



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: June 15, 2021

RE: Testimony on Senate Bill 369

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

I would like to thank Chairman Feyen and members of the committee for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 369 (SB 369).

When the Verso Corporation closed its paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids last year, it affected the lives of 905 employees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mill was shut down and Wisconsin Rapids and Wood County lost a major employer.

As devastating as this was for that community, the shuttering of that mill had repercussions that extended farther in the state. In addition to high quality coated paper, the mill also produced paper pulp. About one-quarter of all pulpwood in the state went to the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids. Without their consumption, scores of small timber cutters had no buyer for the softwood they harvested. That lack of wood cutting also affects many land owners who have property in the Managed Forest Land (MFL) program. Many of those land owners rely on the timber companies to help manage their forests.

Verso has put the mill up for sale. The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association has been working with the UW to form a cooperative which could purchase the mill, make it operational again, and restore some jobs. This cooperative, called the Consolidated Cooperative, needs additional capital aside from what they have secured, to purchase and operate the mill.

What we are proposing with this bill is to allocate some of the federal pandemic stimulus funds as a loan to help the cooperative purchase the mill and get it back up and running. This would not be a handout. This would be a loan. And it would require the cooperative to obtain significant funds from other sources as well.

This is a chance to help a community, a region and an industry that was devastated by the pandemic. Thank you again for listening to my testimony and I hope that you will join me in supporting this bill.



SCOTT KRUG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 72nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0215
FAX: (608) 282-3672
District: (715) 459-2267
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0072

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
Rep.Krug@legis.wi.gov

TO: Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development

FROM: Rep. Scott Krug

RE: Senate Bill 369, Purchase of the Verso Paper Mill in Wisconsin Rapids

DATE: June 15, 2021

Chairman Feyen and committee members:

Thank you for holding a hearing today on SB369. I call this the “Mill Bill”. I write this testimony for the record but am certainly going to speak from the heart today. I grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, went to the public schools in Wisconsin Rapids, graduated (a while ago) from good ol’ Lincoln High School, went to Mid-State Tech there and graduated as a proud MSTC Cougar. The whole while I have had dozens and dozens of family members working their tails off at Consolidated Papers, then Stora Enso, then New Page, then Verso. As much as I credit my success to my hard work, NONE of it would have been possible without each of my family at the mill and every other single employee, union and owner of that facility

This mill goes back many generations in Wisconsin Rapids. It is the backbone, the single biggest employer, the heartbeat of the community. When I got the call about a year ago that the mill would be “idled” I was heartbroken and so were thousands of people in the Wisconsin Rapids area and beyond. You see, this isn’t just a Wisconsin Rapids mill, as you will hear from others today. The footprint of this closure reaches throughout the state of WI. When I entered office in 2011, I had been witnessing the downward slide of the facility and vowed I did NOT want to be the guy in this office when that place closed. Now I know that God had other plans and I was meant to be the guy to be in this office when this place closed.

We (Sen. Testin and I) jumped into action immediately upon hearing the news of a pending “idling” of the plant. First, we reached out to Verso to find out how the state could be of assistance to prevent this from happening. We learned that in their minds nothing would stop the closure; they stated that COVID had hit them hard. The impact in their estimation was harder than they anticipated. You see, this isn’t the first hard time this mill had seen. It has survived the last pandemic, two World Wars,

MORE

the Great Depression and Great Recession and multiple ownership changes. It has seen it all, until now. Forced shutdowns in their consumer markets, threats from county government to close their doors, finally led Verso to say “That’s enough, we’re done.”

Next, we called the Governor’s office and hand delivered communication to the East Wing. I give credit to Governor Evers for taking our calls and being just as concerned as we are. He told us on multiple occasions, he would go along with whatever we came up with. That may have changed somewhat since then with the introduction of this bill and his return offer to tie the sale to the Medicaid expansion. Committee members I will tell you this, we ALL know this must happen. I pledge to you that I am willing to compromise on language of this bill as a standalone issue. We need to give Wisconsin Rapids its day in the Assembly, its day in the Senate and its day on the Governor’s desk with a signature on the single largest issue facing it right now.

Sen. Testin and I started the Wisconsin Rapids Task Force prior to the closure of the mill, to gather stakeholders together for two purposes. We wanted to help find a buyer for the mill, and we wanted make sure needed community services were available to affected workers and families (at the height of a pandemic) to all affected, here and statewide. The stakeholders on our task force include state and federal government officials, me, Sen. Testin, Rep Shankland, Rep VanderMeer, as well as members of our Congressional delegation (Reps Kind and Rep Tiffany) and Senators Johnson and Baldwin. We worked with WEDC, the Governor’s Office, DWD, DNR, the federal WIOA staff, and numerous other agencies to prepare for the worst. Locally we engaged our local chambers, United Way, the school districts, unions, employees and even Verso. All hands-on deck, NO POLITICS, we all played nice.

After a short time in conversations with various entities, a buyer emerged and an idea came forth to end the stalemate. We have an opportunity with the Consolidated Cooperative as a part of the Timber Professionals to come forward and be a local owner, something we haven’t seen since the old Consolidated Papers in the 1990s. We worked through the investment bankers hired to conduct the outreach and sale to identify others as well. To this date no other buyer has specifically come forward to state an interest in making a purchase of the business, other than this buyer. This bill, geared towards that purchase, combines ALL the efforts of the task force with the ability to generate change with federal dollars. In the bill we specifically lay out parameters on how a potential transaction is to be laid out. The interested party would have to prove to have a sufficient amount of private funds before BCPL and WEDC can become involved. WEDC would then be allowed to craft a loan of up to \$50 million towards the purchase in conjunction with a pass-through loan from the BCPL. That combination along with private capital would make up the anticipated purchase amount of the facility and lead to production once again.

It is with great pride in my community that I humbly ask for your support and your help today in getting SB369 to be the lifeline that Wisconsin Rapids needs.



JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 369

Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development

June 15, 2021

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill (SB) 369 today. I appreciate having the opportunity to work with Representative Krug, Senator Testin, and Senator Felzkowski on this important legislation.

When the Verso paper mill closed last year the impacts were felt far outside of the Wisconsin Rapids area. Prior to its closure, this mill utilized approximately 25% of all the pulpwood harvested in Wisconsin. With this major customer gone, many timber professionals who sold to this mill have struggled to find new buyers for their product. I have heard from loggers in my district who lost 50% or more of their business when the Wisconsin Rapids mill closed. A large number of them have been unable to find new customers to replace the loss of Verso.

Beyond the impact on the timber industry, the closure of the Wisconsin Rapids mill has also negatively impacted the budgets of many northern counties. A number of counties across the Northwoods receive a significant amount of revenue from timber sales out of their county forests. For example, Rusk County which I represent is facing a loss of about \$267,000 annually. In Sawyer County, the loss is about \$204,000 annually. Other counties around northern Wisconsin are facing similar challenges.

Outside of the financial impacts, the harvest of timber is an important part of forest management. If the reduction in the harvest of pulpwood caused by the Wisconsin Rapids mill closure is not reversed the health of our state's forests could suffer resulting in an increased fire risk amongst other problems.

SB 369 would make a big difference in northern Wisconsin by providing the necessary funding to reopen the Wisconsin Rapids paper mill and return a very important customer for Wisconsin's timber industry. In addition, an amendment added in committee in the Assembly would also provide funding to reopen the paper mill in Park Falls. While this mill is smaller than the Wisconsin Rapids mill, adding another customer in Northern Wisconsin will be good for our state's timber industry and the local economy.

Mr. Chairman and members, I ask you to join me in supporting SB 369 and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.



IMPLICATIONS OF VERSO MILL CLOSURES

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROLL CALL Board Members	AYE (Yes)	NAY (No)	Abstain / Excused
1. TERRY DUSELL	X		
2. JERRY BILLER			X
3. ALAN RATHSACK	X		
4. TONY HAUSER			X
5. TIMOTHY MILLER			X
6. ROBERT STOUT	X		
7. RANDY TATUR	X		
8. LYLE LIEFFRING	X		
9. BILL MCBAIN	X		
10. KEN PEDERSEN	X		
11. PHIL SCHNEIDER	X		
12. JIM MEYER	X		
13. MARK SCHMITT	X		
14. LISA DOBROWOLSKI	X		
15. TOM HANSON	X		
16. JOSH UNTERSCHUETZ	X		
17. DAVE WILLINGHAM	X		
18. MICHAEL HRABAN	X		
19. KEN BROWN	X		
TOTAL	16		3

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted Defeated

1st Lieffring Defeated

2nd Schneider

No: 0 Yes: 16 Exc: 3

Reviewed by: _____, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: _____, Finance Director

FISCAL IMPACT: (Note if there is any fiscal impact or not)

Certification:

I, Loren Beebe, Clerk of Rusk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 23 day of June, 2020 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

