



CITY OF BERLIN

Office of the Mayor

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NH Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429
Docket #DE 10-195

October 6, 2010

Dear PUC Commissioners,

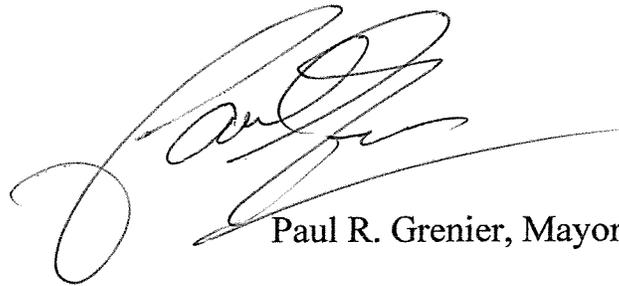
I am writing this letter to you in my official capacity as Mayor of the City of Berlin. First of all, I want to thank you for your service to the citizens of New Hampshire. Issues that you face on a daily basis are difficult and complicated, and interpreting law is never a simple task. I also commend you for conducting the September 29th hearing in a manner that allowed all parties to have their say.

When I presented myself to the voters of Berlin last fall, I made my positions on economic development very clear and concise. I fully supported the proposed Laidlaw Berlin Biopower project in the belief that it is in the very best interest of our citizens. The direct employment opportunities, the enormity of the economic benefits to our local economy in terms wood fuel purchases and procurement would have an immediate longterm favorable impact to all of Coos County. It was an election that saw Berlin's voters agree with my positions on the Laidlaw project by a 60-40% margin. The vast majority of the community can see the obvious benefits, as does most of the elected local and state officials.

The proposed power purchase agreement (PPA) between NH's largest utility, PSNH, and Laidlaw Berlin Biopower, is before you for consideration. It is also the last remaining item for regulatory review. You are tasked with determining if the terms of the agreement are in the best interests of New Hampshire's ratepayers, not competing power producers who will still do very well in NH's unregulated business environment. This review process needs to be diligent and thorough, but in light of the recent announcement that 240 residents and taxpayers jobs are in real jeopardy of being lost, I plead that an expedited decision process takes place.

As you have heard many times before, Coos County has the lowest per capita income in New Hampshire, has the highest county tax burden, has the highest median age of any county in New Hampshire, and traditionally has the highest unemployment rates in the state. This situation was not always the case when a healthy forest industry was dominant in Coos County. Approval of the PSNH PPA is not a cure all. It will take hard work and time to rebuild and reposition Coos County's economy away from total dependence of the forest. But trees will always play an important role. Given the utilities requirements of RSA 362-F and the dire economic realities families in Coos County face every day, I urge you again to approve PSNH's request to purchase power from Laidlaw.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul R. Grenier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul R. Grenier, Mayor