



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

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January 23, 2003

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

ATTN: Regina LaBelle

RE: Superintendent of Seattle City Light

Dear Mayor Nickels:

I am writing to strongly support the reconfirmation of Gary Zarker as the Superintendent of Seattle City Light. Over the 22 years that I was with the City of Seattle, I had the opportunity to work with Gary on a wide range of issues and programs while he was the Budget Director, a senior member of Mayor Royer's Executive team, the Seattle Engineering Department Director, and in his current position as Superintendent. During my four years with the Washington State Department of Transportation, as both the Area Administrator for Seattle/North King County and an Urban Project Director, I have been involved in efforts with Gary and his staff to resolve property and project issues.

The expertise and management approach Gary has brought to each of the positions he has held has served the city well. He is a strong leader who has played a significant role in shaping and implementing new policies and programs, a keen strategist who challenges his staff to thoroughly analyze options and to think "outside of the box," a proven advocate for enhancing the environment, and a solid regional player in the very complicated world of utilities and energy. He can envision the big picture on issues while not losing sight of the needs of the customer and good customer service. He knows how to make the tough decisions and can bring a department through difficult times.

The aberration of the utility deregulation environment coupled with the abnormal weather conditions of over a year ago was unpredictable and unparalleled in Seattle City Light history. While I understand that measures have been taken to reduce future impacts, maintaining the management of the utility has a direct correlation to the utility's stability and its continuation as a strong voice at both the regional and national level. With the policy guidance of the Mayor's office and the Seattle City Council and the ongoing leadership of Gary Zarker, the utility and its ratepayers can only benefit over the long term.

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I appreciate the opportunity to lend support to the affirmation of Gary Zarker as City Light's Superintendent and look forward to the Seattle City Council's reconfirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen J. Sullivan".

Maureen J. Sullivan
Urban Project Director

cc: Heidi Wills, Seattle City Councilmember
Gary Zarker, Superintendent, Seattle City Light