Loren Beebe
Loren Beebe
County Clerk, Rusk County

1 **WHEREAS**, On June 9, Verso announced idling of their Duluth, MN and
 2 Wisconsin Rapids, WI pulp and paper mills by the end of July 2020 for an
 3 indefinite period, and
 4
 5 **WHEREAS**, the idling of these mills will directly impact 1,000 workers and
 6 indirectly affect thousands more across the entire state of Wisconsin that support
 7 the mills through related forestry work such as logging and transportation, and
 8
 9 **WHEREAS**, the prolonged closure of these mills will negatively affect national,
 10 state, county and private landowners financially and has the potential to affect the
 11 ability to continue proper silviculture techniques on those lands to maintain a
 12 healthy forest structure, and
 13
 14 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Rapids, WI mill utilizes over 25% of all pulpwood
 15 produced in the state of Wisconsin, and
 16
 17 **WHEREAS**, the forest products industry is the number 1 employer in Rusk
 18 County based on number of employees, and
 19
 20 **WHEREAS**, 58.7% of total pulpwood on active sales in Rusk County is
 21 hardwood pulp, of which over 90% would be consumed at the Wisconsin Rapids
 22 mill, and
 23
 24 **WHEREAS**, timber revenue from the Rusk County Forest reduces the County
 25 levy by 15-20% and the loss of this income will financially affect the 14,000+
 26 citizens of Rusk County and the public services available to them, and
 27
 28 **WHEREAS**, a similar impact will be felt by nearly every County operating a
 29 County Forest for timber production.
 30
 31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The County Board of Supervisors
 32 of the County of Rusk ask that the Governor and Legislature direct that
 33 assistance be provided in any way possible to allow continuation of mill
 34 operations and/or financial assistance be considered to support the direct loss of
 35 jobs, as well as assistance for other industries impacted by the closure.
 36
 37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State of Wisconsin work with
 38 Counties to identify new markets for forest products and provide flexibility and
 39 assistance to replace lost revenues
 40 -
 41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Rusk County Land and Forestry
 42 Committee has directed to forward this resolution to Wisconsin Counties
 43 Association (WCA), Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) and all
 44 local, regional, state and federal representatives.
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Resolution #2020- 30

RESOLUTION REGARDING IMPLICATIONS OF VERSO MILL CLOSURES

WHEREAS, On June 9, 2020 Verso announced the idling of their Duluth, MN and Wisconsin Rapids, WI pulp and paper mills by the end of July 2020 for an indefinite period, and

WHEREAS, the idling of these mills will directly impact 1,000 workers and indirectly affect thousands more across the state of Wisconsin that support the mills through related forestry, forestry product work and various support industries, and

WHEREAS, the prolonged closure of these mills will negatively affect national, state, county and private landowners financially and has the potential to affect the ability to continue proper silviculture techniques on those lands to maintain a healthy forest structure, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Rapids, WI mill utilizes over 25% of all pulpwood produced in the state of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry is the number 3 employer in Sawyer County based on number of employees, and

WHEREAS, 30% of total pulpwood on active timber sales in Sawyer County is hardwood pulp, of which 50% would be consumed at the Wisconsin Rapids mill, and

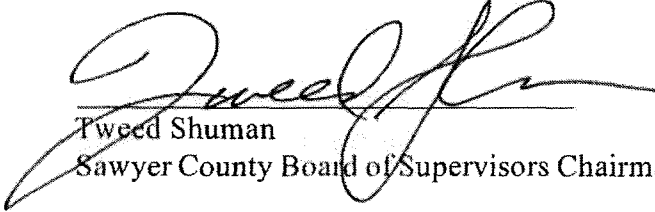
WHEREAS, timber revenue from the Sawyer County Forest reduces the County levy, and the loss of this income will financially affect the citizens of Sawyer County and the public services available to them, and

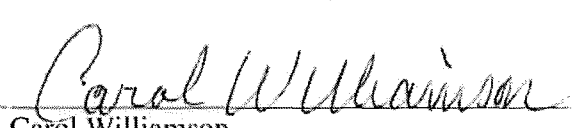
WHEREAS, a similar impact will be felt by nearly every County operating a County Forest for timber production.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors ask that the Governor and Legislature direct that assistance be provided in any way possible to allow continuation of mill operations and/or financial assistance be considered to support the direct loss of jobs, as well as assistance for other industries impacted by the closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin work with Counties to identify new markets for forest products and provide flexibility and assistance to replace lost revenues


The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this Resolution on this 16th day of July, 2020.

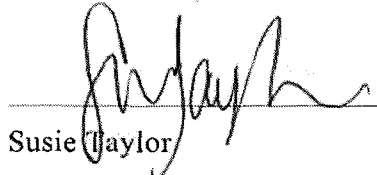

Tweed Shuman
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chairman

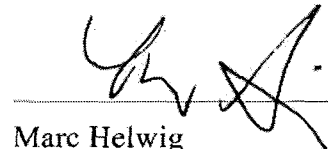

Carol Williamson
Sawyer County Clerk

The content of this Resolution was recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on July 16, 2020 by this Sawyer County Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee on July 8, 2020.


Bruce Paulsen, Chair


Ron Buckholtz, Vice Chair


Susie Taylor


Marc Helwig


Jesse Boettcher



Executive Committee:

Matt Jensen President Crandon, WI	Troy Brown WI Vice President Antigo, WI	Mike Sturgill MI Vice President Onaway, MI	Dave Johnson Secretary/Treasurer Quinnesec, MI	Guy Longhini Member at Large Toivola, MI	Mark Huempfer Member at Large Wausaukee, WI	Bruce "Sparky" Enstrom Past President Menominee, MI	Henry Schienebeck Executive Director Rhineland, WI
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Board of Directors:

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Arpin, WI

Bill Brand
Newberry, MI

Aaron Burmeister
Seymour, WI

Laura Delaney
Warrens, WI

Paul Doruska
Plover, WI

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Gaylord, MI

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Tomahawk, WI

Todd Shamion
Crystal Falls, MI

Tony Siverling
Eau Claire, WI

Warren Suchovsky
Stephenson, MI

Allan Suzan
Ojibwa, WI

DJ Zellar
Germfask, MI

Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development
Senator Dan Feyen-Chair
Room 201 SE
State Capitol
Madison WI 53708

RE: SB 369

Chair Feyen and Committee members,

The Great lakes Timber Professionals Association members and Board of Directors fully support Senate Bill 369 (SB 369).

Wisconsin's forest and timber products industry and ancillary businesses such as tourism depend on healthy forests. The most effective way to maintain healthy forests is with a healthy forest industry utilizing sustainably harvested wood from Wisconsin certified forests. Industry and healthy forest are equally dependent on one another. In fact, most, if not all wood consumers have agreed and stated publicly in years past, that to maintain forest health in Wisconsin and the Lake States Region, we cannot afford to lose another wood consuming mill. **Since June 9th of last year, during the height of the pandemic, our region (Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan) lost three wood consuming mills, two of which were in Wisconsin.**

The lost wood consuming mills include two VERSO mills; one in Wisconsin Rapids, WI and Duluth, MN, and the Park Falls Pulp and Paper mill in Park Falls, WI. These closures have directly resulted in the loss of 1,300 jobs at the mills and negatively an additional 14,000 individuals and businesses who supply and service the mills. Those additionally impacted include loggers, truckers, equipment companies, parts distributors, repair facilities, fuel and oil distributors and stations, and landowners, including federal, state, county, and especially private lands.

Since the announced closure of the WI Rapids and Duluth MN Verso mills June 9th in 2020, stumpage revenues have dropped substantially for county, state, and private lands.



County: According to a report from DNR personal provided in February, county timber sale revenue decreased by 27% compared to 2019.

State: State timber sale revenue has decreased by 37% compared to 2019 revenue.

Private: Private land is harder to track, however, frequent calls received from landowners indicate they are struggling to find loggers willing to even harvest their wood at any price because of a lack of market.

The longer these mills are shuttered stumpage rates will continue to decline, making it more difficult of landowners to actively manage their land, decreasing the health of the forests and putting pressure on landowners to find other ways to keep land ownership affordable.

SB 369 provides a hand up, not a handout to Wisconsin's timber and forest product industry by supporting a multistakeholder cooperative approach. This cooperative ownership is much different than ownership under an individual or investment group because it involves several groups of owners including loggers, mill workers and additional industry allies who are putting a personal stake in the success of the facilities and the future of our industry. The loan provided in SB 369 will provide a longer-term benefit to a much broader group of citizens and taxpayers than a traditional economic development grant. GLTPA's also believes that cooperative ownership model of these facilities will provide greater long-term security for the industry and forest health.

In closing, as a representative of the state's second largest economic driver, the timber and forest products industry, we appreciate the leadership of the authors and the attention this issue has received from both the Legislature and the Administration. These loans will assist thousands of workers and the affiliated businesses in returning to work and supporting their families and communities. We need your assistance for the health of our industry, the health of our rural communities and the health of our forests and ask for your quick action on this solution, thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Schienebeck".

Henry Schienebeck
Executive Director, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matt Jensen".

Matt Jensen
President, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association

Boisaco, Inc., a Community Owned Industry in Remote Quebec

*Summary by Margaret M. Bau, Cooperative Development Specialist, USDA Rural Development
June, 2012*

Boisaco, Inc. is a fascinating example of a small logging town taking ownership of their economy. Sacre-Coeur (population 1881), situated on the remote north shore of the St. Lawrence River, was like many mill towns. After the third bankruptcy in 10 years, the town's sawmill lay idle for 2.5 years. When the bank tried to liquidate, the community collaborated with the provincial credit union and government to buy the mill for \$1.2 million. The community created Boisaco, Inc. ("bois" means "wood" in French) an ownership strategy composed of three entities (2 co-ops + 1 community investor group):

- 1) COFOR – a worker co-op of 60 loggers harvesting wood in the forests. The co-op holds shares in Boisaco, Inc. and has seats on that corporation's board.
- 2) UNISACO – a worker co-op of 142 millworkers in the processing plant. The co-op holds shares in Boisaco, Inc. and holds seats on that corporation's board
- 3) INVESTRA – a community investor group comprised of 432 small shareholders in the region (local merchants, mayor, business community, and other workers). No family may own more than 5% of shares (to avoid a single family from holding a majority of shares).

