

March 2, 2017

February 20, 2017

Dear Gainesville City Commission:

By vote at the UAB meeting on February 15, 2017, I have been selected to write a letter of review of Edward Bielarski and submit it to you at the next City Commission meeting. I have drawn from all board members' input regarding Mr. Bielarski.

Overall, we feel Mr. Bielarski is doing an excellent job in a time of great change in the utility industry and in a turbulent time for GRU. Because of the costs we must bear from the contract with GREC, GRU is under public scrutiny for its high residential electric rates (nearly the highest in the State of Florida) and exorbitant commercial rates, which are by far the highest in the state.

Mr. Bielarski has readily made himself and his staff available for all of our needs. They answer questions at UAB meetings, arrange training tours within GRU and power plants, and meet with us individually to discuss issues relevant to GRU. He and his employees have been completely candid and forthcoming with all information relevant to our mission, save those instances where they are legally bound by confidentiality.

Mr. Bielarski has chosen his staff well. All have been helpful, transparent and competent in their dealings with the UAB. One of the hallmarks of good leaders is the people they surround themselves with, and in this Mr. Bielarski has met the mark of a good leader.

As with all of us, Mr. Bielarski is not without weakness. He is passionate about GRU and its employees, and it seems at times that if either is challenged in a way he feels is unfair, his temper may get the better of him. I'd personally rather he care too much than too little, and he cares tremendously.

Mr. Bielarski's main driver is to do what is best for GRU. After listening to all perspectives and using his inherent competence and experience, this goal is the final arbiter of his decision making. This is all we can ask for of any leader of an organization.

While Ms. Robin Baxley's performance may not be strictly relevant to this review, I feel I'd be remiss if I didn't mention her in this letter. Her contributions as Mr. Bielarski's executive assistant have been noted not only while we discussed Mr. Bielarski's review but in past meetings as well. She has taken on the role of keeping our group organized, attending all UAB meetings, and taking the minutes at all of our numerous meetings. She's performed in an exemplary fashion without complaint and with high spirits.

GRU and the City of Gainesville are very fortunate to have someone of Mr. Bielarski's caliber at the helm in these rough waters. He's righting the ship.

Sincerely,



Darin Cook
Chair of the UAB