

Coös County Commissioners' Office

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

February 10, 2010

NH DEPT. OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FEB 10 2010

RECEIVED

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
Site Evaluation Committee
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Application of Laidlaw BioPower, LLC: Docket No. 2009-02

Dear Chairman Burack:

This letter is written in response to your order dated January 26, 2010 accepting the Laidlaw BioPower, LLC application for Certificate of Site and Facility for a 70 MW Biomass Fueled Energy facility in Berlin.

The Coös County Commissioners wish to notify the Committee that they are in full support of this project. Historically, Coös County's renewable forests served as the engine for a solid economy. That past economic base built on the pulp and paper industry has essentially faded away during the last few years and to put it simply, Coös County is hurting right now.

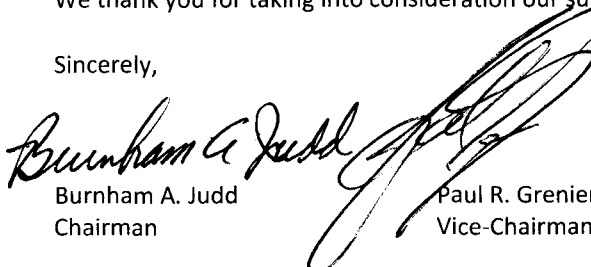
The well paying jobs that the Laidlaw BioMass facility will generate in the woods, at the new facility, and in small businesses that support the timber harvesting industry will go a long way to help revive our North Country economy. The unemployment rate in Coös County today is 9.3%. Certainly re-training of former employees of the mills and the forests is on-going but many of our citizens have worked in timber harvesting and trucking for years; it is a way of life that they long to return to. That opportunity exists for them if the Laidlaw facility is permitted and built.

The project fits well with Governor Lynch's executive order which proclaimed that by 2025, New Hampshire would be providing 25% of its energy requirements from renewable sources. Additionally, Laidlaw's capital investment of millions of dollars in a generating facility will improve the property tax base in Berlin and Coös County resulting in a reduction in the property tax burden on the average home and small business owner. This, with the approval of your committee, will take place without environmental degradation and harm to our growing tourism industry.

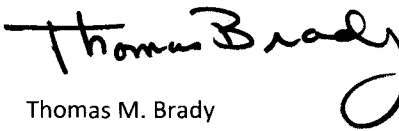
We encourage members of your designated subcommittee to approve the application expeditiously so that construction can begin at the earliest future date possible.

We thank you for taking into consideration our supporting remarks on the Laidlaw project.

Sincerely,


Burnham A. Judd
Chairman

Paul R. Grenier
Vice-Chairman


Thomas M. Brady
Clerk

COMMISSIONERS

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