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From: Max Makaitis [mailto:kjmakaitis@ncic.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 4:02 PM
To: Fuller Clark, Martha
Cc: Laura Richerdson
Subject: North Country Transmission Commission

Dear Senator Fuller Clark,

The inclusion of "Community Benefits" in the RFP for the consultant would divert resources from the commission's stated objective "to develop a plan for the expansion of transmission capacity in the north country". In section 1. (I) of SB 85 the bill does require that the committee to include "Community benefits" "as part of deliberation and as part of the final framework." However, section 3. (III) of SB 85 does not specifically require that the consultant evaluate "community benefits". Rather section 3. (III) requires the consultant to "complete any necessary economic studies to contribute to any such studies and for developing the framework for a plan to upgrade the Coos county transmission loop." There is no specific mention of "community benefits" in the consultant section. Clearly "community benefits" are a responsibility of the commission but not necessarily the requirement of the consultant.

The complicating problem here is that "community benefits" was never defined. The only legislative definition of "community benefits" is contained in SB 69 and that definition relates exclusively to health benefits. That may not be what is intended here. From an economic development perspective "community Benefits" means the creation of good paying jobs with benefits. "Community benefits" need to be clearly and narrowly defined if they are to be included in the RFP at all.

The need here is for the consultant to evaluate and recommend possible cost allocation alternatives which will enable us to reach the President's and the Governor's stated objective of increasing renewable energy in our state.

Respectfully,

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