
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the *Billings Gazette, Laurel Outlook, Carbon County News, Stillwater County News, Cody Enterprise, and Powell Tribune*

October 23, 2013

To the Editor,

The reports of the "investigation" of Arleen Boyd, Director with the Beartooth Electric Co-op (BEC) Board by Southern bankruptcy Trustee Lee A. Freeman are leaking out—and the picture isn't pretty.

Tuesday, Mr. Freeman and his high-priced lawyers (including lawyers from the major creditor, Prudential) went on a 7-hour, very expensive, fishing expedition to "examine" much of what has already been published about the Southern debacle, much by others, rather than BEC!

The inquisition might have been legal (it was permitted by Judge Kirscher in the US Bankruptcy Court), but simply wrong! We see it as a blatant attempt to intimidate and punish Beartooth Electric Cooperative and its members for recognizing the flaws in Trustee Freeman's plan to restructure Southern to continue a business that the four Cooperatives still captured by Southern, neither want nor need.

It's a shame that over the past two years since his appointment, Trustee Freeman hasn't investigated Southern's, possible illegal and certainly questionable business practices with the zeal that he is persecuting BEC.

We encourage Judge Kirscher to immediately accept and approve the petition initiated by Fergus Electric Cooperative to dismiss Trustee Freeman without delay.

Not only is it logical and legally justified, but we and much of rural Montana simply can't afford Trustee Freeman's plan nor, for that matter, the cost of keeping him.

Bill Hand
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