The board composition consists of:

- 3 board members representing COFAR
- 3 board members representing UNISACO
- 3 board members representing INVESTRA
- 1 board member from Desjardins Capital de Risqué (the investment tool of Desjardins for venture capital) Desjardin is the powerhouse credit union system throughout Quebec.

A policy for distribution of surplus (profits) was created early on, and has served Boisaco and the entire community well:

18% to the workers in the logger and millworkers co-ops
27% to each shareholder (COFOR, UNISACO, INVESTRA) proportionately
55% to a development fund (after taxes)

That 55% development fund has allowed Boisaco to invest in or acquire five other regional companies (that buy Boisaco's products or by-products) and to modernize equipment. This foresight helped Boisaco diversify and ride out boom and bust cycles typical in the wood products industry. Those five companies include: granite cutting, a molded decorative panel manufacturer, a horse bedding manufacturer, forestry, and a pellet manufacturer.

Also key to Boisaco's success is the long history of transparency, participatory management (30% of workers have at some time served on a board), solidarity, and fairness. Workers are highly invested in avoiding waste and looking for cost savings. Before Boisaco was organized, the mill went through three ownerships and was closed for 30 months. People remember those times and realize how dependent the isolated community of 2,000 is upon this mill. There is also a strong desire to create good jobs to keep young people in the region.

With the crisis in the US housing market and the depressed prices for wood products, four years ago all involved in Boisaco reached an agreement to freeze wages and to implement 5-10% wage cuts when the

foot board measure reaches certain thresholds in the industry. This type of belt tightening has been done with an eye to avoid lay-offs (and what that would do to families and the potential permanent loss of those skilled workers).

For more information (in English) about this 25 year old community venture see:

<http://www.dominionpaper.ca/articles/3558>

Information provided thanks to:

Michel Clement, Director of Cooperative Development with the Quebec Ministry of Finance & Economy.

Case study by Universite de Sherbrooke graduate student Sarah Toulouse

Boisaco; la force d'une collectivité et le pouvoir mobilisateur d'une idée: 25 ans de cooperation

<http://aruc-dtc.ugr.gc.ca/images/stories/ETU-05-2011.pdf>

Sebastien Girard, Co-op Development Counselor with the Quebec-Appalaches Regional Co-op Development Center



OFFICE
OF THE
MAYOR

State Senate Comments
June 15, 2021

As Mayor of the City of Wisconsin Rapids, I am in support of the “mill bill” SB 369, which would assist a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin in their objective of purchasing the Verso Paper Mill and putting it back into operation.

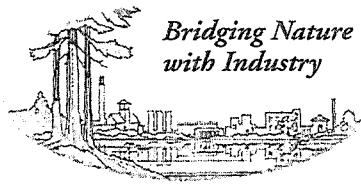
The closure of the Verso Paper Mill last July created an economic shock in Wisconsin Rapids and the surrounding region. The Verso Paper Mill was the largest employer within Wisconsin Rapids, employing over 900 people, most of whom lost their jobs after the closure. Area businesses that serve the mill will account for an additional 580 jobs lost due to the closure. The closure is estimated to impact nearly 2,000 jobs regionally, and over 2,600 jobs statewide. These job losses relate to lost earnings for Wisconsin’s people and lost tax revenues for Wisconsin’s cities.

The Verso Paper Mill also consumed one-quarter of the pulpwood cut annually in Wisconsin, advancing timber and transportation industries throughout the state, while keeping our forests sustainable and healthy.

The closure of our city’s paper mill will have a profound effect on our community, our region and our state. And SB 369 poses an opportunity to bring back jobs, while ensuring our paper professionals’ expertise stays local. It is an opportunity for our paper mill to again be locally owned and operated. Now is the time to act on SB 369 and spare us from seeing the full impact of this closure. I urge you to support this proposal and I thank you for your time.

Shane E. Blaser, Mayor

City of Wisconsin Rapids | 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 | wirapids.org | 715.421.8216 | mayor@wirapids.org



City of Park Falls

400 Fourth Avenue South • P.O. Box 146 • Park Falls, WI 54552
Phone (715) 762-2436 • Fax (715) 762-2437
www.cityofparkfalls.com

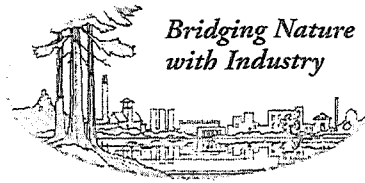
COVID-19 Effects on the Operations of the Park Falls Mill

The current owner of the mill (which is now in Chapter 128 Receivership) bought the facility in November of 2019. The initial plan was to operate the pulp mill and sell market pulp, followed by selling paper off of one paper machine a few months later. In May of 2020, a key purchaser of a valuable byproduct that only this mill supplies, declared that if the byproduct was not available for purchase shortly, they would pull out of the contract and permanently end the relationship with the Park Falls Mill. This byproduct, the cooking “liquors” as a result of sulfite pulp making process, is an essential revenue stream for Park Falls, and without it would make the mill permanently unviable. The threat of this customer leaving the market spurred the owners to invest millions into the restart as soon as possible, with the mill restarting pulp operations in September of 2020.

There was a great sense of pride in reopening the facility after a year left idle. The resumption of pulp production occurred precisely at the time when the pulp and paper marketplace hit new lows due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Essentially, the mill had no place to go with their products after restart, with many customers canceling orders due to consumer demand.

The mill stockpiled its production from September to January, waiting for prices to recover, but also had to keep running at a high pulp mill output to satisfy their customer for the sulfite liquors. This COVID-19 related loss of sales left the owners with all the costs of running the mill, with virtually no revenue beyond that of the byproduct. The massive operating deficit was too much to recover from, even after the market started to recover in January of 2021. The mill ceased operations in March of 2021, and was put into receivership in May of 2021. If the market had not collapsed in the Fall of 2020 due to the massive pandemic related demand drop, the mill would almost certainly be operating.

The situation in the pulp and paper market has significantly rebounded. Park Falls would be making significant profits today if they were producing, providing a valuable outlet for timber in northern Wisconsin, employing hundreds of employees, and remaining a vital economic force for the entire northern Wisconsin supply chain.



City of Park Falls

400 Fourth Avenue South • P.O. Box 146 • Park Falls, WI 54552
Phone (715) 762-2436 • Fax (715) 762-2437
www.cityofparkfalls.com

RESOLUTION 21-010

WHEREAS the City of Park Falls and City of Wisconsin Rapids have a long and rich history of papermaking; and

WHEREAS the both Cities and their surrounding areas rely heavily on their mills for jobs, local supply chain, municipal utilities, and a source of community pride; and

WHEREAS both Paper Mills were severely affected by the collapse of demand in the pulp and paper markets by COVID-19, which ultimately led to both closures; and

WHEREAS both communities have worked together to find solutions to restart their Paper Mills; and

WHEREAS both Paper Mills are being aggressively sought after by a Cooperative to purchase, operate, and improve both facilities to compete in the rapidly changing paper and pulp marketplace; and

WHEREAS the timber industry relies heavily on both mills for their economic survival and have been greatly impacted by the closures of both facilities; and

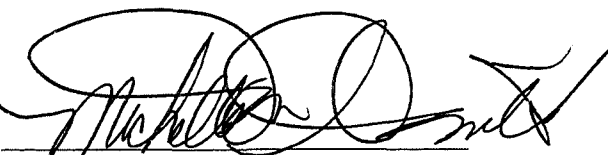
WHEREAS the State Legislature is currently considering extending a loan(s) to the Verso Paper Mill and the Park Falls Paper Mill; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the City of Park Falls Common Council strongly supports the passage of a bill that includes funding for both Paper Mills.

Adopted the 14th day of June, in the year 2021

City of Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin

Signature 
Michael Bablick, Mayor

ATTEST:
Signature 
Michelle Smith, Clerk and Treasurer



June 15, 2021

Senate Committee of Economic and Workforce Development
Senator Dan Feyen
Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov

Dear Senator Feyen:

It has come to our attention that the Senate Committee of Economic and Workforce Development will meet on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 to discuss SB369 (Mill Bill). Please accept this as a letter of support for any assistance that the State of Wisconsin can provide to assist a cooperative entity in the purchase of the Verso Mill.

Marathon County manages over 30,000 acres of working forest in northcentral Wisconsin and solid wood markets are critical to the economic and environmental health of our communities and forests. The shutdown of the Verso mill in 2020 has resulted in direct revenue losses to the County and millions in impacts to local businesses in Marathon County. Verso consumed 30% of all pulpwood volume and contributed 25% of the yearly timber revenue to Marathon County when in operation.

Our timber industry is struggling and we fear that we will lose valuable logging contractors due to limited pulpwood markets. These are businesses and jobs that are unlikely to return if pulpwood markets do not rebound in the near future.

Marathon County fully supports this bill and we are also investigating if we can legally invest in the Timber Professionals Cooperative directly.

