

To Whom It May Concern:

Once again the paper industry is shunned, this time over a policy that was clearly created to reward the use of alternative fuels. While the huge cost of the "black liquor loophole" was not expected, I disagree that the policy must be changed to excluded this type of alternative energy. Please work to find a different way. Why not limit the tax credit amount to any one individual or company? If you go the route of exclusion, it would be another blatant punishment of the paper industry.

I say another blatant punishment because the fact of the matter is that the paper industry has been constantly scrutinized for many years over a number of reasons, particularly environmental, that were often unfounded. The result of much of this scrutiny has almost always been costly environmental regulations and restrictions. I am glad for, and do not think many people would object to the environmental benefits resulting from the tight scrutiny. In almost every case the effluents from the paper industry are of dramatically better quality than the influents. The problem comes from international competition where the cost of environmental compliance is often very small compared to the cost of environmental compliance in the United States. Such costs have eroded the competitiveness of the paper industry in the global market. The United States paper industry has a really hard time exporting products, while it seems that there is no shortage of lower-cost imports available from the international market. The economic downturn has magnified all the shortcomings of many industries. The paper industry is no different, and is definitely at a turning point that will determine if it will survive over the long-term. The legacy products of coated papers, newsprint, and other similar types are seeing sales fall through the floor, which means the producers of those products either have to think of something different to produce or cease to exist. Right now, many are falling the way of ceasing to exist.

Best Regards,

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