

Sen. Baucus and committee,

I ask you to keep this tax credit. I make my living working in the paper industry. I am very concerned that policymakers are considering early repeal of the alternative fuel mixture tax credit for black liquor, a byproduct of the paper-making process. Revoking the credit before it expires will put pressure on companies like mine that provide well-paying, "green" union jobs during a very difficult economic period.

The economic downturn has caused a dramatic decline in demand for consumer goods, which in turn has caused an historic decline in demand for paper and packaging. When mills close, the renewable energy they produce is lost too. Black liquor is a renewable biomass fuel derived from sawdust, bark, and other parts of the tree. It is one of the renewable, carbon-neutral fuels used by pulp mills to produce electricity and heat, thus making it possible for facilities to generate approximately 66 percent of their energy needs onsite. Using black liquor for fuel displaces fossil fuel.

For years my company, like others in the paper industry, has produced "green" energy without any incentive. Congress created an alternative fuel mixture incentive to encourage and reward users of renewable energy. The industry has complied with all necessary regulations for eligibility of the incentive and is using it to create clean-burning, environmentally friendly renewable energy. It is unfair to penalize one industry for utilizing an incentive simply because it a leader in the very activity the credit was designed to encourage.

I urge you not to revoke this important tax credit before it expires. By maintaining black liquor's eligibility, you are supporting renewable energy production and "green" manufacturing jobs.

Thank you,

Kyle Sartin

USW Local # 13-391