From: Ray Washington
To: Bielarski, Edward J; Locke, Justin M; Brown, Thomas R
Subject: Congratulations
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 5:13:09 PM

Ed,

In an conversation with Nathan Crabbe earlier today I agreed to provide comments to the Sun's reporter for tomorrow's Sun story on the MOU.

As willing and often eager as I am to write Op-Ed pieces on the GREC situation, commenting in the context of someone else's story is not something I am usually willing do. The reason I'm willing to do so in this case is because I am very very very impressed with the MOU you and your team have put forth (not to say necessarily impressed bye the dollar figure but certainly by The parameters of the draft document itself). I would like to be able to share with a skeptical public my view that:

1. This is a document that goes far beyond any GRU document I've ever seen in protecting the public interest and assuring public access to information the public has a right to examine.

2. The drafting language is clear and unambiguous, unlike any other document that I have seen written in relation to GREC. (My complements to the drafter, whoever that may be.)

I expect there may be knee-jerk negative reactions to the document by certain members of the community who understandably mistrust most anything and everything in relation to GREC. That would be unfortunate and unfair in this instance. In my view what you have put forth here should diminish mistrust, not increase it. That is the point I intend to try make if asked to comment for the Sun story. Not everything is as it appears.

Going forward with the earned trust the MOU document should engender, I hope and expect there will be a vigorous, informed transparent public debate about the ultimate purchase amount, following due diligence of the sort for which I long have been advocating. Assuming there will be such due diligence you can certainly count on my support.

I congratulate you and your team on your accomplishment to this point.

Ray Washington mobile