

DE11-184



# State of New Hampshire

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**JOHN H. LYNCH**  
Governor

August 22, 2011



Mr. Thomas Getz, Chairman  
and Commissioners  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Getz and Members of the Commission:

I write in support of the Power Purchase Agreements submitted by Public Service Company of New Hampshire and five wood-fired, biomass power plants (Independent Power Producers). The power contracts and the accompanying settlement agreement will facilitate the construction of the Berlin BioPower project and provide important benefits to our state and its economy, and I urge you to approve them.

Our state has a long history of supporting renewable energy. Biomass plants and other renewable energy sources have been operating in New Hampshire for decades. In 2007, we enacted the Renewable Portfolio Standard to further encourage the development of renewable energy resources here in our state. In addition to the environmental benefits, biomass power plants provide good jobs to New Hampshire citizens in rural areas of the state and help to support a healthy forest products industry. In addition to people directly employed by the plants, the operation of the wood-fired power plants helps to indirectly support hundreds of jobs and numerous small businesses through purchases of fuel and other materials.

Given the state of the energy market today, it has become difficult for small wood-fired plants to continue to operate without the stability of contracts to sell their power to a utility company. The Power Purchase Agreements address a short-term problem in a measured and responsible way. The petition and settlement agreement will also allow the Berlin BioPower project to go forward, which is an important step forward for economic development in Coos County. I believe it is in the public interest for the Commission to approve the power contracts and the settlement agreement so that the Independent Power Producers can bring stability to their businesses as they weather these difficult economic times, and Berlin BioPower, LLC may become a reality. New Hampshire will be best served by the Commission's expeditious approval of these agreements.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John H. Lynch  
Governor