



Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.

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The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Committee on Finance
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 9, 2009

RE : Alternative Fuel Tax

Dear Senators Baucus and Grassley,

On behalf of the Ohio Forestry Association, Inc., I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the discussion draft on early termination of the Alternative Fuel Mixture Tax Credit for biomass produced from black liquor by paper mills.

The forest products industry in Ohio opposes the early repeal of our industry's renewable energy from eligibility for the alternative fuel mixture tax credit. We are fully committed to increasing America's energy security and support rewarding the use of clean burning fuels as a national priority. Our industry should be treated equitably to other industries in that goal.

Our industry has been firmly committed to the use of alternative fuels for many years, and like in many other states, companies in Ohio have made significant investments over decades in support of expanding our capabilities to use renewable energy as a core process in manufacturing our products. Our industry is the country's largest renewable energy generator and user.

Produce 28.5 million megawatt hours of carbon-neutral renewable energy annually—enough to power 2.7 million homes.

Two-thirds of our energy needs from carbon-neutral renewable energy onsite from renewable sources.

Produce more renewable energy than all solar, wind and geothermal sources combined.

Nationwide, papermakers and wood products manufacturers employ approximately one million direct workers, an industry that is larger than automotive, plastics, or chemicals . However, due to the increasing pressures of the global marketplace, we have lost more than 300,000 workers—almost one quarter of the industry's workforce- since 2006. In Ohio, the pulp and paper industry employs more than 3,000 workers with tens of thousands more in wood manufacturing. Those jobs are at risk if Congress enacts early repeal of our renewable energy.

I appreciate the Senate Finance Committee's interest in seeking public comment on how any changes to the alternative fuel mixture tax credit would impact our industry and the green jobs we provide. Revoking the forest products industry's eligibility for the alternative fuel mixture tax credit before it expires later this year would have serious consequences for our state's companies and our employees at a time of unprecedented economic challenges.

Likewise, the resulting loss to the forest products industry's renewable energy generation and use would be a blow to the nation's ongoing efforts to support and expand clean-burning, environmentally friendly energy production.

I respectfully urge you to support this necessary credit for our industry through the end of the year as the law was written.

Sincerely

John E. Dorka
John Dorka
Executive Director