

Coös County Commissioners' Office

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The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chair Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Economic Development Legislative Office Building, Room 102 Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Fuller Clark:

We are writing to you as Chair of the SB383 North Country Transmission Commission.

As Coos County Commissioners we stand unanimous in our support of upgrading the so-called Coos Loop. We are seeking your continued support in trying to resolve the Coos County transmission deficits so that renewable energy projects can be built in our economically depressed North Country.

The last paragraph of your Senate Bill 85 captures the essence of our request, "The commission's final report shall include a detailed plan of action to accomplish an upgrade of an electric transmission line in Coos County, which is capable of transmitting electrical power generated in Coos County from renewable energy source in New Hampshire to the electrical power market".

We understand from the principals of projects that have dropped out of the ISO-NE Queue that their decision to withdraw was largely due to a lack of interest at the state level for upgrading the transmission lines. Based on the meetings that you personally have attended in Coos County, we know that you have advocated for the upgrade and we are urging you to continue to promote this initiative.

SB85 authorizes the expenditure of up to \$200,000 for a consultant to complete the necessary economic studies and to develop the framework for a plan to upgrade our transmission loop. It is our hope that at your meeting on November 20, 2009 the Commission will seek proposals from qualified consultants to advance this project.

We continue to appreciate the focus that you, a Senator from the Seacoast, have devoted to the critical economic needs of Coos County. Your Commission has the opportunity to help transform the future of Coös County with a solution that is promising and practical.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Burnham A. Judd

Chairman

Vice-Chair

Cc: Thomas B. Getz, PUC Chairman

Thomas M. Brady

COMMISSIONERS