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R. F. Green  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
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October 17, 2001

Fred W. Giffels  
CEO  
HGP, Inc.  
49 Greenland Drive  
Greenville, SC 29615

SUBJECT: Thanks for the Support

Dear Fred:

I decided it was time, after all these years, to let you know that I really appreciate the great support you and your staff have provided me and Duke over the years. HGP, Inc. never ceases to amaze me with the depth of its skills. I have been able to count on you, Donna Mullinax and the rest of your staff to be very responsive and resourceful. "*Seeing Outside of the Box*" has become an over used cliché in today's business, but that is the best way to truly describe one of your major strengths. You have helped us see beyond the expected and always delivered great results!

HGP has always provided excellent technical consulting for us in the past, but having observed HGP perform a Due Diligence Review on Duke Energy for another entity convinced us that you really know what you are doing. We were impressed from both a technical standpoint (which I have known for over 25 years) but also from an executive management and Board of Directors' perspective. HGP's Due Diligence Review methodology is both an art and a science that you have developed into the M<sup>3</sup> (Management, Machine, and Money) process.

Recognizing your fair and objective approach, we invited HGP to work with us to enhance Duke's Due Diligence Review Process. HGP was there to support us when we put our newly enhanced Due Diligence skills to the test on a potential acquisition. The financial modeling support provided by Donna Mullinax to our financial team, help us fully understand the value of the potential acquisition. Your mitigation option analysis for this high-risk model science saved the day!

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Your versatility was also demonstrated when Duke Engineering & Services (DE&S) referred a project to you from a client on the West Coast. HGP was able to help negotiate a very complex technical contract. It's too bad that you got caught in the middle of West Coast electric power crisis and your final invoices have not been paid, but I have been assured that you will eventually collect your fees.

As a vocal supporter of the commercial nuclear industry you have acted as an intermediary between the Governor of South Carolina and Duke and kept both parties objectively appraised of issues that could impact the future safety and viability of the commercial nuclear power industry. Your pro bono work with the State has helped both Duke and the State of South Carolina.

We also appreciate the support you have provided in the resolution of several contract disputes. Again, your ability to see "*Outside of the Box*" has helped us successfully resolve several concerns before they escalated.

Thank you and the rest of HGP, Inc. for your contributions to Duke and me personally. I hope to have an opportunity to work with you and your staff again in the future. Should you need a reference in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron F. Green".

Ron F. Green  
President & Chief Executive Officer