



## State of Connecticut

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 2, 2012

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: PURA Docket # 12-01-07

Dear Governor Malloy:

We are writing to make you aware of our strong support of the proposed Montville Biomass project at the NRG generating facility in Montville, Connecticut, and the opportunity that currently exists to finally make that project a reality in 2012

As you know, the Montville region has established deep ties to the energy industry and has benefited greatly over the years from the presence of the NRG and AES generating stations. Given the recent shutdown of the AES facility, maintaining the viability of an electric generation facility within our community is now of the utmost importance. The NRG facility has been a significant taxpayer within Montville and has continuously provided well-paying jobs and economic benefits to the region. Their proposed biomass redevelopment is an important part of our community's financial future.

We would ask that as a condition for approval of the NU-NSTAR merger, Connecticut require the companies to enter into a long term contract for new biomass generation, located in Connecticut. As you are aware, energy regulators in Massachusetts, required as a condition for the NU-NSTAR merger approval that the combined companies enter into contract with a private developers for the construction of the Cape Wind facility, which is anticipated to bring thousands of new jobs and ratepayer benefits to the residents of Massachusetts. Massachusetts's regulators also required a solar power solicitation as part of the merger settlement. In a similar merger under way in Maryland, energy regulator's approval of the Exelon-Constellation merger included conditions that will facilitate the development and construction of several hundred megawatts of new renewable generation in the state. These renewable initiatives were in addition to merger conditions that called for rate freezes and substantial credits against ratepayers' bills. A similar agreement in Connecticut could be structured to include job producing renewable energy projects that would have zero rate impacts by structuring the contract in conjunction with merger synergy savings or NU shareholder funds.

The Montville Biomass project is a fully permitted and approved, shovel ready project which converts a portion of the existing Montville Station to use green wood biomass as a fuel source for 40 megawatts (MW) of Class 1 renewable generation... The project will immediately create 100 construction jobs while preserving 38 jobs at Montville Station. Further, the project will create an additional 200+ long-term jobs in forestry, logistics and support industries, providing economic benefits to the region while reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and reducing dependence on natural gas fuel sources.

NRG recently received Class 1 certification from the DPUC for this project and, when this biomass project comes online, it will be the single largest Class 1 renewable energy resource in Connecticut and another critical step toward Connecticut reach its goal of creating 20 percent Class 1 renewable power generation by 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Representative Betsy Ritter  
38<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Tom Reynolds  
42<sup>nd</sup> District



Representative Kevin Ryan  
139<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Edith Prague  
19<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Andrea Stillman  
20<sup>th</sup> Senate District

cc: Attorney General George Jepsen  
Public Utility Regulatory Authority, Executive Secretary, Kim Santipietro