

July 8, 2009

Dear Senator:

I make my living working in the forest products industry and I am extremely proud that we are the leading producer and user of renewable biomass energy in the nation. 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.

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 the forest products 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.

Sincerely yours,

SMURFIT-STONE CONTAINER

Lisa Cravey