



City of Austin

Austin's Municipally Owned Electric Utility

Town Lake Center 721 Barton Springs Road • Austin, Texas 78704-1194 • (512) 322-9600

January 17, 2003

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

Dear Mayor Nickels:

I am writing this letter in support of Gary Zarker's reconfirmation as Superintendent of Seattle City Light. I encourage you to consider how important it is to maintain continuity in leadership during these extremely dynamic, yet tenuous, times in the electric industry.

Under Mr. Zarker's tenure, Seattle City Light's strong environmental leadership has set the standard for public power companies and the entire electric industry in general. Seattle City Light is the first major utility to meet all energy needs with "zero net" greenhouse gas emissions and to meet all load growth through conservation and renewables. Further, Seattle City Light's conservation program has avoided over 3 million tons of carbon dioxide between 1977 and 2002.

Austin Energy appreciates the partnership we have with Seattle City Light, and we are grateful for the collaboration on important national electric issues. We look forward to working with Mr. Zarker and Seattle City Light on addressing the pressing issues affecting public power, and especially in the realm of setting environmental policy.

Sincerely,

Juan Garza
General Manager
Austin Energy