



CITY OF BERLIN

Office of the Mayor

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DATE: 06/02/2008
TO: CITIZENS AND CITY COUNCIL OF BERLIN, NH
CC:
FROM: DAVID BERTRAND, MAYOR, CITY OF BERLIN, NH
RE: BIOMASS ON THE FORMER FRASER PROPERTY

With the closing of the Fraser Pulp mill in Berlin and its subsequent demolition, the landscape of the City of Berlin has been forever changed. Along with this change in the landscape comes a one time opportunity for Berlin to chart a new course for its future and the future of its residents for generations to come. Since being elected as Mayor last November, I have talked to many of the residents of this City, and the vast majority of them are ready to embrace a new direction for our City. And they are nearly unanimous in their opposition to having a biomass facility located at the old recovery boiler on the former Fraser mill property. While most are willing to consider a biomass facility or other renewable energy facility somewhere further from the center of the City, it is quite apparent that the current biomass proposal is not what the residents of Berlin desire as the centerpiece for the former mill property. The citizens of Berlin no longer want a smokestack as the dominant feature of their downtown. As the elected Mayor of the residents of Berlin, I feel I must at this time ask the current owners of the property, North American Dismantling, to commit to other options for the future use of the property. This 120 acre property is centered in a small city where the natural surroundings make it one of the most desirable pieces of property in the North Country. The scenic resources are a key component of our future economic development, and the type of structure that currently exists, and its associated smokestack, are a detriment to our ability to pursue avenues of economic development that have the natural beauty of our surroundings as a key component.

The City of Berlin is willing to work with the current landowner to help facilitate mixed use development options that can be of benefit to all. We will continue to reach out to North American Dismantling to strive to come to some mutually beneficial outcome for both NADC and the City of Berlin. In the meantime, however, I believe that we must do what we can legitimately do within our delegated powers as a City Council to protect our community's future. Therefore, I am urging the City Council to support the proposed Zoning Amendment to establish Special Exception criteria for Energy Facilities in our Industrial/Business Zone. I urge the Council to do this in order to protect the City's future on this and any other energy facility proposed for the heart of our City. Thank you.

David Bertrand

Mayor, City of Berlin, NH

5/30/2008

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