The Timber Professionals Cooperative and Verso mill operations have been an ongoing discussion at our Forestry/Recreation Committee and County Administration and there is evident support for efforts that result in the Wisconsin Rapids mill becoming operational again.

Should you have any questions or should you wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at either (715) 370-7435 or by email at Kurt.gibbs@co.marathon.wi.us. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Gibbs, Chair
Marathon County Board of Supervisors

cc: rep.krug@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sen.Feyen

From: easosin <easosin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:22 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug@legis.wiscobsin.gov
Subject: SB 369

My name is Eric Sosin. I live in Almond WI. I worked at Verso in Wisconsin Rapids for 11 years. Until it was shut down on August 2 2020. I support Bill SB 369.

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Sen.Feyen

From: michael carroll <mikekcarroll@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 11:02 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Fw: Support SB 369

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "michael carroll" <mikekcarroll@yahoo.com>
To: "" <Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov>
Sent: Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 9:54 PM
Subject: Support SB 369

Hello my Name is Mike Carroll and I want to be recorded as supporting SB 369. I use to work in the Woodward at the Verso Wisconsin Rapids mill for 10 years until its closure. I've seen how this closure has affected me, my co-workers, my community and the lives of just as many loggers. The potential of "our" mill is huge to the state of Wisconsin. The health of our beautiful state is dependent on the responsible harvesting of our hard working loggers and the Wisconsin Rapids mill is prime to turn that renewable resource into products that everyone can use. Please vote in favor of SB 369, there are a lot of people with a lot of "know how" in this industry sitting idle just waiting to right this ship.

Best Regards,
Michael Carroll
1642 Main Street, Rudolph Wi, 54475
mikekcarroll@yahoo.com
(715) 323-2104

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sen.Feyen

From: Scott Dane <4danes@cpinternet.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 9:33 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Fwd: Support for SB369

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Support for SB369
Date:Mon, 14 Jun 2021 21:28:30 -0500
From:Scott Dane <4danes@cpinternet.com>
To:Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov

Senator Feyen,

I am the Executive Director of the American Loggers Council, representing 30 states (including Wisconsin) and past Executive Director of the Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers of Minnesota for 17 years.

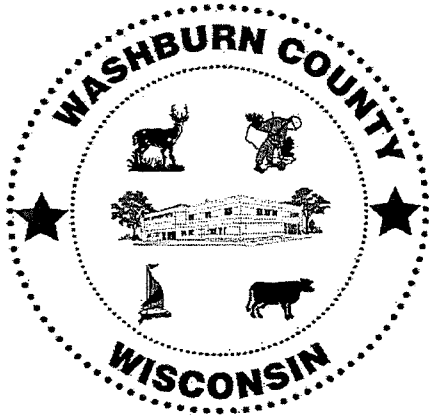
Healthy forests are dependent on forest management, which as a MNDNR Commissioner once said - we don't manage the forests, the loggers do it for us. It is also dependent on forest product mills to utilize the renewable resource. Maintaining the forest products infrastructure is critical to balancing the entire process from management to product.

The closure of the Verso mills in Wisconsin and Minnesota disrupted that balance and compromises the public and private forest management objectives of maintaining healthy forests.

Reopening these mills is critical to supporting the environmental benefits of healthy forests and the economic benefits of creating rural jobs.

This bill is an investment by Wisconsin to ensure healthy forests and is therefore fully supported by the American Loggers Council and the Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers of Minnesota.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Dane
Executive Director
American Loggers Council
3961 Barker Rd. S.
Gilbert, MN 55741
218-780-5927



WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST

FOREST ADMINISTRATOR

1760 Roundhouse Road
SPOONER, WISCONSIN 54801
(715) 635-4490 Fax (715) 635-4493

Senator Feyen - Senate District 18
State Capital Room 306 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Feyen:

It has come to our attention that a hearing on SB 369 (Mill Bill) is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday June 15. Please accept this as a letter of support for any assistance that the State of Wisconsin can provide to facilitate a cooperative entity in the purchase of the Verso Mill.

Washburn County manages 150,000 acres of working forest in northwest Wisconsin and solid wood markets are critical to the economic and environmental health of our communities and forests. The shutdown of the Verso mill in 2020 has resulted in \$750,000 per year direct revenue losses to the County and untold millions in impacts to local businesses in Washburn County.

Our timber industry is struggling and we fear that we will lose valuable logging contractors due to limited pulpwood markets. These are businesses and jobs that are unlikely to return if pulpwood markets do not rebound in the near future.

Washburn County fully supports this bill and we are also investigating if we can legally invest in the Timber Professionals Cooperative directly. Pending legal opinion confirming the legality of participation, Washburn County will very likely contribute financially to this effort.

The Timber Professionals Cooperative and Verso mill operations have been an ongoing discussion at various Committees and the County Board here for several months and there is very evident support for efforts that result in the Wisconsin Rapids mill becoming operational again.

Thank you

Sincerely

Mike Peterson
Washburn County Forest Administrator

Cc: Representative Krug

Sen.Feyen

From: Sheila Nyberg <sheila@clarkcountyedc.org>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Verso Mill Bill - support for SB 369

Importance: High

Senator Feyen, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development

Clark County Economic Development Corporation and Tourism Bureau works hard to grow our county and its important industries and resources. Our organization has 32 representatives from all walks of life and from all over Clark County. We know the importance of a regional mill to help our "timber industry" is crucial to the well-being of our entire county. The loss of revenue here and jobs in that industry here is not to be ignored. We need the circle to be completed by having a mill in our region. Therefore, we see the opportunity to support SB 369.

If you have any questions about our input on this bill please feel free to call or email me.

Sheila Nyberg, Executive Director
Clark County Economic Development Corporation
And Tourism Bureau
301 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 236
Loyal, WI 54446
715-255-9151
cell 715-305-7222
<http://www.clarkcountywi.org>

From: Reinemann, John <John.Reinemann@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 5:35 PM
To: Rep.Krug <Rep.Krug@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Testin <Sen.Testin@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: WE NEED YOUR HELP - Verso Mill bill is getting a State Senate hearing TUESDAY JUNE
Importance: High

External Message Alert: This email originated from outside of the Clark County network. Always validate the sender's email address before clicking on links or attachments, as they may not be safe. Never provide your username or password to a site you do not trust. Contact the IT Helpdesk if you receive any email you think is suspicious.

Hello to the many of you who have helped us support the "Mill Bill," a bill by Rep. Krug and Sen. Testin to provide state help to the prospective purchasers of the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids. Many of you emailed your support of the bill (Assembly Bill 367) to Rep. Rob Swearingen in time for the public hearing on AB 367 earlier this week. The Senate version of the bill is Senate Bill 369, and now SB 369 is having a public hearing THIS COMING TUESDAY, June 15, at 1.00 PM. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE if you are able, try to send one more email in support of the Verso Mill Bill. Please see if you have friends, family or others who would do the same.

Emails can be sent to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development, who is Sen. Dan Feyen of Fond du Lac. Sen. Feyen can be emailed at Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov

Please say your name and what city, village or town you live in, and that you support SB 369

A line or two about why you support it is great too

- Please add that you want your email message to be entered into the record of the public hearing on SB 369

Also, please send us a copy at rep.krug@legis.wisconsin.gov

IF YOU CAN ATTEND THE HEARING IN PERSON, that would be AMAZING. The hearing is in Room 201 Southeast in the State Capitol. You are welcome to testify or just to observe. Contact us if you want to do this and we will help.

You may already know that this past Tuesday, the State Assembly's committee on State Affairs amended AB 367 to include support (loans) toward the purchase of the paper mill in Park Falls. We intend that SB 369 will also be changed to include Park Falls. If you know anyone in that area, an email from them would be very helpful as well.

You can see the histories of the two bill and all the official record at [AB 367](#) and at [SB 369](#).

I attach a document from the Wisconsin County Forests Association showing the loss in revenue to counties in "timber country" since the Verso mill closed a year ago.

And finally, in case you are new to our list, please know that we have a lot of information about the effects of the Verso mill closure at a web site we've created, <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/rapidstogether> You are welcome to take a look.

Thank you all for your very important help on this.

John Reinemann
Aide to Rep. Scott Krug

608-266-0215

Emails and office information:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8kyp4pe>

Chadwick W. Stelmacher

5314 5th Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
715-451-4593 / chadwickook@gmail.com

To: Rep. Feyen
From: Chadwick W Stelmacher
Date: 06/14/2021
Subject: Bill SB369

Dear Rep. Feyen,

I would like the official Committee record to show that I support Bill SB369.

I am a Wis Rapids area resident, a former Rapids Together Committee Member, a former Union Representative and former 30-year employee of the WR Mill.

I held the positions of Steward, VP and P of Local 2-94 going back as far as 2001.

Over the years with different owners, many concessions were given through Negotiations and Bankruptcy to keep the Mills in the WR area operating.

Along with keeping the Mills in Operation, many other support jobs (i.e. Logging) across the State of WI were kept operating as well.

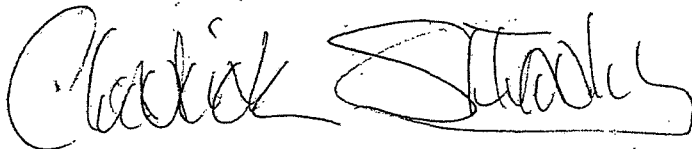
At no fault of our own, Covid-19 struck the world causing the closure of the WR Mill.

