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City of Dover, New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

January 28, 2013

Ms. Debora Howland
Executive Director
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street - Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Subject: Dover Mills Partnership Waiver Request.

Dear Director Howland,

It is with pleasure that I write to you to today in support of the request of the Dover Mills Partnership to receive a waiver of the PUC's Master Metering rule #303.02. This waiver would allow the installation of one meter socket for the apartments at the **Cocheco Falls Mill** complex. In speaking with the owner, Mr. Chinburg, I understand that this approach will allow for the provision of energy efficient electricity, heat and hot water to 120 residential units being added to this former mill, located in downtown Dover.

You may be aware that this mill and the adjacent Washington Street Mill, both owned and operated by Dover Mills Partnership, are great examples of the economic revitalization that Dover has been working towards over the past twenty years. These two downtown symbols of economic growth act as anchors for an increasingly vibrant urban core. It continues to be my hope that through the infusion of residential opportunity downtown, we will see more commercial growth and activity in downtown Dover, and that this residential growth will inspire other rehabilitation and reuse of similar buildings. In addition, for the building to be successful, it also must be energy efficient. This is an important standard we wish to see in our adaptive reuse of buildings, and I'd hope from a planning perspective that we can point to this reuse as a template for future growth in Dover.

As you can well imagine Dover's mills drove its prosperity, not just in the 1850s, but also in the 1990s. When the mill complexes have enjoyed high occupancy levels the rest of Dover's downtown prospered. We have seen a slow down when the office users in the mill have reduced and we are pleased to see the replacement of this office space with 120 apartment units that will have a strong marketability and desire. We expect to see these units make a tangible and significant contribution to the vibrancy and economy of Dover's core.

This waiver will allow a viable and efficient way forward for this important Dover development. I am happy to answer any questions regarding my support for this waiver, or to assist in any other way. Thank you for your consideration of the waiver request.

Sincerely,


Christopher G. Parker, AICP
Director of Planning and Community Development

CC (via email): Brint Shone
Geoff Spitzer

