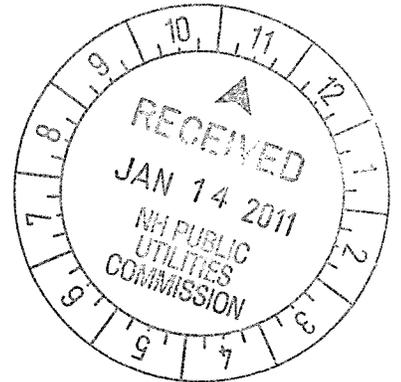


January 12, 2011

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord NH 03301



RE: Docket #DE10-195

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing in support of the PSNH/Laidlaw Berlin biopower purchase agreement and urge that you review and approve the agreement as expeditiously as possible. This project has currently qualified for \$43.5 million of new market tax credits which includes \$2.5 million that will flow into the City of Berlin and establish a revolving loan fund and direct grants. This is so important for the City of Berlin as well as the economic development that will be realized through the construction of the facility itself. In order for us to realize this revolving grant fund, the financing for this project must be concluded expeditiously. As noted earlier, the economic development is so important as many people realize how hard Coos County and Berlin, in particular, has been hit by the recession and the evolving situation with the paper industry here in the North Country. It is estimated that over 400 jobs will be created during the construction period and, subsequent to that, up to a potential of 225 direct and indirect jobs, which is vital to the redevelopment of Berlin. The monetary flow of \$70-\$80 million of construction costs, as well as the long-term impact, is of utmost importance.

There are other reasons as well that are worthy of mention, including what Laidlaw may do to assist the current paper mill in the community, as well as the stipulation agreements that they have recently concluded with the City of Berlin. Being involved in health care, as Chief Executive Officer of Androscoggin Valley Hospital, I recognize the positive impact this could have on the sustainability of our healthcare system. I again ask you for an expedited decision relative to this project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell G. Keene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Russell G. Keene
9 Woodward Street
Berlin NH 03570

RGK:mll