Those Great paying WR Mill and Support jobs paid in a lot of tax dollars to the state through the years.

I'm asking that you all Stand and Vote in favor of SB369 for us in the State of WI who paid our fair share and did everything right through the years only to be wronged in the end by a virus.

With your help, we can possibly get the Mill purchased by a Cooperative from VERSO Corporation and once again be up and running!

Best Regards,
Chadwick Stelmacher



**Suchovsky Logging LLC
Warren Suchovsky, Co-owner
N9677 Co. Rd. 577
Stephenson, MI 49887**

I very much wish to go on record in support the adoption of SB 369.

My son and I own a small logging company in Menominee County in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Occasionally we harvest timber in Wisconsin. Some of these sales have been on MFL lands. We do sell some round wood to various mills in Wisconsin.

Since the closure of the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids we have experienced a greatly reduced market for some species of wood as well a reduction in price from Verso's Michigan mills. Our operation is down about 35% this year. Some of this loss was due to the closure of Verso's Wisconsin Rapids mill.

This loss of market has had an impact on our ability to harvest timber in a sustainable manner. We have had to greatly reduce the amount of softwood we should be harvesting due to insect and disease issues. The soft market for pulpwood also impacts our ability to produce higher value products such as sawlogs.

The loss of the Wisconsin Verso mill has had a negative impact on a very large multi-state wood basket as well as the forests in the Wisconsin Rapids area. Land owners, loggers, truckers, mills and their employees as well as supporting businesses in our communities have all felt the impact of this closure. It is imperative that this mill be re-opened. I feel this is possible by changing the mix of products that can produced by this mill.

I am also supportive of amending the bill to include some funding for the Park Falls mill.

We support the adoption of SB 369.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warren Suchovsky

Wisconsin County Forests Association

Norman Bickford
President
Burnett County

Joe Waichulis
Vice President
Clark County

Greg Sekela
Treasurer
Oconto County

Al Mans
Director
Marinette County

Myron Brooks
Director
Taylor County

Ed Kelley
Director
Florence County

Bill Schradle
Director
Barron County

Phil Schneider
Director
Rusk County

William Bialecki
Director
Lincoln County

Arnold Schlei
Director
Marathon County

Jim Parrett
Director
Juneau County

Hank Graber
Director
Washburn County

Alan VanRaalte
Director
Oneida County

Michael Luedeke
Director-at-Large
Spooner, WI

Henry Schienebeck
Director-at-Large
Rhinelander, WI

Rebekah Luedtke
Executive Director

June 14, 2021

Senator Dan Feyen
Chair, Committee on Economic and Workforce Development
Room 306 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Support for SB 369, the "Mill Bill"

Dear Senator Feyen,

The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) is writing in support of SB 369, also known as the "Mill Bill", and request to be registered as such in order that the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids might be purchased and put back into operation as soon as is feasible by a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin. This will help ensure jobs return to the community and greater Wisconsin, and that our forests will regain an important buyer for pulpwood harvested in the State.

WCFA represents the 30 counties in Wisconsin with County Forest lands established under state statutes §28.10 and 28.11. Collectively, these 30 counties manage over 2.4 million acres of forests, the largest public ownership in our State. These counties are a major contributor to public land management and rural economic development, and are also highly valued because they provide a reliable source of raw materials for the forest products industry, as well as a tremendous amount of recreation opportunities.

Sustainable forests, outdoor recreation and public land management are vitally important to our State's economic health. As you know, forest products are the 2nd largest industry in Wisconsin, supporting more than 64,000 jobs and contributing over \$24 billion annually to the State's economy. The two Verso mills which were idled in June 2020 consumed roughly 25% of the total raw material harvested in Wisconsin, including the majority of low-grade hardwood pulp. Losing this, or any, large market puts sustainable forest management, including the viability of our healthy forests, in jeopardy. A summary of direct financial impact to the County Forests can be found on page 3.

Active sustainable forest management, including timber harvests, provide healthy forest conditions, robust wildlife habitat, clean water resources and offer numerous outdoor recreation amenities and services afforded primarily from timber sale revenues. In addition to economic setbacks, counties, and the citizens of Wisconsin, will likely see

801 N. Sales Street, Suite 107
Merrill, WI 54452
715-539-1097

rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com
www.wisconsincountyforests.com

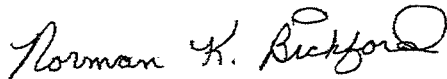
Wisconsin County Forests Association

additional negative environmental and socio-economic impacts as well if markets do not rebound.

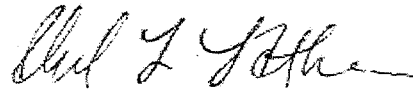
Furthermore, the County Forest programs bring revenue into county coffers to not only fund their programs but to also supplement county wide budgets. For example, the Forestry and Parks department in Rusk County is responsible for 25% of their county's annual operating budget. Other county departments and services, and possibly tax levies, could be significantly impacted if revenues of harvested timber, due to lost markets, fall considerably.

In summary, forestry isn't just our job but our passion, our pride and our way of life. This should be a bi-partisan issue, supporting good jobs in rural Wisconsin and also supporting the forest products industry. We implore you to help keep Wisconsin a national leader in forest products and natural resource management by supporting SB 369 and its amendment to also support the Park Falls cooperative initiative. Supporting the forest products industry by financially supporting the cooperative initiatives for both Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls will go a long way in ensuring the health and viability of wood markets for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.
Sincerely,



Norman Bickford
President



Rebekah Luedtke
Executive Director

Wisconsin County Forests Association

Norman Bickford
President
Burnett County

Joe Waichulis
Vice President
Clark County

Greg Sekela
Treasurer
Oconto County

Al Mans
Director
Marinette County

Myron Brooks
Director
Taylor County

Ed Kelley
Director
Florence County

Bill Schradle
Director
Barron County

Phil Schneider
Director
Rusk County

William Bialecki
Director
Lincoln County

Arnold Schlei
Director
Marathon County

Jim Parrett
Director
Juneau County

Hank Graber
Director
Washburn County

Alan VanRaalte
Director
Oneida County

Michael Luedeke
Director-at-Large
Spooner, WI

Henry Schienebeck
Director-at-Large
Rhinelander, WI

Rebekah Luedtke
Executive Director

June 7, 2021

RE: Financial impact to County Forests due to Verso shutdown

The Wisconsin Rapids Verso mill idled in summer 2020 consumed roughly 25% of the total raw material harvested in Wisconsin, and nearly 20% of timber harvested off of County Forest lands, including the majority of low-grade hardwood pulp. Losing this market puts sustainable forest management, including the viability of our healthy forests, in jeopardy.

On average, the County Forests return roughly \$40 million annually back to the counties and towns. Table 1 (right) details the direct financial impacts to the County Forests who shipped timber to Verso, over \$4 million annually.

However, the economic and environmental impacts go much further than those directly tied to the idling of the Verso mill. The closure also resulted in a massive shift in wood market dynamics, creating a supply and demand imbalance, with a large excess in supply with no market. In turn, this negatively affects sale rates and prices across the board for all counties.

For example, the direct financial impact for Bayfield County is roughly \$210,000 but the indirect impact is projected to be over \$900,000 due to lower sale rates and reduced prices paid across all species and products. Likewise, Washburn County is predicting over \$700,000 in receipts lost annually while only \$192,000 of that is from Verso. Furthermore, the multiplied value/impact on the greater forest products industry (loggers, truckers, community businesses, etc.) is staggering.

We implore Legislative leaders to take action and help save Wisconsin's \$24 billion forest products industry.

COUNTY	DIRECT VALUE LOST ANNUALLY
ADAMS	0
ASHLAND	\$ 350,000
BARRON	No report
BAYFIELD	\$ 209,599
BURNETT	\$ 148,864
CHIPPEWA	\$ 38,673
CLARK	\$ 271,600
DOUGLAS	\$ 513,883
EAU CLAIRE	\$ 418,194
FLORENCE	0
FOREST	No report
IRON	\$ 195,190
JACKSON	\$ 474,338
JUNEAU	\$ 250,000
LANGLADE	No report
LINCOLN	\$ 134,231
MARATHON	\$ 101,552
MARINETTE	No report
MONROE	\$ 5,000
OCONTO	\$ 82,659
ONEIDA	\$ 110,000
POLK	\$ 28,000
PRICE	No report
RUSK	\$ 267,527
SAWYER	\$ 204,899
TAYLOR	\$ 19,968
VERNON	No report
VILAS	No report
WASHBURN	\$ 192,883
WOOD	\$ 80,541
	\$ 4,097,604

Table 1

Sen.Feyen

From: Damrow, Bobbi <Bobbi.Damrow@mstc.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Senate Bill 269

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning,

My name is Dr. Bobbi Damrow and I serve as the Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Relations here at Mid-State Technical College. With campuses in Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Stevens Point and Adams, our area has been shattered by the idling of the Verso plant in Wisconsin Rapids and hence my support of Senate Bill 369. To support the economic recovery of our college district please financially support the prospective purchasers of the Verso Mill in Wisconsin Rapids which will put hundreds of people directly back to work, revitalize the timber supply chain and paper supply and provide economic stability to central WI. As you know the Verso mill employed approximately 900 people just 18 months ago, consumed around 25% of the total raw material harvested in Wisconsin and contributed to 20% of the timber harvested off County Forest lands providing a \$4M annual impact and the overall forest sustainability plan. The economic impact on the logging industry has been enormous and that is why I was pleased to learn that this bill will also include the Park Falls Paper Mill with funding for prospective purchasers as well. This will put even more papermakers, loggers and supportive industries and small businesses back on track to help Wisconsin bounce back after the pandemic.

