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August 12, 2010

Deborah Howland
Executive Director & Secretary
NHPUC
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket Number DE10-195 (Laidlaw Berlin BioPower Project)

Dear Ms. Howland,

This letter is being provided to express full support for the Laidlaw Berlin BioPower, LLC biomass project in Berlin and request the PUC's approval of all necessary regulatory requirements. The Androscoggin Valley Economic Recovery Corporation (AVER) is extremely supportive of the effort to bring the Laidlaw project to completion for the substantial economic benefits that it would create for the region. AVER along with its partners have worked for years to help create economic development and jobs in the region. The retention and creation of jobs in our region and Coos County has been a priority for AVER. One of the primary messages we have heard from our community was the desire to create good paying jobs with benefits and jobs that would not be lost to China or other overseas foreign competition. Biomass energy facilities, including Laidlaw's and Clean Power's, satisfy these requirements. Biomass energy facilities in essence "manufacture" electrons which currently cannot be imported from overseas. This project would displace foreign imported oil and help reduce the region's high level of unemployment especially in the forest products industry. It is estimated that the Laidlaw project would create over 240 jobs without considering multiplier effects. Laidlaw would be purchasing over \$20,000,000 annually of wood product from local and regional wood products suppliers. The Androscoggin Valley and all of Coos County have enormous potential for the development of the renewable alternative energy industry. The Laidlaw biomass project contributes significantly to the orderly development of the alternative energy industry in the region. In order to achieve this economic development, approval by the PUC is required and AVER is advocating for and supporting such approval.

As the Chair of the Community EFSEC Advisory Committee, a community advisory committee formed to address the residents' concerns about the Laidlaw project, we reviewed all of the issues raised. All of the issues had manageable solutions and in addition Laidlaw would provide substantial community benefits.

We believe the long-term success of this project will impact the regional economy favorably and will help to sustain and create jobs and move New Hampshire forward in the renewable energy arena. Thank you for your favorable consideration of this very positive and worthwhile project.

Sincerely yours,

Max Makaitis
Androscoggin Valley Economic Development Director