

The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Committee on Finance
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Alternative Fuel Mixture Tax Credit

Dear Senators Baucus and Grassley,

The value of most of the paper industry stocks dropped by 90% from year to date highs in March 2009. Many stocks are below 50% of their value a year ago. This drop in stock value has lead to numerous lay-offs and reduction in force plus a dramatic decline in capital improvements. Several mills are close to being bankrupt without the tax credit. Mills are not replacing both salaried and hourly employees as retirements take place.

This black liquor credit keeps the mills running until the economy (and demand for paper products) improve.

Sincerely,
Russ Barnes