

**Letter to Senators Baucus and Grassley
July 1, 2009**

Submit by email to: altfuelscredit@finance-dem.senate.gov

Dear Senators Baucus and Grassley:

I am writing to you regarding your June 11 draft that proposes to prohibit the Alternative Fuel Credit and Alternative Fuel Mixture Credit for Black Liquor.

I work at Boise's International Falls paper mill in Minnesota.

Our industry has a strong track record as a producer and user of renewable energy. Some examples include:

The industry generates:

- 28.5 million megawatt hours of carbon-neutral renewable energy annually—enough to power 2.7 million homes;
- two-thirds of the energy needs by our industry carbon-neutral renewable energy is generated on-site from renewable sources;
- more renewable energy than all solar, wind and geothermal sources combined. (source, AF&PA)

This credit is essential for our company in this economic downturn because:

- our industry employs approximately 1 million workers. The economic downturn has caused a dramatic decline in demand for consumer goods, which in turn has caused a historic decline in demand for paper and packaging products – and jobs;
- this has a downstream impact on small communities where there are virtually no other employers and impact suppliers, retailers, etc.

Many industry facilities are located in small, rural communities where there aren't many employment opportunities. Loss of the credit would have a huge ripple effect that isn't visible in bigger cities. Jobs related to those facilities would be impacted too – suppliers, restaurants, and retailers.

I urge Senators Baucus and Grassley to consider the important contribution of our industry to the nation's economy and that if this credit is not preserved, we may lose jobs to off shore competitors.

Sincerely,

Barb Johnson
Human Resources Manager