



CITY OF BERLIN
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March 10, 2021

Re: White Mountain Paper Company, Gorham NH

To Whom it May Concern,

The City of Berlin, by means of the City Council and its Mayor, are pleased to offer this letter for support for the initiatives and efforts underway by the new ownership of Gorham Paper Mill, White Mountain Paper Company.

Coos County's overall economy has been hit especially hard over the past decade with the closures of paper mills in Berlin and Northumberland, in addition to other manufacturing and timber-related industries. Preserving the history of papermaking in Coos is extremely important not only culturally, but economically, as it is at the core of many Coos County families, either directly or indirectly.

We have seen the Gorham Mill go through several ownership changes over the years, and unfortunately years of deferred maintenance and lack of investment left the Mill in a precarious situation. We were cautiously optimistic when Behrens Investment Group came forward during the bankruptcy proceedings with a plan to continue operations at the Mill, and not let one of our last paper mills head the way of liquidation.

Since the acquisition, both Evan Behrens, Founder of Behrens Investment Group, and Price Howard, CEO of White Mountain Paper Company, have provided an update on their plans, near-term and long-term, first and foremost focused on stabilizing the current operations so that the opportunity for future growth can be realized. We believe this plan will rejuvenate the Mill and offer long-term, stabilized economic benefits for its employees and the surrounding communities alike.

White Mountain Paper's plan will retain much needed employment for many hard-working individuals, many of whom have worked at the Mill for years, in addition to the potential for additional hires as plans for the addition of paper machines and co-location are further developed.

We are proud to support White Mountain Paper's efforts, and the various initiatives put forth to stabilize the Mill for on-going operations and long-term growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Grenier, Mayor

Berlin City Council