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,

I make my living working in the forest products industry and I am extremely proud that we are the leading producer and user of renewable biomass energy in the nation. I am very concerned that policymakers are considering early repeal of the alternative fuel mixture tax credit for black liquor, a byproduct of the paper-making process. Revoking the credit before it expires will put pressure on companies like mine that provide well-paying, "green" union jobs during a very difficult economic period.

The economic downturn has caused a dramatic decline in demand for consumer goods, which in turn has caused an historic decline in demand for paper and packaging. The forest products industry has lost 300,000 workers since 2006: a quarter of its workforce. When mills close, the renewable energy they produce is lost too.

Black liquor is a renewable biomass fuel derived from sawdust, bark, and other parts of the tree. It is one of the renewable, carbon-neutral fuels used by pulp mills to produce electricity and heat, thus making it possible for facilities to generate approximately 66 percent of their energy needs onsite. Using black liquor for fuel displaces fossil fuel.

For years my company, like others in the forest products industry, have produced "green" energy without any incentive. Congress created an alternative fuel mixture incentive to encourage and reward users of renewable energy. The industry has complied with all necessary regulations for eligibility of the incentive and is using it to create clean-burning, environmentally friendly renewable energy. It is unfair to penalize one industry for utilizing an incentive simply because it a leader in the very activity the credit was designed to encourage.

I urge you not to revoke this important tax credit before it expires. By maintaining black liquor's eligibility, you are supporting renewable energy production and "green" manufacturing jobs in an area dependant upon this industry.

Sincerely,

Bruce Clark 33 Overbrook Rd. Hague, NY 12836

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