



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

December 20, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Recommendation for Donald Blajda at KOAL PLLC

The Dam Bureau at NHDES recently interviewed architectural firms for design of a new facilities building at a site in Concord, NH. Don Blajda at KOAL PLLC was selected and we've worked with his team over the last year as they have prepared our building plans. As the sponsoring agency's representative during the selection process, I advocated for KOAL's selection based in large part on Don's strength and experience with a design-build approach. To me, this is meaningful because errors during the development of plans under a design-build contract directly impact the profitability of the project for the contractor. I expect that under those conditions an architect would learn quickly not to make the same mistake twice. Don's preparation for meetings with us and his ability to identify what makes sense, what is practical, and what the cost drivers are on the spot, without having to research it further, have served to validate KOAL's selection as most qualified for this project.

Our schedule for the design of the building and the site was ambitious as we needed to get realistic estimates of cost as soon as possible. Don set his team's schedule and proceeded to hold everyone to it and delivered at every juncture as planned. His experience with the expectations for the design of buildings for state government also helped us cover our bases during the planning process.

Based on my experience working with KOAL PLLC, I would absolutely recommend this firm for architectural services.

Sincerely,

Kent R. Finemore, P.E.
Assistant Chief Engineer
Dam Bureau