

**Letter proposed and drafted by former Councilmember Eva Putzova**

February 5, 2019

Mr. Donald Brandt  
Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Pinnacle West and Arizona Public Service  
400 N 5th St, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Dear Mr. Brandt,

The Flagstaff City Council urges Arizona Public Service (APS), which has a monopoly on the Flagstaff electricity market due to an exclusive franchise agreement with the City of Flagstaff, to refrain from continuing to influence the outcomes of local, regional, and statewide elections.

In May 2010, Flagstaff voters authorized the City Council to enter into a franchise agreement with APS that was portrayed as one that would be beneficial to the citizens of Flagstaff. APS is Flagstaff's only electricity provider and consequently reaps handsome profits because of this arrangement. Flagstaff electricity customers cannot choose another electricity provider even if they wanted to.

We don't intend for this letter to be interpreted as an attempt to impede on your right and duty to factually state the impact of a law pending before the Arizona Legislature or a citizen initiative before the voters. We do, however, find it morally offensive and unethical that before the November 2018 election, APS spent tens of millions of dollars of shareholder profits that came from, in part, Flagstaff ratepayers to: 1) substantially fund the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and other similar organizations that helped orchestrate the removal of the RED FOR ED and the BAN DARK MONEY citizen initiatives from the ballot; and 2) defeat the Renewable Energy Standards Initiative (Prop 127). Also, we find it unacceptable for APS to attempt to affect the outcome of the Corporation Commission elections—the Commission that regulates APS and sets the rates for our citizens as was the case in several election cycles prior to 2018.

Again, we urge APS to focus on providing the electricity that your customers, and our citizens, rely on and that makes our economy and our community a safe and vibrant place to live and not on electoral politics.

We look forward to your timely response to our concerns and your pledge to refrain from influencing future elections—not because it is required by law, but because it is the right thing to do.

Very sincerely,