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To Whom it May Concern,

In 1997 the company I was employed with asked me to develop power projects in Florida to meet growing market demand. In that role I met Val Steele as I was searching for appropriate site locations. The project had many complicating facets that touched on sensitive and threatening issues that triggered concerns related to commercial, political, environmental and regulatory issues.

Val Steele was more than just a commercial real estate broker that flooded me with information in hopes that some of it would lead to an eventual closing. He brought with him his reputation, background, contacts, expertise and his word. He literally stood shoulder to shoulder with me as we dealt with many controversial issues in very difficult environments. He was able to call on contacts and leverage relationships that had been started over 30 years prior. All the issues were resolved in a very professional and dignified manner that served to bolster the reputation and legacy of the company.

The project would not have been successful had it not been for him. He spent two years working with me and assisting me. He never had a written service contract with my company. It was all done on a handshake.

Val brings with him over 40 years of political contacts on both sides of the aisle at all levels of the government. He has as many years of commercial real estate development that has given him rich insight into what works and what doesn't. His seat on numerous boards and advisory roles has given him a rich perspective for resolving complex issues. More importantly Val brings the things that are hard to measure and put a dollar figure on but are absolutely necessary for success – trust, character, vision, wisdom, reputation and strength.

Any effort in Florida is better served with his guidance and assistance. You can rest assured your best interest will always guide his decision making.

J. Michael Sparks



Regional V.P. of Marketing
GDF Suez NA