Please have this email message entered into the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Bobbi Damrow, Ed.D.
Vice President, Workforce Development & Community Relations
Mid-State Technical College / Wisconsin Rapids Campus
500 32nd Street North
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715/422-5421
Bobbi.Damrow@mstc.edu

mstc.edu

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FOLLOW us at twitter.com/FollowMSTC



WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

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Sen.Feyen

From: Caleb Phillip <cphil96@live.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Senator Feyen,

My name is Caleb Phillip, from Neenah, Wisconsin, member of USW Local 2-727. I'd like to voice to you my support for Senate Bill 369 (the "Mill Bill"), and would like this email entered into the record of the upcoming public hearing.

Thank you for your time,

Caleb Phillip

Sen.Feyen

From: Scott Bowe <sabowe@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Feyen,

My name is Scott Bowe. I am writing to you as a private citizen from District 12, Woodruff, but have worked as a professor of forest products at the UW since 2000. I understand the significant impact of the forest products industry on Wisconsin's economy, especially in rural areas of the state. The closing of the Verso mill has had a significant impact on the forest economy. Not just in Wisconsin Rapids, but across the entire state and across the borders to MN and MI. I wish to be registered as supporting SB 369 in order that the Verso mill might be purchased and put back into operation by a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin. This actions will help return jobs to the community and Wisconsin forests will regain an importance buyer for pulpwood being cut in the state, much of it under management plans already on file with the DNR. The multiplier effect of the forest industry is significant. Direct jobs are important, but that number of jobs more than doubles if you add in the indirect and induced jobs in other sectors of Wisconsin's economy.

Thanks you for your time,

Scott Bowe
Professor of Forest Products
Woodruff, WI
715-892-0391

Sen.Feyen

From: matt berdan <mattberdan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Matt Berdan and i live in Marshfield and i support SB 369.
I worked in the Woodroom for 6 plus years getting laid off in August of 2020. I wish to registered as supporting SB 369.
with a willing workforce and abundant raw materials in the area its a good investment in our area and statewide. thank you
for your time on this matter.



OFFICE
OF THE
MAYOR

June 14, 2021

Senator Dan Feyen
Chair of Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development
Via Email: Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov

Dear Senator Feyen,

As Mayor of the City of Wisconsin Rapids, I wish to be registered as supporting SB 369, which would support a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin in their objective of purchasing the Verso Paper Mill and putting it back into operation.

The closure of the Verso Paper Mill last July created an economic shock in the city of Wisconsin Rapids and the surrounding region. The Verso Paper Mill was the largest employer within Wisconsin Rapids and employed over 900 people, with most of those jobs lost after the closure. Area businesses that serve the mill will account for an additional 580 jobs lost due to the closure. The impact grows when you look at the regional and statewide impacts of this closure. Regionally, the closure is estimated to impact 1,931 jobs; with an estimated impact of 2,686 jobs statewide. These job losses relate to lost earnings for Wisconsin's people and lost tax revenues for Wisconsin's cities.

The Verso Paper Mill also consumed one-quarter of the pulpwood cut annually in Wisconsin, advancing timber and transportation industries throughout the state, while making an important impact on Wisconsin forestry. Much of this forest land is also under management plans already on file with the DNR.

The closure of our city's paper mill will have a profound effect on our community, our region and our state. And SB 369 poses an opportunity to bring back jobs, while ensuring our paper professionals' expertise stays local. It is an opportunity for our paper mill to again be locally owned and operated. Now is the time to act on SB 369 and spare us from seeing the full impact of this closure. I urge you to support this proposal and I thank you for recording my support of SB 369 in the official committee record on the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane E. Blaser".

Shane E. Blaser, Mayor
City of Wisconsin Rapids

Shane E. Blaser, Mayor

City of Wisconsin Rapids | 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 | wirapids.org | 715.421.8216 | mayor@wirapids.org

Sen.Feyen

From: Beth Ellie <bethellie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Senate Bill 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello:

My name is Beth Ellie. I live in Junction City, WI, just north of Wisconsin Rapids where I work. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 369. To support the economic recovery of the Wisconsin Rapids region, please support the of prospective purchasers of the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids. In addition to supporting the Wisconsin Rapids area, SB 369 supports the logging and forestry industry throughout the state as the Verso mill consumed around 25% of the total raw material harvested in Wisconsin, including 20% of timber harvested off County Forest lands (\$4M annual impact).

Please have this email message entered into the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Beth Ellie
3025 Long Road
Junction City, WI 54443

Sen.Feyen

From: Patrick Smith <psmith@co.florence.wi.us>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug; Rep.Swearingen; Rebekah Luedtke
Subject: Comment for SB369 Public Hearing on 6/15/21

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Feyen:

My name is Patrick Smith. I live and work in Florence, Wisconsin about 3 hours north of Wisconsin Rapids.

Please enter this email message into the record of the public hearing on SB 369 scheduled for 6/15/21.

As the Florence County Forestry and Parks Administrator, I am in support of SB 369 for the following reasons:

1. The large amount of pulpwood consumed by the Wisconsin Rapids pulp mill is critical to the ongoing success of the #2 industry in Wisconsin: Forest Products.
2. Without this large consumer of pulpwood in Wisconsin, there are too few destinations for loggers to ship the pulpwood that is one component of the many timber harvests on private and public forest lands all over the state.
3. If there are too few mills to consume pulpwood, timber sale prices will decline hurting our local logging businesses and reducing the revenues that Florence County receives from our 36,000 acre County Forest.
4. Florence County is home to 5 sawmills, many loggers and many private consulting foresters. Forest Products is our largest industry by payroll and tax revenue. If this bill helps the Wisconsin Rapids reopen, then the health of the Forest Products industry all across the state of Wisconsin will benefit including Florence County.

Thank you for your support for SB 369.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Smith

Florence County Forestry

& Parks Administrator

5617 Forestry Drive

Florence WI, 54121

(715) 528-3207

This e-mail is intended for the use of the addressee(s) only and may contain privileged, confidential, or proprietary information that is exempt from disclosure under law. If you have received this message in error, please inform us promptly by reply e-mail and destroy any printed copy. Thank you.

Elected Officials and Members of Official Committees: In order to comply with open meeting requirements, please limit any reply to only the sender of this electronic communication.

Notice: It's OK to print this email. Paper is a biodegradable, renewable, recyclable, sustainable product made from trees. Growing and harvesting trees provides millions of jobs. Working forests are good for the environment providing clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and carbon storage. Thanks to improved forest management, we have more trees today than we had 100 years ago.

Sen.Feyen

From: Arnie Schraeder <schraederarnie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 7:27 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Senate Bill 369 support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Arnie H Schraeder.

I live in Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

I support SB 369.

I want my email message to be entered into the record of the public hearing.

I began working when it was Consolidated Papers in 1991 and kept working at Verso until layoff due to idle in October of 2020. I was a Recovery Boiler Operator at the Verso Wisconsin Rapids Pulp Mill.

I support the Timber Professionals Cooperative purchase of the mill and look forward to returning to a job that was personally and financially rewarding.

I truly believe the Wisconsin Rapids mill and the pulp that it can produce in the future will be a very valuable asset at the individual, city, state, national, and global levels.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

ALBRECHT TRUCKING II, LLC
4962 AIRPORT LANE
LAONA WI 54541

EMAIL: albrechttruckingii@gmail.com

PHONE: 715-889-0283

June 14, 2021

Dear Senator Feyen,

My name is Mike Albrecht and I'm the owner/operator of a small logging company based in the Town of Laona in Northern Wisconsin. A large amount of the raw forest products my company produces had been purchased by Verso's WI Rapids mill up until June 9, 2020 when it was announced the mill would be idled down indefinitely due to COVID-19. The negative impact from the loss of this mill on my business has been overwhelming.

As a landowner in Northern Wisconsin, I see the direct affect this mill closure is having on timber value in Wisconsin. As a life-long community member, I see first-hand the environmental, social, and economic benefits of sustainable forest management in Wisconsin and am deeply concerned for the stability of our forests and rural communities if something is not done quickly to restore the large hole left by the loss of the WI Rapids mill.

I wish to be entered in the record of the public hearing on SB 369 in order that the Verso and Park Falls mills might be purchased and put back into operation by the cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin. This, in my opinion, is the best path forward to allow jobs to return to the community and for Wisconsin forests to remain a healthy and productive resource, ecologically and economically.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter!

Sincerely,

Michael Albrecht

Albrecht Trucking II, LLC
albrechttruckingii@gmail.com
715-889-0283

Sen.Feyen

From: Toni Engstrom <toni.engstrom@frontier.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 6:21 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Support SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Feyen,

My name is Toni Engstrom. As life-long citizen and now a landowner in the Village of Enterprise in Northern Wisconsin, I see first-hand the incredible role the forest products industry plays in the environmental and economic health of this beautiful state. I am deeply concerned for the stability of our forests and rural communities if something is not done quickly to restore the large hole left in the forest products industry by the loss of the Verso WI Rapids mill.

