energy leader with 20+ years of professional experience, including 10+ years in energy-sector engineering, development, finance, policy, and Tribal utility advisory work. Led or supported more than 5.4 GW of solar, wind, battery-storage, and related infrastructure opportunities. Experienced in evaluating expert technical and financial evidence, interconnection, reliability, power-purchase structures, utility procurement, risk, permitting, public policy, and community impacts. Brings an independent, public-interest perspective rooted in engineering discipline, executive administration, rural customer experience, and service to Tribal Nations.

STATUTORY QUALIFICATIONS & COMMISSION READINESS

Education and experience	B.S., Electrical Engineering and Executive MBA, University of New Mexico; more than ten years of professional experience in engineering and the energy sector, satisfying NMSA 1978, Section 62-19-4(B)(1).
Regulatory subject matter	Electric utilities, renewable generation, battery storage, transmission, distribution resilience, interconnection, power-purchase proposals, project economics, public funding, environmental review, cultural resources, utility-authority operations, and rural infrastructure.
Evidence-based decisions	Reviews feasibility studies, expert engineering reports, interconnection results, financial models, contracts, scopes of work, environmental constraints, and stakeholder positions; translates complex records into clear recommendations for governing bodies and executives.
Public-interest leadership	Balances affordability, reliability, safety, economic development, consumer impacts, Tribal sovereignty, cultural protection, and statutory policy objectives.
Independence and service	Alliance employment concluded August 6, 2026. Prepared, if appointed, to relinquish all remaining active business duties and offices for profit and devote full time to Commission service.

CORE EXPERTISE

Utility economics & rate impacts | Reliability & resilience | Grid interconnection | Solar, wind & BESS | Transmission & distribution | Power-purchase analysis | Financial modeling & capital planning | Statistics & risk analysis | Rule and policy implementation | Public meetings & executive briefings | Tribal consultation & sovereignty | Rural and underserved communities

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Head of Tribal Technical Assistance & Project Development | Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy | June 2023-Aug. 6, 2026 | Remote / New Mexico**
- Lead an Indigenous-centered national technical-assistance practice supporting Tribal governments in evaluating clean-energy, utility, transmission, microgrid, storage, and resilience opportunities from discovery through development and financing.
 - Direct independent technical and financial diligence on projects ranging from community systems to 1.5 GW, including load analysis, technology selection, feasibility, interconnection, project economics, financing, procurement strategy, contracts, and implementation risk.
 - Oversee an active western portfolio spanning 14 projects and 12 Tribal Nations, representing approximately 2.87 GW of projected generation and 2,729.9 MWh of battery storage.
 - Advise Tribal leaders on utility service, outage vulnerability, resilience, affordability, ownership, power-purchase structures, community benefits, and the tradeoffs embedded in developer and utility proposals.
 - Lead the Preferred Provider Program and technical review supporting philanthropic and public capital decisions; develop scopes of work, assess qualifications, manage consultants, and establish accountable project-development workflows.

- Prepare executive briefings, public presentations, webinars, and decision materials for Tribal councils, nonprofit leadership, funders, government agencies, utilities, developers, attorneys, and technical specialists.

Director of Development | Hawthorne Renewable Energy | Oct. 2023-Feb. 2024 | Pacific Northwest

- Evaluated more than 2 GW of community-scale opportunities and initiated five utility-scale and two small-generator solar-plus-storage projects totaling approximately 930 MW in Grant County PUD and Bonneville Power Administration territory.
- Led strategic planning, budgets, siting, grid-capacity evaluation, environmental diligence, permitting, risk analysis, and Tribal consultation across Oregon and Washington energy markets.

Senior Business Development Manager | Larson & Toubro, Ltd. | June-Oct. 2023 | Western United States

- Led owner's-engineering and program-management opportunities for Tribal energy infrastructure, from design and grant strategy through implementation, testing, and operations support.
- Held accountability for commercial targets, gross margin, cash flow, technical scopes, and site-acceptance requirements.

Senior Project Manager - Development & Tribal Relations | NextEra Energy Resources | Sept.

2016-March 2023 | New Mexico / Western U.S.

- Developed and evaluated more than 5.4 GW of utility-scale solar, wind, battery-storage, and related infrastructure across New Mexico and the West, from greenfield siting and acquisition through interconnection, permitting, commercial strategy, and handoff to construction.
- Managed site control, interconnection requests and studies, project layouts, capital budgets, schedules, environmental and cultural-resource review, consultant work, acquisition diligence, risk registers, and inputs to project pro formas.
- Worked on projects involving PNM, El Paso Electric, Tucson Electric Power, NV Energy, Arizona Public Service, WAPA, CAISO, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland General Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, and public utility districts.
- Advanced a New Mexico portfolio including 90 MW solar plus 50 MW storage for a PNM procurement; two 100 MW stand-alone BESS projects; 300 MW solar plus 300 MW storage; and 100 MW solar plus 100 MW storage on Navajo Nation lands.
- Secured and negotiated land rights, lease options, easements, community-benefit terms, and project agreements involving private, state, federal, and Tribal lands; assessed how project costs and conditions affected commercial viability and community outcomes.
- Led early Tribal engagement and cultural-resource diligence on more than 45 projects. Influenced relocation of a proposed wind project approximately 50 miles to avoid significant Tribal cultural impacts and litigation risk.
- Briefed senior executives, developers, originators, engineers, attorneys, agencies, utilities, and Tribal governments on complex technical, regulatory, commercial, and public-interest considerations.

