

**US Department of Energy**

AUG 12 2013

**Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability**

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US Department of Energy  
AUG 12 2013  
Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability

Brian Mills – Director, Permitting and Siting  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: OE Docket No. PP-387

August 1, 2013

Dear Brian Mills.

The purpose of this letter is to express the City of Saxman's support for Alaska Power & Telephone's (AP&T's) Soulé River Hydropower project.

This \$330m project will create substantial new jobs and supply chain expenditures in the Saxman/Ketchikan region, both during the construction period, and the 50+ year operating period.

Use of clean, renewable energy from the Soulé project to meet energy needs in the lower 48 instead of coal, LNG, and diesel-fired power plants will help protect environmental quality, public health, and subsistence resources.

The Soulé hydropower project is one of hundreds of examples of renewable energy projects available within the Tongass National Forest which can be developed for export to the continental grid. Such projects can provide residents of North America with an affordable domestic alternative to fossil fuel-based generation, while also creating new jobs and a new renewable energy export industry for residents of Southeast Alaska – an area of the nation which suffers from significant socioeconomic disparity. At present, unemployment in southeast Alaska is over 15% on average. Saxman's unemployment rate is over 25%. 90% of lands within southeast Alaska are federally owned, yet rural communities such as our own

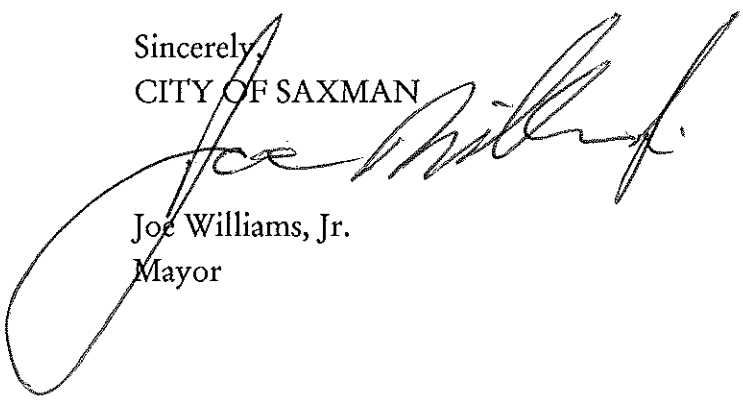
suffer from significant unemployment, socioeconomic disparity, and lack of sustainable economic opportunities due to the need for more pro-active federal policies supporting responsible development efforts.

We wish to express our support for AP&T's effort to create a new export industry for southeast Alaska, and urge federal officials to adhere to the following recommendations:

- Proceed with timely federal permitting activities, and other authorizations required to make energy produced by the Soulé hydroelectric project available to the North American electrical grid.
- Adopt measures which support, encourage, and expedite the export of southeast Alaskan hydroelectricity -- from Soulé and other projects -- to the North American electrical grid.
- Amend the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) to include: 1) a renewable energy plan allowing for active management of hydro and other renewable energy sources; and 2) a renewable energy Land Use Designation (LUD). These components of an amended TLMP should specifically address and support export of southeast Alaskan hydroelectricity from the Soulé project, and other, similar projects. The present Tongass Land Management Plan fails to recognize renewable energy as a resource within the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
CITY OF SAXMAN



Joe Williams, Jr.  
Mayor