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*Executive Councilor
District One*

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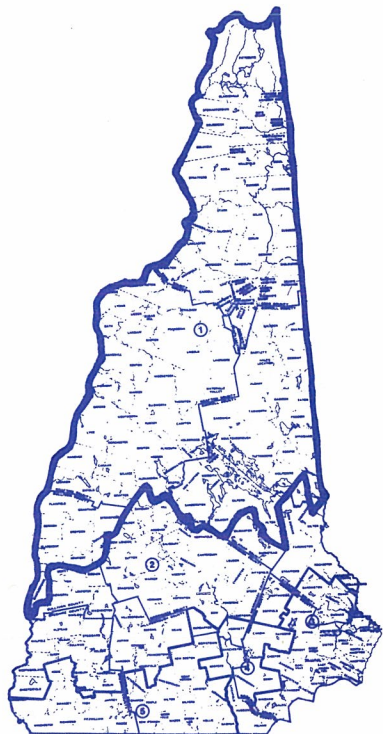
Ms. Debra A. Howland, Ex. Director & Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: Docket DE 10-195

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am writing to urge the NH Public Utilities Commission to reconsider its decision to require Public Service of New Hampshire and Laidlaw to disclose the terms of their proposed purchase power agreement. This unprecedented decision by the NHPUC may not only compromise the successful development of Laidlaw's biomass project in Berlin, NH but could delay the creation of much needed jobs in northern New Hampshire and cast doubt on future energy contracts in New Hampshire.

The State of New Hampshire provides considerable resources to the NHPUC and the Office of the Consumer Advocate to ensure they have the expertise to make decisions on the public's behalf on matters related to energy. These agencies are also expected to make their decisions in a manner that protects the normal business actively in our state's energy markets. By requiring PSNH and Laidlaw to publically disclose the terms of a private contract, the NHPUC has ignored its responsibility to electric customers to act as their experts on these matters, and has also compromised normal business operations in the electricity market by requiring the release of sensitive business information into a competitive electric generation market.



Towns in Council District #1

CARROLL COUNTY:

Albany, Bartlett, Chatham, Conway, Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Hart's Loc., Jackson, Madison, Moultonborough, Ossipee, Sandwich, Tamworth, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, Wolfeboro,

GRAFTON COUNTY:

Alexandria, Ashland, Bath, Benton, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Bristol, Campton, Canaan, Dorchester, Easton, Ellsworth, Enfield, Franconia, Grafton, Groton, Hanover, Haverhill, Hebron, Holderness, Landaff, Lebanon, Lincoln, Lisbon, Livermore, Littleton, Lyman, Lyme, Monroe, Orange, Orford, Piermont, Plymouth, Rumney, Sugar Hill, Thornton, Warren, Waterville Valley, Wentworth, Woodstock

BELKNAP COUNTY:

Alton, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, Tilton

COOS COUNTY:

Berlin, Carroll, Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Dalton, Dixville, Dummer, Errol, Gorham, Jefferson, Lancaster, Milan, Millsfield, Northumberland, Pittsburg, Randolph, Shelburne, Stewartstown, Stark, Stratford, Whitefield

SULLIVAN COUNTY:

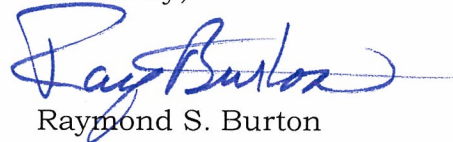
Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish, Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee

The NHPUC may not be aware that northern New Hampshire, and specifically Berlin, was recently dealt another economic blow with the closing of the Fraser Mill. In light of this, the parties involved in this matter requested that the NHPUC act in an expedited manner in hopes of jump starting this project and the hundreds of jobs associated with it. Given the likelihood of additional appeals that will result from this unprecedented decision, the NHPUC's actions have jeopardized the ability of the state to act quickly on this matter.

Finally, the NHPUC's decision could have far reaching impacts on electric customers by discouraging energy developers from conducting business in New Hampshire. If the terms of business agreements must be released to competitors, energy developers are likely to take their business to others states.

Considering the far reaching negative consequences that are likely to result from this decision, I ask that the NHPUC reconsider its decision and utilize its expertise to decide the appropriateness of the PSNH/Laidlaw contract.

Sincerely,



Raymond S. Burton
Executive Councilor

Cc: Governor John Lynch