

DE 11-184



MADISON LUMBER MILL
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September 20, 2011

Ms. Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket# DE 11-184

Dear Secretary Howland,

I am the Log Procurement Forester for Madison Lumber Mill (MLM), Inc. located in Madison, NH. MLM is a fully integrated White Pine sawmill producing 17 million board feet of high quality White Pine lumber. We directly employ 55 people at the mill. We work closely with over 50 loggers who supply us with our logs. I am writing in support of the power purchase agreements being considered in docket# DE 11-184. These agreements clear the way for the development of new biomass markets in New Hampshire and provide much needed short-term power purchase agreements for five of the existing biomass power plants. These low grade markets are critical to New Hampshire's forest products industry, New Hampshire's economy and MLM's future.

The Independent Power Producers (IPP's), and their utilization of low-grade wood, is critical to the health of our forests and forest products industry. According to US Forest Service inventory data, NH's forests are dominated by poor quality fiber (two thirds of standing inventory). This poor quality inventory is contained in poor quality trees, as well as the tops of trees containing high value products such as sawlogs and veneer. Landowners, foresters and loggers must have markets for low grade material in order to improve the health, vigor and quality of New Hampshire's forests. Without the adequate low grade markets supplied by the IPP's, loggers would be unable to economically harvest most woodlots, resulting in a shortage of sawlogs and veneer. This shortage would severely restrict logging and sawmill activity leading to lost jobs in the sawmill and logging industry. A loss of biomass markets would also lead to poor forest management having significant negative long term impacts to the health, quality and vigor of New Hampshire's forests.

As a NH Licensed Forester, sawmill employee, and NH citizen, I urge you to approve the proposed agreements.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Witt, Sr.
Log Procurement Forester



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