



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Department of Electrical Engineering

January 14, 2003

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

The purpose of this letter is to provide my support and recommendation for Gary Zarker, the Superintendent of Seattle City Light. Professionally, I am a faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Washington. I am writing this letter in a capacity of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEEE) Power Engineering Society (PES) Seattle Chapter Chair. The Seattle Chapter of IEEE PES includes about 300 members. Majority of all active power engineers maintain their membership in IEEE PES. The role of the society is to provide professional growth opportunities, community visibility, education outreach, and advanced research facilitation, worldwide.

Historically, IEEE PES Seattle Chapter has been a strong and vital organization, but there has been a decline several years ago. When I became a Chair about one year ago, its operations were halted and there were many concerns in the region about this situation. It was with the help from Seattle City Light (as well as several other utilities), that we were able to start an intensive new vital program. The Chapter relies on Seattle City Light in helping to organize presentations, workshops, student tours, and conferences. We receive help from volunteers and venues for our meetings. Sometimes, these activities are strenuous and require cooperation of top officials in the organization. Gary Zarker has been very helpful in breaking administrative barriers, providing authorization and support for his subordinates, and helping to shape career choices for young professionals in the region. Of course, on many occasions these functions are performed not by him directly but by Seattle City Light employees.

Seattle City Light has also supported a large number of projects, in which the society members were involved. Although there is not enough space for a comprehensive list, I would like to give an example. The projects of SCL with American Public Power Association Demonstration of Energy-Efficient Developments program provide basis for novel environmentally friendly power technologies, provided scholarships for university students, and won several research awards, from local to international level.

In conclusion, I would like to state that Gary Zarker is an excellent Superintendent and I hope to see him serving the regional needs for reliably power supply, healthy power market, and exciting work environment for power engineering professionals.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (206) 221-5729, fax (206) 543-3842, or email [mamishv@ee.washington.edu](mailto:mamishv@ee.washington.edu).

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Alexander Mamishev  
IEEE PES Seattle Chapter Chair  
Assistant Professor, University of Washington