SELECTED UTILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE EXPERIENCE

- Navajo Nation: Secured a five-year option covering approximately 6,500 acres for a 1,000 MW solar and 800 MW storage opportunity at the former Navajo Generating Station area; supported bids involving SRP, APS, and WAPA.
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe: Secured site control for a 200 MW solar plus 100 MW storage project; negotiated lease economics and community-benefit terms; coordinated utility-procurement and access issues.
- Pueblo of Zuni: Served three years as renewable-energy engineering consultant to Tribal government; reviewed feasibility, interconnection, power-purchase proposals, load profiles, economic models, ownership structures, financing, and utility-authority operations.
- Hopi Tribe: Supported site control and development strategy for solar and storage along APS transmission; collaborated with NREL and the Hopi Economic Development Corporation.
- Muckleshoot, Moapa, Hopi, Navajo, Picuris, Santa Ana, Menominee and other Tribal communities: Led or supervised recent technical assessments involving microgrids, solar and storage, reliability, utility service, transmission, procurement, financing, and community resilience.

Renewable Energy Engineering Consultant | Red Mountain Energy Partners | Jan. 2012-July 2014 | New Mexico

- Advised the Pueblo of Zuni on community- and utility-scale energy projects from 400 kW to more than 100 MW, including feasibility, fatal-flaw analysis, technology selection, load modeling, interconnection, power-purchase proposals, financing, and ownership.
- Supported administration and operations of a newly formed Tribal utility authority and represented the Pueblo in U.S. Department of Energy grant development.

Engineering Project Leader / Researcher | NREL & Sandia National Laboratories | 2003-2004 | New Mexico

- Served as technical customer advisor to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority renewable-energy program; assessed rural hybrid solar-wind systems and developed operations and maintenance procedures for electricians.

- Published “Developing a Sustainable Tribal and Rural Cooperative Solar Program” in the U.S. Department of Energy Undergraduate Science Journal.

Engineering & Manufacturing Leadership Roles | Intel Corporation | Jan. 2006-July 2016 | Rio Rancho, New Mexico

- Held progressively responsible positions in process engineering, equipment reliability, statistical yield analysis, advanced metrology, technology development, and Lean manufacturing in a highly regulated, safety-critical operating environment.
- Applied statistical process control, design of experiments, SQL/JMP analysis, root-cause methods, reliability metrics, cost reduction, quality assurance, and evidence-based decision frameworks to complex manufacturing systems.
- Helped reduce unscheduled equipment downtime by approximately 40% and improve utilization efficiency by approximately 20% through standardized preventive-maintenance and problem-solving systems.
- Translated large technical datasets into recommendations for engineering, operations, management, and nontechnical audiences; trained and certified technicians and led cross-functional task forces.

NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY & CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE

Co-Founder & Chief of Marketing and Development | Major Market, Inc. | 2016-Present | Pueblo of Zuni, New Mexico

- Co-founded and developed a 100% Zuni-owned rural grocery business serving approximately 25,000 residents within 25 miles; led business planning, financial projections, capital formation, construction, procurement, information systems, and energy planning.
- Developed an 84.5 kW solar carport, additional rooftop solar, backup generation, reverse-osmosis water service, and EV-charging infrastructure—providing direct customer-side experience with outages, resilience, distributed energy, service reliability, and rural infrastructure constraints.
- Coordinated food, water, energy, and supply continuity during the July 2026 Zuni flood and associated disruptions, illustrating the public-safety consequences of reliable utility service.

EDUCATION

Executive Master of Business Administration | University of New Mexico | 2015 | Albuquerque, NM

- Coursework and applied leadership in finance, accounting, economics, strategy, business administration, organizational leadership, and executive decision-making.

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering | University of New Mexico | 2004 | Albuquerque, NM

- NASA Scholar; research experience in electronics, photonics, semiconductors, digital signal processing, and renewable-energy systems.

Graduate study: 30 of 33 credit hours completed toward M.Eng., Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturing, University of New Mexico.

PUBLIC, NONPROFIT & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Board Vice Chair, Hawikku.org, a Zuni nonprofit advancing education, technology, renewable energy, and community development.
- Former elected member, Board of Directors, American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES); former chair, Professional Development Committee; lifetime Sequoyah Fellow; more than three decades of service.
- Former nine-year cross-site chair, Intel Native American Network; partnered with executive leadership on recruitment, retention, advancement, scholarships, and corporate accountability.
- Energy Leadership Institute, 2024 Cohort; Leadership New Mexico, Connect New Mexico alumnus.
- Fluent Zuni speaker; enrolled member of the Pueblo of Zuni; Sand Hill Crane Clan, child of the Dogwood people.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Building Trusted Partnerships: Integrating Industry Accountability and Cultural Competency in Tribal Clean Energy Development,” poster abstract, 2026.
- “Developing a Sustainable Tribal and Rural Cooperative Solar Program,” U.S. Department of Energy Undergraduate Science Journal, Vol. 4, 2004.
- Frequent moderator, workshop leader, and presenter on Tribal utility formation, project finance, grid interconnection, clean-energy deployment, infrastructure resilience, and culturally responsible development.

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

Financial and economic modeling | Capital budgets and cash flow | ArcGIS and Google Earth Pro | Project schedules and critical-path analysis | Contract and scope review | Risk registers | Statistical process control and DOE | SQL and JMP | Quality assurance | Public speaking and stakeholder facilitation