



Washington
Public
Utility
Districts
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CITY OF SEATTLE
MAYOR'S OFFICE

January 23, 2003

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

Attn: Regina LaBelle

Dear Mayor Nickels,

I am writing in support of the reconfirmation of Gary Zarker as Superintendent of Seattle City Light. I have known Gary from the time he became Superintendent. During these years we have worked closely on state, regional and national issues important to public power. Taken together the PUDs serve almost one third of the state's citizens, and SCL is the states largest municipal utility. By sharing common principles and interests we have been effective partners.

I have found Gary to be an essential leader in our common effort. His commitment to the customers interests, skill in managing the issues we face, and the respect members of Congress and other public officials have for him, have not only benefited SCL, but the Washington PUDs and the rest of public power.

Gary has worked closely with us on issues such as the effort by the aluminum companies to get a "special deal" from BPA during the energy crisis of 2000-2001. Their plan would have raised rates to SCL and the PUDs. More recently we have mounted a very large effort to protect our utilities from the misguided attempts by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to impose a radical market system, in place of this region's historic cost based system. In all of these efforts, Gary has taken the initiative to organize public power.

I know the managers and commissioners I work with share the view that Gary is a valuable and trusted partner in addressing complex and important regional energy issues.

I work for 28 utility managers whose jobs are similar to Gary's. I have gained a sense over the years of how good a job these very capable people do. I believe that Gary is as good a manager as any of them.

This is a very challenging time for electric utilities and their customers. My members and I need someone at the head of SCL we can look to as a trusted partner and leader. We need Gary Zarker as an ally and collaborator in this effort.

I recommend in the strongest terms that Gary Zarker be reconfirmed as Superintendent of Seattle City Light.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Johnson
Executive Director

SJ/sw