



GBIC

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Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce

April 19, 2007

Susan M. Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05601-2701

Dear Ms. Hudson:

The Lake Chamber Regional Chamber of Commerce and Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation/Cynosure, Inc. offer our support for the East Avenue Loop Project proposed by Burlington Electric Department, Green Mountain Power and Vermont Electric Power Company. Our support is consistent with the "2007 Chamber/GBIC Energy Policy Short-Term Priority" that reads, "Support infrastructure upgrades and developments in order to maintain adequate and reliable energy systems, including the Northwest Reliability Project and other similar infrastructure improvements."

In presentations to our organizations, BED, GMP, and VELCO demonstrated the need for the EAL Project. We believe the Project's design is the lowest cost and most environmentally sound option to address Chittenden County's significant reliability concerns. Importantly, this Project was preceded by over \$25 million worth of investment in conservation and energy efficiency. Also, the utilities evaluated several transmission and non-transmission alternatives to the reliability problem, including energy conservation, generation and demand response. It was only after analysis revealed that none of those non-transmission alternatives could cost-efficiently meet reliability requirements that the Project was proposed. Additionally, the Chamber and GBIC appreciate the meaningful public outreach effort undertaken by the utilities to better understand local priorities

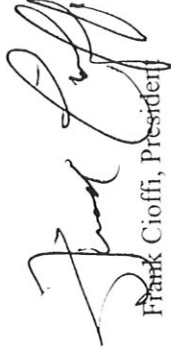
Our collective membership appreciate that, in addition to necessary reliability benefits, the East Avenue Loop Project holds the promise of removing a portion of lines and other facilities from Burlington's waterfront and of burying some newly proposed lines. Finally, we welcome the fact that the Project stays within the existing transmission corridors to minimize environmental impacts.

The Chamber and GBIC support a comprehensive energy policy that makes Vermont competitive, provides for reliable energy supplies at long-term competitive prices, and promotes cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation choices. In order to achieve these goals, however, the political and cultural landscape must adapt to allow for an environment that encourages energy infrastructure development and promotes energy efficiency. Due to the significant energy needs, we anticipate new generation, improved transmission and increased energy efficiency will be essential. The East Avenue Loop Project qualifies as an essential transmission improvement.

Sincerely,



Thomas Torti, President



Frank Cioffi, President

Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce

GBIC

Good jobs in a clean environment.

60 Main Street • Burlington, VT 05401

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