

Coös County Commissioners' Office

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July 9, 2010

Mr. Thomas Burack, Chairman
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

**RE: Laidlaw BioPower, LLC
Docket No. 2009-02
Wood Supply**

Dear Chairman Burack:

On behalf of the Coös County Board of Commissioners I am writing in response to pre-trial testimony submitted by Clean Power Development dated May 26, 2010. Clean Power President Mel Liston states that the Laidlaw BioPower project would “negatively affect the orderly development of the region or the environmental integrity of our working forest”.

The Coös County Commissioners strongly dispute Mr. Liston’s statement. Our Board and the members of the Coös County Legislative Delegation have diligently and carefully looked at several reliable studies released on the North Country timber supply.

The North Country Council and the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development released a study on the availability of low grade timber in Coös County in November, 2008. The study was conducted by LandVest, Inc. For the study LandVest selected Berlin as the likely location for a hypothetical wood-using facility to help define the “wood basket” for the area. The report concluded that there are approximately 640,000 green tons of low-grade wood available in the study area with a possible range as high as 1 million green tons.

This wood supply issue was discussed further at a Coös County Delegation meeting on February 6, 2010 with Mr. Sam Stoddard who served as Coös County Forester, UNH Cooperative Extension for over 19 years. When asked the following question, “*Sam, knowing that for generations forests in this county have been able to produce millions of tons of wood that supplied our pulp and paper mills, do you now believe that these forests can still produce enough wood fiber to meet the projected needs of the biomass plants now under consideration in the county as well as any district heating systems that may be constructed in the future while maintaining a healthy and sustainable supply of wood?*” Mr. Stoddard replied a definite “yes”.

COMMISSIONERS

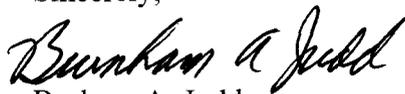
BURNHAM A. JUDD, PITTSBURG • PAUL R. GRENIER, Berlin • THOMAS M. BRADY, JEFFERSON

Mr. Liston and his associate, Mr. William Gabler, representing Clean Power Development have an economic interest in objecting to the NH Site Evaluation Committee granting a certificate of site and facility to Laidlaw BioPower.

It is our Board's sound claim that the issuance of the certificate of site and facility to Laidlaw BioPower, LLC will be a catalyst for job creation, not only for the Berlin-Gorham region, but also for all of the working forests of Coös County and abutting regions. The vast forests of Coös County have been its economic engine for over 150 years and through responsible wood fiber procurement, these abundant renewable resources will play a vital role in Coös County's emergence from severe economic distress. The 40 direct jobs that the Laidlaw plant will create coupled with the hundreds of jobs offsite in harvesting, procurement and related industries added to the millions of dollars of new property value in Berlin make this project the most important new economic development plan in Coös County for over a generation.

My fellow County Commissioners and I urge the NH Site Evaluation Committee to approve the Laidlaw BioPower, LLC project. The Laidlaw BioPower project would most positively affect the orderly development of the region and return our forests to their historical use as working forests.

Sincerely,



Burham A. Judd
Chairman