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March 19, 2009

Representative Collin Peterson
2211 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Peterson:

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management is in need of expanding its waste to energy facility. The current capacity of the facility will run out in the year 2015. With the expansion, we would handle the municipal solid waste of two additional counties. Our two current steam customers (3M and Douglas County Hospital) are expanding and will need additional steam. Likewise the Alex Tech College is expanding and would like to become a steam user. The steam systems to 3M and the Douglas County Hospital need to be upgraded and a new steam system needs to be installed for the Alex Tech College.

Energy generated by P/D is green renewable energy. One ton of trash has the same BTU content as one barrel of crude oil so every ton of trash that we utilize in this manner means one less barrel of crude oil that needs to be imported. There are also less greenhouse gasses produced from a waste to energy plant than from a landfill. Therefore; burning waste with energy reclamation is better for the environment than land filling.

The Pope/Douglas Facility supports 1,100 jobs through 3M, the Douglas County Hospital and the Alexandria Technical College. We also employ 40 staff of our own. With this expansion we would create 10 new jobs at our facility and 3M would add an additional 40 employees to their work force.

The cost of the expansion project is \$19.4 million and with the current financial situation of local government, it would be impossible for the counties to shoulder this burden alone. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Peter Olmscheid,
Executive Director

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