



University of Connecticut
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Department of Extension

Windham County Extension
Center

January 29, 2008

Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

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CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

Subject: CSC Petition No. 834
Watertown Renewable Power, LLC
Proposed Biomass Energy Facility
Watertown, CT

Dear Chairman Caruso,

I am a Senior Extension Educator in Forestry with the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension System. I would like to express my support of the proposed Watertown Renewable Power biomass energy generating facility. The Watertown Renewable Power Project has the potential to provide significant benefits to both Connecticut's forest products industry and the health and productivity of the state's forests. The market created by the Watertown Project will support our outreach efforts promoting sound forest management practices among Connecticut's private forest owners.

Throughout my thirty year forestry career, (in fact for nearly a century), the chief impediment to timber stand improvement, habitat improvement and other valuable forest stewardship practices has been the lack of a market for small, low quality, non-timber quality trees which need to be removed from the forest. By helping to create a new market for such wood, the Watertown Project can help to finally solve this long term problem. Whether the goal is timber stand improvement, carbon sequestration, habitat improvement and diversification, or invasive species management, this market will help immeasurably.

The U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis surveys, which have been carried out periodically since the 1950s, have consistently demonstrated that our forests grow wood fiber at a significantly higher rate than we harvest it. Biomass has been accumulating in our forests for decades. Further, the timber-driven harvest patterns have created a situation where our state's forest growing stock is deteriorating in value. Species such as black birch and red maple, usually in the form of unmarketable stems that have little value economically or for wildlife, occupy more and more growing space as the oaks, cherries and sugar maples are selectively harvested. The Watertown Renewable Power Project will assist greatly in the battle to remove more of these lower value trees, thereby creating more growing space for more desirable species.

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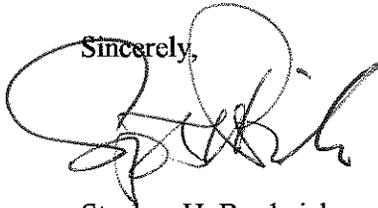
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The project also has the potential to stimulate the region's forestry industry by creating new jobs and expenditures in the local economy. A significant year-round, long-term demand for low grade wood materials will likely produce investment in new equipment and employees for the state's harvesting and wood processing industries.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to following the progress of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Broderick", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen H. Broderick
Senior Extension Educator
Forestry and Natural Resources