I wish to be entered into the record of public hearing as supporting SB 369 - the "Mill Bill" - in order that the Verso and Park Falls mills might be purchased and put back into operation by the cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin. This, in my opinion, is the best path forward to allow jobs to return to the community and for Wisconsin forests to remain a healthy and productive resource, ecologically and economically.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter!

Sincerely,

~Toni J. Engstrom

715-216-3186
toni.engstrom@frontier.com

1201 County G
Pelican Lake WI 54463

ENTERPRISE
FOREST
PRODUCTS, INC.

“Specialists in Sustainable Forestry”

1178 Hwy G. Pelican Lake, WI 54463

Phone: (715) 550-1602

Fax: (715) 487-4455

June 14, 2021

Dear Senator Feyen,

I'm the owner/operator of a small logging company based in Enterprise, WI. The majority of the raw forest products my company produces had been purchased by Verso's WI Rapids mill up until June 9, 2020 when it was announced the mill would be idled down indefinitely due to COVID-19. The negative impact from the loss of this mill on my business, and so many other logging businesses in this region, is overwhelming.

As a landowner in Northern Wisconsin, I see the direct affect this mill closure is having on timber value in Wisconsin.

As a concerned community member, I understand the massive impact the forest products industry as a whole has on Wisconsin's economy. I am deeply concerned for the stability of our rural communities if something is not done quickly to restore the large hole left by the loss of the WI Rapids mill.

I wish to be registered as supporting SB 369 in order that the Verso mill might be purchased and put back into operation by a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin. This, in my opinion, is the best path forward to allow jobs to return to the community and for Wisconsin forests to remain a healthy and productive resource, ecologically and economically.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter!

Sincerely,

Dennis Schoeneck

Enterprise Forest Products, Inc.

Phone: 715-550-1602

Email: dennisloggin@frontier.com

Sen.Feyen

From: ironrust@charter.net
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Honorable Senator Feyen,

I am a raw forest products trucker from Michigan.

I am expressing my support of SB-369.

After the closure of the Wisconsin Rapids mill, there has been a huge disruption in the markets for round wood pulp. The existing supply of wood inventory and Verso trying to honor existing supplier contracts have caused a huge flood of wood fiber entering Michigan. This has led to the lessening or complete elimination of wood supply contracts and sales by Michigan producers.

Michigan's wood fiber supply industry has been forced into the same operational situations experienced by the wood industry suppliers and truckers in the State of Wisconsin. Some truckers have had to close down and producers have been shuttering operations because of there being no market opportunities to sell the wood . Timber sales have been not bid on or have not been harvested due to the flooded roundwood pulp market by out of state wood.

Both States of Wisconsin and Michigan suffer from there being more wood ready to harvest versus what can be harvested due to the removal of industry capacity to utilize the wood resource. Both states need the manufacturing capacities of both the Wisconsin Rapids mill and Park Falls mill to provide a market to utilize our wood resource that would otherwise rot and go away by fires, diseases, and other natural or climatic environmental changes. This situation will destroy a century of work by Forest Professionals who have been able to manage and provide very healthy and prospering forests.

Thank-you for the opportunity to send my comments to you. Thank-you for your time and consideration in the hope of your support for SB-369.

Please enter this correspondence into the record of the public hearing for SB-369.

If you wish for anything else from me, I have furnished my contact info below.

Sincerely,

Justin Yelle
Gwinn, MI

ironrust@charter.net
906-360-3038

Sen.Feyen

From: Becky Don <beckydon@centurytel.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Becky Carden My husband Don Carden and his brother Dennis Carden have operated under Carden Brothers Logging In since 1980. Since the shut down of the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids and the Park Fall mill their business has been severely affected. The prices for stumpage have not decreased but the cost of fuel and other operating expenses have increased. The price paid at the mills has also decreased. I myself worked at the Park Falls mill for 28 years and when it closed my family not only lost my income but also our health insurance. I now travel to work 1 hour each way Monday to Friday for half of the wage I was making at the mill. Please add my email into record of public hearing SB 369

Sen.Feyen

From: tjec@tds.net
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2021 8:17 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: mill bill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My Name is Ted Steines, 6845 Elm Road, Arpin, Wi. 54410 cell: 715-305-6376 and YES you can use my e-mail in support of the mill bill.

I am a Journeyman Millwright and have worked at the Rapids paper mill for 32 years, that job has helped my family live a great life, supported my two children, Emma and Cody, get both of them through college and saved money for Julie and my retirement. I was so excited to hear about the "mill bill", I loved working at the mill, we were all like family. I pray daily that I can go back to work there again.

I cannot even believe that this would be hung up by the Democrats and our Governor! I thought the Democrats hung their hat on the "working class", unions, which we are, well its a ton of workers and unions. Not only us in Rapids, but all the way to the top of our state, not to mention all the money that is made and spent by all the businesses that make money off of these jobs that are directly related to this one mill.

On the environmental side of things, what about the health of our forest? The foresters are even worried about disease, wild fires, you name it because of proper cutting and management that are not happening now because of that one mill being down. All I have to say is, if this Mill was in Madison, it would be running again.

Right now, restarting this mill is the biggest thing in our families life that we think about and pray about, Yes, I got another job, but its just a job, the mill was a career, it was my life that I loved. I talk to all my former co-workers, we all agreed, we can't wait for the mill to open again.

More money for Badger care! really, open the mill up and a ton of people will have their own insurance and won't need that insurance.

PLEASE PASS THE MILL BILL!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We want to go back home and go to work.

Ted Steines
Township of Arpin

Sen.Feyen

From: Tony Morice <tjmorice@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2021 6:52 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Dan Feyen

As a colleague in the timber/forest industry over the years, I'm familiar with many of the players facilitating this process. I've seen the instability of both the Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls mills the last many years and believe the cooperative model, with those vested in the industry guiding their futures, makes logical sense for Wisconsin to get behind. The funding of the state to loan, not give, the funds to enable this long term path makes financial sense from numerous perspectives to stabilize the industry, regional jobs and related businesses for Wisconsin.

I live in Wausau WI and support Senate Bill 369 and am fine having this message entered into public record for the hearing.

Tony "T.J." Morice
Cell 715-218-2900



"Duty is ours, results are God's" John Quincy Adams
<http://tntventures.webnode.com>

Sen.Feyen

From: Brian & Thea Hanson <brianthea@wctc.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2021 6:46 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: SB369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Feyen,

I'm writing on behalf of both my wife and myself to state our support for Bill SB369, requesting that this email be entered into the record of the public hearing of this bill. We are both long term residents of the city of Wisconsin Rapids, and both recently retired.

During our careers we both worked in sales and service to our local community and have seen the negative effects that the waves of employment downsizing has had on our local economy, community spirit and efforts to attract new businesses to our community. Having said that, we are still proud to live in this community where natural resources and the infrastructure provide an enjoyable way of life and the potential to support businesses that are willing to invest in our community.

We have followed the proposed plans that the cooperative entity has developed for purchasing the Verso Mill in Wisconsin Rapids and putting it back into production and believe that this would have significant and lasting benefits throughout the paper industry supply chain, including landowners, foresters, mill employees, paper suppliers and consumers. In addition, an operational and productive mill in Wisconsin Rapids would increase confidence with other business people who are considering communities to invest in with new or additional business locations. While this bill is good for the Wisconsin Rapids area, this decision will affect many more communities throughout Northern Wisconsin and in the U.P.

The people of this community have been a steady and productive workforce for well over 100 years and there are people ready and willing to work in the positions that this mill will make available. We boldly ask for your support and efforts to ensure the passage of this bill that will have a major positive effect for not just Wisconsin Rapids, but Wisconsin as a whole.

Best regards,

Brian and Althea Hanson
1320 12th St S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-423-5329
brianthea@wctc.net

Sen.Feyen

From: Debbie Franz <debbie.franz03@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 9:52 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Supporting SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To: Senator Dan Feyen, Chairman
Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development

Dear Senator Feyen,

My name is Debra Franz. I have been a life-long resident of the Wisconsin Rapids community, and have had many family members who were employed at Verso Paper in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Many of these employees, including my spouse, were laid-off, or terminated when Verso was idled in 2020.

I wish to be registered as supporting SB 369 in order that the Verso mill might be purchased and put back into operation in order that jobs can return to the community, as well as related businesses, and to include the paper mill in Park Falls.

Again, I am in support of SB 369 and want this email message to be entered into the record of the public hearing.

Sincerely,

Debra L Franz
2620 64th St N
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
715-424-3124
Debbie.franz03@gmail.com

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sen.Feyen

From: brian schweitzer <brischweitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 9:50 PM
To: Sen.Feyen; Rep.Krug
Subject: SB369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello my Name is Brian Schweitzer. I am a former union Representative for local 94. I am also an ex employee of 13 years of Verso papers in Wisconsin Rapids and have been directly impacted by the closure of the Mill. I have been part of the disappointment of the recent mill closure and i have dealt with the loss on a more personal level with my co workers..Its been quite frustrating seing the company hold out on the sale of the mill. Time is starting to be the biggest enemy as many still have hope but also many have moved on...I am hopeful the mill can finally be purchased and resume operations. The community here as well as many other areas are directly affected and its very important to put the mill back into hands that are willing to make the Mill work for the future and not just line investors pockets...I believe the mill would be open still had it been owned by a company with a vision for the future.

