



# BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL, INC.

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June 17, 1997

Mr. Francisco Javier Blanco, Executive Director  
The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico  
Post Office Box 4747  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-4747

Dear Mr. Blanco:

I am writing to you at the request of Energy Answers Corporation. By way of introduction, I am the president of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. I am also a member of the City of Pittsfield's Solid Waste Commission, a position to which I was appointed by the Mayor of Pittsfield in 1981. Both positions have given me familiarity with Energy Answers. Additionally, I am a past member of the state Board of Environmental Management, a board member of the Environmental Lobby of Massachusetts and past president of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

For the last 30 years I have directed the Berkshire Natural Resources Council a private, non-profit land conservation trust operating in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, an area of about 900 square miles with a population of just 140,000 people. The Council was founded in 1967 for the purpose of protecting the natural resources and rural character of the county. Our work has focused on the conservation of farmlands, watershed lands, and land for public recreation and scenic enjoyment. We are supported by a primarily by a broad-based membership, by gifts and grants from "loyalists," foundations and corporations, and by funds raised through special events. Today the Council enjoys a membership of over 3,000 households, and protects nearly 6,000 acres through conservation easements or fee simple ownership. Additionally, through partnership with state conservation agencies and other non-profit conservation groups, the Council has assisted in the protection of an additional 20,000 acres.

In 1981, I was appointed by the mayor of Pittsfield to serve on the city's Solid Waste Commission. The situation at the time was critical. The city landfill was expected to reach capacity within two to three years. Creation of a new solid waste landfill elsewhere in the

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Berkshires appeared inevitable. As an alternative to this traditional and unsustainable approach, the city approved the construction of a resource recovery -- or "waste to energy" -- facility. This new facility saved landfill space, and produced steam for the nearby Crane & Co. paper manufacturing plant.

In 1990, the plant was retrofitted with air pollution control equipment to improve emissions. In 1994, the facility was purchased by Energy Answers Corporation, which has worked to improve the plant performance through methods such as the initiation of an ash processing system, which will further reduce the amount of solid waste that ultimately goes into a landfill.

Both under Energy Answers and its predecessor, Vicon Resource Recovery Associates, the resource recovery plant has paid high environmental dividends. The life of the municipal landfill has been extended by over a decade; construction of a new landfill is no longer contemplated. The threats to air, groundwater and surface water quality brought on by heavy landfill use have been reduced exponentially. Finally, by providing cleanly produced steam to Crane & Co., the facility has greatly reduced Crane's use of fossil fuels -- in this case, oil -- to produce energy.

The Energy Answers facility has helped the City of Pittsfield address its own solid waste needs, as well as those of much of the surrounding county, in a clean and progressive manner. Throughout, in my experience as a member of the Solid Waste Commission, the company has displayed a commitment to environmental protection, and has represented itself in the community honestly and reliably.

As president of the Resources Council, I have also enjoyed good relations with the company. We have been partners with the company on several initiative, including a household hazardous waste disposal event. Our communications with the company could be characterized as open and cooperative.

In short, we have found Energy Answers to have a positive impact on the community, both environmentally and fiscally. I suspect that the company could bring similar benefits to Puerto Rico.

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I wish you good luck in your continuing efforts to protect the great resources of Puerto Rico. It is my hope someday to see some of your work for myself, and I hope that if you are ever near the Berkshires, you will come to visit us. With all best wishes,

Cordially,



George S. Wislocki  
President

CC: Patrick F. Mahoney, Chairman, Energy Answers Corp.

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