A strong voice in Winsted

12/2-/95 Rpt Editorial

Community lawyer Charlene LaVoie's offer to serve Winsted as counsel for its Charter Revision Commission at no cost is a generous and accommodating gift to the town. Her expertise on the contents of the charter will be invaluable to the agency's work in its effort to improve and adapt the document to the needs and demands of the next 10 years.

Some concerns had been expressed about Ms. LaVoie's political stance and the possibility that she may try to influence the commission in its work. All things being equal and Ms. LaVoie being human, that is indeed a possibility but the agency is composed of thoughtful and dedicated members of the community who should wisely listen to her recommendations, study the issues and then make up their own minds.

That her first suggestion was to start the commission's work with a public hearing should reinforce in the minds of Winsted residents her reason for being in their community – to empower the people in a democracy – and that she is there for that reason as an outgrowth of a 1989 study by consumer activist and Winsted native Ralph Nader. Her role in the community is a rare one and Winsted residents should be open to her goal to give them a stronger voice in what happens to the place they call home.