



## Raymond S. Burton

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*Executive Councilor  
District One*

September 9, 2010



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

### **RE: Docket DE 10-195**

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am writing in support of the proposed purchase power agreement between Public Service of New Hampshire and Laidlaw Berlin BioPower LLC. I believe this contract provides benefits to Laidlaw Berlin BioPower, the citizens of northern New Hampshire and customers of PSNH, and I urge the NH Public Utilities Commission to give this matter timely consideration and approval.

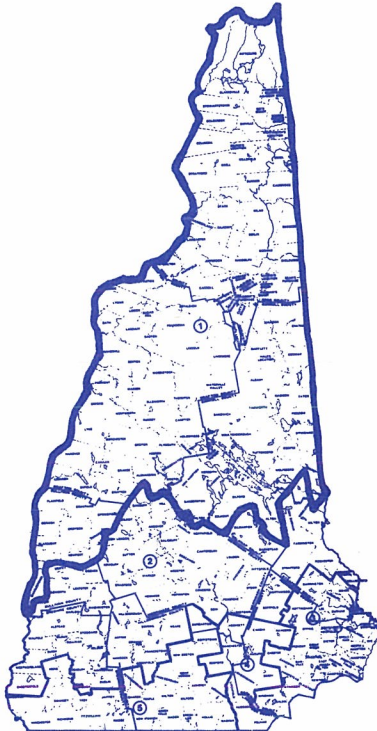
Laidlaw's Berlin biomass project will bring considerable economic benefits to northern New Hampshire in terms of construction jobs, jobs operating the facility and forest jobs providing biomass fuel for the plant. Economic estimates suggest that investments in the project will create approximately 470 direct and indirect jobs during construction of the plant, and it can be anticipated that many of these jobs will be in the Berlin region. In addition, it is estimated that approximately 240 jobs will be supported either directly or indirectly during the operation of this facility. However, approval of the PSNH/Laidlaw purchase power agreement is critical to the successful development of this project and realizing the jobs and economic development opportunities associated with the project.

This agreement will also provide benefits to PSNH's customers by providing a cost effective source of renewable power. The State of New Hampshire has placed a number of requirements on PSNH and other NH utilities mandating the purchase of renewable energy, and this contract is consistent with those mandates. Further, PSNH should be acknowledged for their efforts to support an in-state renewable energy project through this purchase power agreement, and helping facilitate the many economic benefits, specifically NH jobs, associated with this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Considerable work has been put into this purchase power agreement to ensure value to both parties, and I encourage your support of this contract.

Sincerely,

Raymond S. Burton  
Executive Councilor



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