

7/6/2009

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-4515
Fax: 202-228-055

Dear Congressman Baucus and Congressman Grassley,

I am writing to request that you do not continue with legislation which will end the ability for the pulp and paper industry to qualify for the alternative fuel credit under Section 6426 of the U.S. tax code. As an owner and employee of a pulp mill that has directly benefited from the tax credit by allowing us to restart from an indefinite shutdown I ask your support in preserving the current Alternative Fuel Mixture Credit until the end of the year when it is set to expire. The restart of our mill has put over 1200 people back to work as a result of direct and indirect employment from the facility.

Our mill fulfills over 70 percent of our power needs from burning black liquor—a residual of the pulping process comprised of lignin, the organic “glue” or liquid biomass that binds wood fibers together. Our industry has shown leadership in the area of biomass utilization for generations. This credit and other policies that provide incentives for our industry’s use of biomass as a fuel source will enable our mill to continue our best practices, continue to innovate and continue to lead the way in the area of renewable energy.

We view the alternative mixture credit as helping to level the playing field while providing a needed boost to our mill—a mill that sustains good paying jobs in a rural community that depends on these jobs to drive economic activity in the area. This credit is critical for maintaining our facility’s viability in this extraordinarily challenging economic environment.

Thank you for your efforts to help this Country keep good paying manufacturing jobs during these difficult times.

Respectfully,

Martin Richard

Martin Richard

Cc:

The Honorable John E. Baldacci
Senator Susan M. Collins
Senator Olympia J. Snowe
Representative Michael E. Michaud