Subject: Retraction Request

From: NMHRCC info@nmhrcc.com To: editor@estancia.news

Date: 7/24/24 3:16 PM

Estancia News Team,

I am writing to you in deep dismay at the irresponsible neglect of journalistic integrity that the Estancia News displayed when publishing a grossly inaccurate article this week. The article I am referring to is titled, "New Mexico House Republican Campaign Committee Backs Radical Democrat Over Member of Their Own Party."

The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics states that ethical reporters should "<u>take responsibility</u> <u>for the accuracy of their work. Verify information before releasing it. Use original sources whenever <u>possible.</u>" Unfortunately, your reporting in this article can hardly be considered as such, given that not a single member of your team reached out to the party accused in this article.</u>

If you had done the ethical thing and gone straight to the source of your accusation, (easily done considering leadership contact information is listed on the New Mexico State Legislature website) I would have informed you that the Ethics Complaint #2024-040 was in response to a **reporting error made by Rep. Eliseo Alcon or his staff**. Under NO circumstances has the NMHRCC ever contributed to the representative NOR would we ever.

The NMHRCC is in contact with the New Mexico Secretary of State to attain a retraction of this complaint. We expect the Estancia News team to issue a full retraction and apology as well. I hope to see this small "news" outlet show respect for their readers by publishing factual information rather than smear campaigns going forward.

Signed, Rod Montoya - Leader NM Republican House Caucus