Richard H. McKee
26746 County Road 171
Fresno, Ohio 43824

July 8, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

In response to the June 10 Senate Finance release of a Staff Draft to repeal the eligibility of black liquor and all mill by-products from the alternative fuel mixture tax credit, we, as representatives of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18D formally submit the following comments.

We work in a facility located in Coshocton, Ohio that produces 81 percent of its own power, most of it derived and generated from biomass or by-products of the pulping process, including black liquor. Using the fuel makes our facility a leader in the usage of renewable energy, helping reduce our dependency on other fossil fuels. We are the green jobs of today that many in Congress seek to create in the future.

This credit comes at a time when Congress is seeking to promote green jobs and responsible energy generation. The alternative fuel mixture tax credit allows the domestic paper industry to play a vital role in our nation's clean energy future. With the decline in demand for paper and packaging, this credit could not come at a more appropriate time, providing badly needed relief at a critical juncture in the industry's history.

In many respects, the reason so much of the credit accrues to our industry is a testament to the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in recovery boilers and other technologies that use renewable fuels derived from biomass. As such, our reliance on renewable fuel lessens the burden on existing power grids and serves as an indicator of what others could also be doing.

This credit is providing a much-needed cushion against one of the worst recessions our industry has experienced. We fully support the continuation of this credit through the balance of the year until it is due to expire.

Sincerely,

Richard H. McKee
Chief Steward
I.U.O.E. Local 18D