



Coös County Commissioners' Office

P.O. Box 10
West Stewartstown, N.H. 03597
603-246-3321
fax: 603-246-8117

September 9, 2010

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



RE: _____ Docket# DE 10-195

Dear Ms. Howland:

The Coös County Commissioners formally voted on September 8, 2010 to urge the Public Utilities Commission to review and approve the PSNH – Laidlaw Berlin Biopower purchase agreement as promptly as possible.

Laidlaw's project financing must close by the end of the year to take advantage of New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) totaling \$43.5 million. As part of the NMTC agreement, Laidlaw has made a commitment to establish a \$500,000 fund that will be directed by the NH CDFA for use in the Berlin area.

Coös County is still reeling from the loss of timber industry jobs due to mill closings in Berlin and Northumberland as well as the closing of Ethan Allen, Inc. which employed over 50% of its workforce from northern Coös County. The jobs that will be created by the Laidlaw Berlin Biopower project are estimated to peak at 300 jobs during the 2 year construction period, with a permanent increase of 40 direct and 200 indirect jobs when complete. Both the short and long term economic impacts of this project will once again infuse this County with much needed life blood from our renewable forests.

Additionally, Laidlaw has agreed to supply hot water to the Fraser Paper Mill in Gorham and it is our goal to keep this "last of the Mohicans" mill open, productive and profitable. Papermaking is an industry that has defined Coös County for over a century and your approval of the power agreement is an essential piece of the Coös County economic structure.

The Laidlaw assets will add to the tax base of Berlin which seriously declined when the Burgess Paper mill was dismantled. Berlin is Coös County's only city and a stronger Berlin means a stronger Coös County.

Once again, we urge you to act favorably on the Laidlaw BioPower, LLC petition for approval of its Power Purchase Agreement with Public Service of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Burnham A. Judd
Chairman

COMMISSIONERS