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Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 4:00 PM

To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>; Mark MacDonald <MMacDonald@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Pearson <CPearson@leg.state.vt.us>; Randy Brock <RBrock@leg.state.vt.us>; Michael Sirotkin <msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Bray <CBray@leg.state.vt.us>; Ruth Hardy <RHardy@leg.state.vt.us>; Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: [External] Ryegate Power Plant and Burlington Electric Department

[External]

Dear Representatives,

I want to express my appreciation for the Ryegate Power Station. Presently it is our only home for softwood pulp that is in roundwood or chip form on the east side of the State. This market is not a money maker for my clients but it does allow loggers we hire to remove low quality wood from the forest in the promotion of better trees. I do not believe you will find a comparable wood market that represents the harvest of such poor quality trees.

With recent closure of the paper mill in Jay, Maine, the decision of the Rumford, Maine paper mill to stop purchasing softwood pulp, and the closure of the chip plants in New Hampshire, the facility at Ryegate is our last hope for a long-term market for poor quality trees, especially white pine. The closure of this facility would be similar trying to manage a deer herd with no hunters.

I am very concerned about the fate of this plant and the logging industry in the Connecticut River Valley. I would be happy to talk with any of you about this.

Respectfully,

Markus Bradley

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