

*Dusty* **JOHNSON**

**JohnsonforPUC.com**

For Immediate Release  
April 15, 2010

For more information, contact:  
Dusty Johnson, 605-280-5511

## **Dusty Johnson Announces Run for Re-Election Commission Chair Says He's Kept His Promises**

**Mitchell, SD** – Dustin “Dusty” Johnson, the chairman of the state Public Utilities Commission, has officially announced he will seek a second six-year term on the PUC. Johnson says he has successfully kept the promises he made to voters during his first term.

Johnson was elected to his first term in 2004 and has served as the PUC’s chairman in 2007, 2009, and 2010. In his six years on the PUC he has become a recognized leader in working to develop renewable energy resources, expand internet access and cell phone reception, keep utility rates low, and protect consumers.

“Politicians are good at making promises; they aren’t always good at keeping them. Over the last six years, I’ve made good on the commitments I made to voters in 2004. We’ve seen a nearly 1,000 percent increase in wind power, hundreds of new cell phone towers, and thousands of South Dakotans have gained access to high-speed Internet for the first time,” Johnson said. “A common-sense regulatory environment helped make that progress a reality.”

Johnson’s website ([www.JohnsonforPUC.com](http://www.JohnsonforPUC.com)) lists seven areas he promises to focus on in the next six years, including green energy development, energy efficiency, and consumer protection. He believes that with hard work, South Dakota will be able to take advantage of significant opportunities over the next few years.

“From wind power to ethanol to a strong rural broadband network, we have the pieces in place to continue to create jobs and improve the lives of consumers,” Johnson said. “The PUC has helped to lay that groundwork and I am excited to keep working on these issues that impact the lives of families and businesses in South Dakota every day.”

Johnson has been a strong voice for South Dakota consumers. He was the only utilities commissioner in the country to testify before a U.S. Senate committee on how the cap-and-

**JohnsonforPUC.com**

Dusty Johnson for PUC • PO Box 1085 • Mitchell, SD 57301 • (605) 280-5511

trade legislation would impact consumers. He has served as the lead commissioner on the PUC's "South Dakota Energy Smart," an effort promoting energy efficiency, as well as on the PUC's "Small Renewable Energy Initiative," designed to encourage small wind and solar projects. Additionally, Johnson serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

The political parties will select their nominees for the PUC at state party conventions in June. Voters will then elect one person to the PUC in the general election this November. The Public Utilities Commission has three members elected statewide to staggered six-year terms.

Johnson lives in Pierre and Mitchell. He is married with two children and is involved with numerous state and local community service projects. Those interested in more information can visit [www.JohnsonforPUC.com](http://www.JohnsonforPUC.com) or the campaign Facebook page [facebook.com/dustyforsd](https://facebook.com/dustyforsd).

-30-

#### Notes:

- A photograph of Commissioner Johnson can be accessed at the bottom of [www.johnsonforpuc.com/about/](http://www.johnsonforpuc.com/about/).
- In 2004 Dusty Johnson handed out tens of thousands of rack cards containing his commitment to focus on three policy areas. A copy of that campaign piece can be found at [www.johnsonforpuc.com/2004card.jpg](http://www.johnsonforpuc.com/2004card.jpg).

#### About Dusty Johnson:

- Current position – Chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission; elected in 2004 to a six-year term.
- Past experience – Former senior policy advisor for Governor Mike Rounds, focused on energy and economic development issues; worked for U.S. Department of Agriculture and for local governments in the Kansas City area.
- Personal – Born September 30, 1976 in Pierre; married to Jacquelyn; two sons; family resides in Mitchell.
- Education – Bachelor of Arts in political science from University of South Dakota; Masters of Public Administration from University of Kansas.
- Accomplishments at the PUC – See [www.johnsonforpuc.com/keeping-promises/](http://www.johnsonforpuc.com/keeping-promises/).

**JohnsonforPUC.com**

Dusty Johnson for PUC • PO Box 1085 • Mitchell, SD 57301 • (605) 280-5511