

I am writing to you to request your support in preserving the current Alternative Fuel Mixture Credit until the end of the year when it is set to expire. I am an employee of Domtar's facility in Baileyville. This is a community nestled in Washington County where I was taught by my father (an employee of Georgia – Pacific for 37 years) to work hard and make due with the hand you are dealt.

I am not one to write to my congressional representatives. As a matter of fact, this is my first letter. As you are well aware, this credit is critical to the survival of our facility in light of the extremely challenging economic environment. Our mill fulfills over 70 percent of our power needs from burning black liquor (a residual of our pulping process). The pulp and paper industry is far ahead of other industries in production and use of renewable power. Only until this year, have we been able to take advantage of an incentive for renewable power. This credit allows us to "level the playing field" and give us a boost we need during these tough economic times. Our mill is a lifeline to our employees and our community. When we were laid off, the economy in our area was impacted greatly.

So I am soliciting your support on this matter. Times are changing and although my father would hesitate to ask for assistance, I feel that we have no choice but to ask for help today. Our industry is faced with many tough challenges. If you could see the worry and concern of our workforce when we had to leave in May, you would better understand our situation. If you help me to keep working, I promise to keep paying my taxes. It's a win-win for both of us. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joanna Hamilton
Princeton, ME