

Commissioners:  
MICHAEL DONEEN  
T. JAMES DAVIS  
N M. HEMINGER

Chief Executive Officer/Manager:  
WILLIAM C. DOBBINS

Public Utility District  No. 1 of Douglas County

1151 Valley Mall Parkway • East Wenatchee, Washington 98802-4497 • 509/884-7191 • FAX 509/884-0553

January 17, 2003

The Honorable Greg Nickels  
Mayor, City of Seattle  
600 Fifth Avenue  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Attn: Regina LaBelle

Dear Mayor Nickels:

I am the Manager of Douglas County PUD in central Washington. We serve about 16,000 electric customers and are the licensee of the Wells Hydroelectric Project on the Columbia River. As a result of our being a public generator of electricity, we have many interests in common with the electric system serving the City of Seattle. Our utilities work together on those common interests in an association known as the Public Generating Pool (PGP). I serve with your Superintendent, Gary Zarker, on the administrative committee of the PGP. Our relationship with Mr. Zarker and Seattle City Light through the PGP has been very positive.

I understand that Mr. Zarker is in the process of being reconfirmed as Superintendent of City Light. I am writing to endorse Mr. Zarker and to recommend his reconfirmation from my position as his peer in the industry. When Gary became Superintendent, he was an accomplished budget professional for the City of Seattle. I remember some of Gary's first sessions with the PGP in Washington D.C. as he quickly came to grips with the scope of the issues facing our industry. He has proven to be a quick study and a steady partner as we work complex issues on behalf of our consumers. Gary has proven to be a respected and able provider of testimony on behalf of City Light and our PGP alliance. It is essential that we keep Gary's skills in the mix as we continue through this turbulent time in our industry.

It is no secret that some utilities have had difficult times over the past two years. It is common to hear some second-guessing going on in these times. From my perspective as a utility manager, Gary Zarker has done the things necessary to guide Seattle through these tough times. I believe Gary will continue to provide able value to City Light by being a stable force promoting customer service and strong regional relationships. With the uncertainty resulting from FERC's misguided initiatives, we need the strong leadership Gary brings to our collective Public Power efforts.

We at Douglas PUD support Gary Zarker in his role as Superintendent at City Light and encourage you to reconfirm him in that position.

Sincerely,



William C. Dobbins  
CEO/Manager

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