

The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

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August 10, 2010

NPUCARELL TO ATOPA

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

RE: Docket DE 10-195

Dear Ms. Howland:

Please accept this letter in support of the proposed purchase power agreement between Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) and Laidlaw Berlin BioPower LLC (Laidlaw).

As the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission is aware, the New Hampshire Legislature has passed several laws to mandate the purchase of renewable energy by New Hampshire utilities. The foundation of this public policy is New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law, which mandates that New Hampshire electric utilities purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) from eligible renewable energy facilities. It is my understanding that the agreement between PSNH and Laidlaw includes the purchase of RECs, and largely satisfies PSNH's Class I requirements under the RPS law. Because of this, I believe approval of this purchase power agreement is consistent with the Legislature's intent under the RPS law.

In addition, one of the guiding purposes of the RPS law is that "the use of renewable energy technologies and fuels can also help to keep energy and investment dollars in the state to benefit our own economy". To that end, PSNH's purchase power agreement will provide the economic foundation for the development of a key in-state renewable energy generating facility and will ensure that the economic benefits are maximized by directing renewable energy funds to an in-state project.

A critical economic benefit of renewable energy development is job creation, and approval of this agreement and development of the Laidlaw project will create hundreds of jobs in northern New Hampshire. According to the economic data developed by Dr. Shapiro, approximately 470 jobs will be created in the construction phase of this project, and approximately 240 jobs will be created to support the operation of the facility and the harvesting of wood fuel. Given that Coos County's unemployment rate far exceeds the

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unemployment rates in other counties and the state's unemployment rate, these jobs are critical to the economic stability and future growth of the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and I encourage the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's support of this contract.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bradley

New Hampshire State Senate - District 3

JB/dac

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