



July 10, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in response to your request for public comment on the alternative fuels mixture tax credit legislation being considered by the Senate Committee on Finance. As the mill manager of Verso's Quinnesec pulp & paper mill located in Quinnesec, Michigan, I am concerned that your proposal to abruptly discontinue offering the tax credit will have an adverse financial impact on our business.

The Quinnesec mill provides high paying manufacturing jobs to 475 people living in a largely rural area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. If these tax credits are revoked, there could be serious consequences for papermakers and their employees, many of whom are located in rural areas like Quinnesec, which have already been hard hit by the recession. As the Administration and Congress seeks to encourage more renewable energy and more green jobs, it's important to also support the ones we already have.

As you lead the Senate Committee on Finance to discuss the alternative fuels mixture tax credit legislation, please consider these specific requests:

- Continue providing the alternative fuels mixture tax credit to the pulp and paper industry through the end of calendar year 2009. This will help position us to meet our financial commitments to customers and shareholders.
- Provide a level playing field going forward between the pulp & paper industry and traditional power producers when drafting legislation offering incentives for the production and transmission of green power.
- Recognize the pulp & paper industry's expertise in producing power from a renewable carbon neutral energy source, and equally include existing and new sources of renewable energy in the development of legislation.

In closing, I thank you for your willingness to serve and urge you to support the pulp & paper industry by providing fair and equitable tax benefits for the production and use of renewable energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michel Sussman'.

Michel Sussman
Mill Manager