



September 20, 2011

Ms. Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429



RE: Docket#DE 11-184

Dear Secretary Howland,

Cousineau Forest Products is a wood brokerage and procurement firm located in Henniker, NH. We currently sell more than 200,000 tons annually to the Independent Power Producers (IPP's) of New Hampshire and work with over 100 local logging companies. We would like to express our support for the power purchase agreements being considered in docket # DE 11-184. The work we do with the IPP's of New Hampshire and the local logging contractors is a large part of our business and is critically important to us and to our customers.

The IPP's are also of critical importance to New Hampshire's forests and to the forest products economy of our state including landowners and thousands of our fellow citizens who make their living at these facilities or in related industries such as logging, trucking and many others. Regardless of where you live in New Hampshire chances are you have family members or friends who work in the forest products industry and depend on the income they receive from these jobs.

The power purchase agreements being considered for the IPP's of New Hampshire will enable these facilities to continue to operate and will clear the way for the development of new biomass markets in New Hampshire. According to the US Forest Service two thirds of our standing timber inventory is considered low grade forest residue which is unsuitable for lumber production. It is essential that we have plentiful and vibrant markets in New Hampshire for forest residues in order to maintain the health of our forests and to make it economically feasible for loggers to conduct timber stand improvements which meet the goals and objectives of landowners and provide valuable saw timber to local mills. The IPP's provide a large market for these forest residues.

If these markets were to disappear it would lead to significant curtailment of logging activity in New Hampshire and would restrict the availability of logs for our local sawmills. It would also lead to poor forest management practices which would have a negative impact on the health of our forests. We of the forest products industry of New Hampshire are counting on the Public Utilities Commission to make the right decision by supporting the proposed power purchase agreements.

Sincerely,

Jon Baker
Operations & Wood Procurement Manager
Cousineau Forest Products