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**Congress of the United States**  
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April 24, 2008

Karen Larsen, Management Analyst  
Rural Development, Electric Programs  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW, STOP 1560  
Room 5165 South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-1560

Dear Ms. Larsen,

I understand that the Maine School Administrative District #58 (MSAD 58) and Skanden Energy (Skanden) recently submitted a proposal in response to the High Energy Cost Grant Program Request for Proposals. I am pleased to support this grant application.

The proposed project focuses on a rural area of my district that is one of the hardest hit by rising energy costs and the current state of the economy. The proposal described in the grant application would provide an environmentally friendly alternative to the use of heating oil, potentially utilizing a resource in great abundance in this area.

Maine, as one of the most wooded states in the nation, has a large supply of naturally-grown, renewable fuel at our disposal. Harvested and utilized in an environmentally-sound manner this resource can prove to be an important part of the United States energy solution. Locally, wood pellets can provide an affordable and efficient source of heat.

MSAD 58 and Skanden Energy provide an innovative public-private partnering to meet the needs of this high energy cost region. The success of this project could spur further investment in the woody biomass fuel industry.

For all these reasons, it is my pleasure to strongly support this grant proposal.

With warmest regards,

Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

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