

July 7, 2009

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am submitting comments on behalf of the 600 employees who work at International Paper's Ticonderoga mill and urging your support of our industry's interest in the Alternative Fuel Mixture Tax Credit. We at International Paper are very proud that we are one of the leading producers and users of renewable biomass energy in the nation. Like others in the forest products industry, we have a long history of producing and using green energy to power our mills.

It has come to our attention that the U.S. Senate may take action to single out the forest products industry by prematurely terminating our ability to claim the alternative fuel mixture tax credit. As you and your fellow Senators evaluate the merits of this important tax credit, I am asking that you consider our industry's long-standing use of renewable, sustainable, biomass energy. Like many paper mills in the United States, the Ticonderoga mill and our employees work hard every day to contain our rising energy costs. The alternative fuel mixture tax credit has enabled us to recalibrate our fossil fuel use and provided the needed revenue to improve our operating costs and continue to work toward increased efficiencies in our manufacturing process.

This is an important issue to International Paper, the Ticonderoga mill as well as the hundreds of independent loggers and truckers who directly earn a living providing wood to the mill. I urge you to support this tax provision and allow it to remain in place through the end of 2009.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide public comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Kirk Carlson
Mill Manager
International Paper
Ticonderoga Mill