

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senator
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

I am writing to you as a resident of Mecklenburg County, and in reference to a matter currently before the Senate Finance Committee. I realize you are not a member of this Committee, but I am hopeful that you can lend a bit of support for North Carolina's many pulp and paper mills, including Domtar's complex in the town of Plymouth, which employs over 500 people.

Currently we are eligible for a tax benefit under the Alternative Fuel Mixture Credit. This credit is due to expire at the end of the calendar year, but a discussion draft has been prepared by Senators Baucus and Grassley of the Finance Committee, seeking to eliminate it more quickly. As you can imagine, the credit has been a critical, job-saving lifeline for our company and our industry during what can only be called extraordinarily difficult economic conditions. And despite some signs of improvement in the current outlook, it is likely to be several months before the levers that impact our business, notably white collar employment and advertising, bring about an increase in demand for pulp and paper. For this reason, it is vital that this credit remain in place until year-end.

The pulp and paper 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 us to continue to innovate in the area of renewable energy.

Thank you for your support of our industry in your home state.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Thomas
Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing
Domtar Corporation

Cc: Senate Finance Committee