

Members of the committee,

I am writing to ask that you continue the Alternative Fuel Mixture Tax Credit through the end of the year as originally planned. The paper industry is one of the most important industries in the State of Wisconsin and in many other states across our country; and in Central Wisconsin where I am located it is the backbone of the regional economy. While no one expects that the government should or can support private business on an extended and continual basis, the tax credit received by qualifying for the alternative fuel credit has been a lifeline to our mill and many other paper mills across the country. The economic multiplier associated with our industry for the states and communities served by these mills is much higher than many other industries and particularly those industries that currently qualify for credits under Section 45 renewable energy tax credit. Our mill fills a large proportion of its power needs by burning alternative fuels generated and captured as a part of our process. Together with the rest of the pulp and paper industry we far out-pace other industries in the production and use of renewable power. However, until recently we have not been able to take advantage of incentives for the production and use of renewable energy, while many of our competitors for wood fiber (ie ethanol and electrical generation facilities) benefit fully from the provisions of Section 45.

Again, I urge you to leave the Alternative Fuel Mixture Tax Credit in place as originally drafted, to help these very important industries through critical financial times. Consider this a vital part of the nation's stimulus program, and one that is more than just a "pork barrel" project. This is one stimulus that has a real and large payback if it helps keep this important industry competitive and healthy through this particularly challenging time.

*Robert D. Peterson*  
*Manager, Wood Procurement*  
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