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

Dear Greg:

I hope it is not too late to add my personal endorsement of Gary Zarker's reconfirmation as Superintendent of Seattle City Light.

As you may know, I have been a full-time electric power lawyer in the Pacific Northwest (and in other parts of the country) since 1975, in addition to having lived in Seattle all my life. As a City Light ratepayer, I have of course witnessed and been a part of the "domestic policy" aspects of City Light's business. But unlike most City Light ratepayers, I have also been at the table in many, if not most, of City Light's "foreign affairs" activities during this same period – namely, City Light's participation in the development and implementation of regional power policies.

My firm's Northwest power clients have included aluminum producers, public utility districts, electric cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, and, on some important individual matters, the Bonneville Power Administration. I have worked on the negotiation, drafting, lobbying, enactment, and implementation of most major Northwest power legislation during the past twenty-eight (28) years, including the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning & Conservation Act of 1980. I have also worked to help protect endangered species affected by the Northwest power system, particularly salmon and steelhead. In all of this work, I have constantly brushed shoulders with City Light and its representatives – sometimes cooperatively, sometimes in a more adversarial manner – for most of the past three decades. Among those representatives, Gary has been a standout.

If I had to count, I am sure I would find that circumstances have resulted in my being across the table from Gary on far more matters than those where we have worked together on the same side. My clients have often disagreed with him when he has acted as the City's

spokesman on regional power matters. I hope this context will add force and credibility to my recommendation. Gary is one of the great leaders City Light has been lucky enough, over the years, to have. He is honest, tough, smart, respected, thoughtful, fair, and calm in a crisis. As City Light's representative on the vitally important regional power stage, he is impressive in a way that Seattle needs and wants.

As you know, despite its importance, Seattle does not always command ungrudging respect in regional power circles, just as the United States does not always command ungrudging respect throughout the world. In these times, it is important that Seattle's representative on regional power matters enjoy even broader and deeper respect than the City itself. Gary does, because he personalizes the City's interests and he is personally effective in doing so.

These are terribly difficult times in the electric power sector throughout the nation, and certainly in the Northwest. Gary did not create these difficult times, and he has performed better during them than almost any other leader of a major electric utility. Throughout the now long-running regional crisis, his voice has been clear and people have paid careful attention to it. I have personally observed this, including with members of our all-important Congressional delegation.

Of course I wish that circumstances more frequently allowed me and my clients to speak in complete agreement with Gary and City Light. Unfortunately, that simply isn't possible all the time. But even when I have disagreed with him, I have always believed that the City is far better served by Gary than by any other currently conceivable Superintendent. As a loyal life-time Seattleite, I hope in these tough times that the City will stick with Gary and recognize his value.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if can be of any further assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Redman