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May 4, 2023

**Via Electronic Mail**

Mariel Nanasi  
Executive Director, New Energy Economy  
[mariel@seedsbeneaththesnow.com](mailto:mariel@seedsbeneaththesnow.com)

**Re: *False and Defamatory Statements about Avangrid***

Ms. Nanasi:

I write on behalf of my client, Avangrid, to demand that you immediately retract and correct the false and defamatory accusation you made about my client and its majority shareholder, Iberdrola, on the April 14, 2023 broadcast of Retake Our Democracy on KSFR.<sup>1</sup>

During the broadcast, you falsely charged that Avangrid and Iberdrola “literally have bought out judges, bribed judges.” As a practicing lawyer, you no doubt understand that such charges are defamatory. Indeed, they are defamatory *per se* because, on their face, they impute criminal misconduct involving moral turpitude.<sup>2</sup>

Your charges are also patently false. To be clear: Avangrid and Iberdrola have never “bought out” or “bribed judges.” Nor have they been credibly accused of such malfeasance. Just the opposite. In each of the past five years, the Ethisphere Institute has honored both Avangrid and Iberdrola for being among the most ethical companies in the world.<sup>3</sup> Your smears are not merely unfounded, they are at odds with global evaluations.

If you have evidence to back up your charges about buying or bribing judges, you should produce it. We doubt you will, though, because no such evidence exists. You certainly did not offer any during your April 14 radio appearance. Nor did any of the other participants in the interview. Instead, shortly before you accused Avangrid and Iberdrola of “literally” buying out and bribing

<sup>1</sup> The interview remains publicly available on multiple platforms, including YouTube—at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1zCAZ7PyzY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1zCAZ7PyzY)—and KSFR’s website—at [www.ksfr.org/show/retake-our-democracy1/2023-04-15/04-15-2023-with-mariel-nanasi-gary-coffin](http://www.ksfr.org/show/retake-our-democracy1/2023-04-15/04-15-2023-with-mariel-nanasi-gary-coffin).

<sup>2</sup> See *Collins v. Taos Bd. of Educ.*, 893 F. Supp. 2d 1193, 1212 (D.N.M. 2012).

<sup>3</sup> See [worldsmoethicalcompanies.com/honorees/](http://worldsmoethicalcompanies.com/honorees/).



judges, your interviewer assured the audience that, at KSFR, listeners would get “the straight information” and “the straight scoop.” Far from justifying those assurances, you peddled a false narrative for political gain.

You, of course, have a right to advocate for whatever causes you choose, but you do not have a right to flat-out lie about my client or its majority shareholder. If you want to argue for socializing New Mexico’s electric system, you are entitled to do that. And if you want to pretend the awards and recognition Avangrid and Iberdrola continually garner around the world are meritless, you’re entitled to do that, too. What you are not entitled to do is continue lying about Avangrid and Iberdrola, inventing and airing false accusations whenever the truth doesn’t suit your political agenda. Your bare, longstanding antipathy toward Avangrid and Iberdrola does not give you a license to defame them.

We are still working to undo the damage caused by your April 14th fabrication—which was broadcast throughout northern New Mexico and which remains publicly available online. In the meantime, we demand that you promptly and publicly retract your false statement and admit that you have no evidence to support your claims that Avangrid and Iberdrola “literally have bought out [and] bribed judges.”

This is not a complete statement of my client’s rights, all of which are expressly reserved. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Locke, P.C.

cc: Clinton W. Marrs, Esq. (via email)  
Patrick J. Griebel, Esq. (via email)