



## **Beltrone moving on to private sector after 16 years**

By Alex Grubb | 08/24/10

After 16 years of public service, Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone is moving on to the private sector.

As the first woman on the Cascade County Commission, Peggy Beltrone wanted to provide a deeper discussion of issues the commission dealt with; she noted, "I never felt that my sex made me a better commissioner, but there was a richer discussion."

Beltrone originally started out in broadcast journalism and worked at KRTV. But she soon found she didn't want to just report on the issues - she wanted a say in them; Beltrone explained, "The things that attracted me to broadcast led me to government."

One of the main issues she focused on while in office was creating a better environment, from the mining pollution at the Anaconda smelter to being a champion for wind nergy projects.

Beltrone says dealing with difficult issues the first several years she was on the commission gave her an appreciation for the people working for the public, and those who worked with Beltrone appreciate what she's done for the county.

Many commissioners who leave do so to retire, but Beltrone is going back to work; she will soon serve as the president of the new wind technology division at Exergy Development Group, based in Idaho.

Beltrone said, "I'm following a passion for renewable energy and see if we can produce the green jobs I've been talking about."

Exergy is based in Idaho, but Beltrone will stay in Great Falls and wants to try and bring manufacturing of wind turbines to the Electric City.

Beltrone's last day in office is September 3rd.

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