Therefore I am asking my name be included in the official committee record as a supporter of SB 369. Thank you for you time and hard work and I'm hopeful this bill will pass.

Best regards-

Brian E. Schweitzer
3210 44th st South
Wisconsin Rapids ,WI 54494
7159377740
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sen.Feyen

From: Jeff Lobner <lobnerje@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 9:12 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am supporting the Senate Bill 369. The Wisconsin Rapids Mill owned by Verso Corp. needs to be started again. The Timber Professional Coop is the buyer. They are looking for help to purchase along with all the employees currently out of work because of this shutdown.

This is a good facility. Help us out by voting yes.

Jeff Lobner Wisconsin Rapids, Wi. 54494

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sen.Feyen

From: Scott Koerner <skoerner@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sen. Feyen

I support SB 369. I am a logging contractor from Oshkosh, WI. The Verso Mill is a major part of the wood using chain in Wisconsin. A disruption of that size has a ripple effect throughout the industry. Many of the wood using industries are interconnected.

Scott Koerner
Koerner Forest Products, LTD
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sen.Feyen

From: Brian Zabel <bzsawyer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Support SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Dan Feyen

My name is Brian Zabel from New London, WI and I support SB 369

We are a medium sized sawmill in New London. We produce wood chips. The Verso mill closing has had a huge impact on the wood fiber market in central Wisconsin, mostly in terms of how timber is being harvested and utilized. With the reopening of the Verso mill, Workers, Land owners, Loggers, Truckers, Sawmills, Communities and Consumers would see benefits. This mill impacts many lives and businesses. It is in everyone's best interest to keep this mill operating.

Please enter this email into the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Thank You,
Brian Zabel
Zabel's Sawmill, LLC
Cedar Creek Timbersmiths
E9491 Cty Rd. T
New London, WI 54961
920-250-2303

Sen.Feyen

From: Matt Jensen <whitetaillogging@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Sb369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator, my name is Matt Jensen, 35 year business owner of Whitetail Logging LLC from Crandon Wisconsin. I am writing in support of the Verso mill bill and would ask it put into public record. I am a lifelong resident of northern Wisconsin and appreciate your support of this very important legislation to create jobs and sustain our valuable forests in our state. Thank you, Matt Jensen

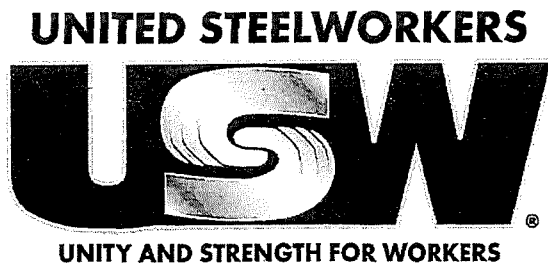
Sen.Feyen

From: Tim Walters <Tim.Walters@waltersbrotherslumber.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Prior email from myself supporting SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Tim Walters from Cornell, Wi. I sent an email a couple hrs. earlier in support of SB 369. I would like my prior email to be entered into the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Thank you, Tim Walters



Michael Bolton
Director, District 2

June 11, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Dan Feyen
Wisconsin State Senate
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Feyen:

I am a resident of Sherwood, Wisconsin, and the Director of the United Steelworkers District 2, covering the states of Wisconsin and Michigan. I write to you today along with my colleague, Leeann Foster, United Steelworkers International Vice President overseeing the Paper Sector, on behalf of more than 500 individuals who were United Steelworkers-represented workers at the Verso Wisconsin Rapids Pulp and Paper Mill prior to the company's decision last June to close the mill. Prior to that time, this mill had been producing paper and providing quality jobs and economic stability in Central Wisconsin for more than a century. The closure of the Wisconsin Rapids mill resulted in the loss of 900 direct jobs and an estimated 1,600+ indirect jobs statewide.

We write to indicate our support for Wisconsin Senate Bill 369 (the "Mill Bill"), as we are in favor of all efforts to find a buyer that will restart the mill, restore quality union jobs to Wisconsin Rapids, and support additional indirect jobs throughout the state, including crucial jobs in the lumber industry providing pulpwood to the mill. We ask that this support be recorded in the official committee record of SB369.

Sincerely,

Leeann Foster
USW International Vice President
lfoster@usw.org

Michael H. Bolton
USW District 2 Director
mbolton@usw.org

cc: Rep. Scott Krug, WI Assembly District 72
Howard Bochner, United Steelworkers
Denny Lauer, United Steelworkers District 2

Sen.Feyen

From: TODD BERG <tlberg3001@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Support+SB+369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator,

I am writing in support of SB 369 and respectfully request your support and that this letter be admitted in the public record.

Respectfully yours,

Todd Berg
USW Member
2115 Fenwick Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Sen.Feyen

From: Lauer, Denny <dlauer@usw.org>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Support SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing this email in support of SB 369. This mill has been a staple in this community for decades and needs to return to its former glory. Not just by making pulp but making paper and converting it as well.

I would like this email to be entered into the record of the public hearing.

I live in Hilbert, WI.

Thank you,
Denny Lauer
Staff Representative
United Steelworkers - District 2
Office: 920-722-7630

Sen.Feyen

From: Tim Walters <Tim.Walters@waltersbrotherslumber.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Tim Walters and I live in Cornell, Wi. I support SB 369. My reasoning is that I am owner and president of Walters Brothers Lumber Mfg., Inc. I have two plants, one in Radisson, Wi.(Sawyer county) and the other in Holcombe, Wi.(Chippewa county). Together I employ approx. 45 people. The Verso plant in Wisconsin Rapids was a major purchaser of hardwood pulpwood from loggers throughout Wisconsin. The closing of that mill has been devastating to loggers throughout the state as most do not have adequate markets for their pulpwood. This has not only caused a problem for loggers but also for sawmills that need hardwood logs. Without pulpwood markets loggers are not cutting enough hardwood logs to satisfy the demand for sawmills in Wisconsin. This is causing a financial hardship on many sawmills and could lead to some going out of business as a result. The trickle down effect of the Verso mill closing falls far beyond the employees of Verso.

The papermill in Park Falls, Wi. has also been a player in purchasing pulpwood from loggers until recently. That mill also, up until the most recent owner, had been purchasing bark, sawdust and woodchips from area sawmills to supplement fuel for their boilers. There are not nearly enough businesses accepting wood residue in Wisconsin to keep sawmills, etc. able to produce at full capacity. Many of the companies that use sawmill residue have shut down in the last 15 years. We also need the Park Falls papermill to begin operation again with the hope that they will be a customer for pulpwood from loggers and residue from sawmills.
Sincerely, Tim Walters

Sen.Feyen

From: Wendy Gehlhoff <wgehlhoff@co.florence.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug; Rep.Swearingen; Driscoll, Collin; Henry Schienebeck; Don Peterson (don@renewableresourcesolutions.com); Patrick Smith; Jeanette Bomberg
Subject: Comment for SB 369 Public Hearing on 6/15/21

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Dan Feyen:

My name is Wendy Gehlhoff. I live and work in Florence, Wisconsin about 3 hours north of Wisconsin Rapids.

Please enter this email message into the record of the public hearing on SB 369 scheduled for 6/15/21.

As the Florence County Economic Development Director, I am in support of SB 369 for the following reasons:

1. The large amount of pulpwood consumed by the Wisconsin Rapids pulp mill is critical to the ongoing success of the #2 industry in Wisconsin: Forest Products.
2. Without this large consumer of pulpwood in Wisconsin, there are too few destinations for loggers to ship the pulpwood that is one component of the many timber harvests on private and public forest lands all over the state.
3. If there are too few mills to consume pulpwood, timber sale prices will decline hurting our local logging businesses and reducing the revenues that Florence County receives from our 36,000 acre County Forest.
4. Florence County is home to 5 sawmills, many loggers and many private consulting foresters. Forest Products is our largest industry by payroll and tax revenue. If this bill helps the Wisconsin Rapids reopen, then the health of the Forest Products industry all across the state of Wisconsin will benefit including Florence County.

Thank you for your support for SB 369.

Sincerely,



Wendy Gehlhoff- Director
Florence County Economic Development
P.O. Box 410 (501 Lake Ave – Courthouse)
Florence, Wisconsin 54121
Office (715)528-3294 Fax (715)528-5071

This e-mail is intended for the use of the addressee(s) only and may contain privileged, confidential, or proprietary information that is exempt from disclosure under law. If you have received this message in error, please inform us by reply e-mail and destroy any printed copy. Elected Officials and Committee Members: to comply with open meeting laws, please limit replies to only the sender of this email. Notice: It's OK to print this email. Paper is a biodegradable, renewable, recyclable, sustainable product made from trees. Growing and harvesting trees provides millions of jobs. Working forests are good for the environment providing clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and carbon storage. Thanks to improved forest management, we have more trees today than we had 100 years ago

Sen.Feyen

From: Heidi Daleiden <lumberjackm@ericsonlogging.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Support of AB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

June 11, 2021

RE: Our support of AB 369

Senator Feyen,

My name is Max Ericson Sr., I am a fourth-generation logger in northern WI. I live in Minong WI. I started my own business in 1966. I started shipping wood to Verso mill and In 1972, I rec'd my own contract and have shipped to them since, until the closing of their doors. In 2016, I incorporated my business and now have a daughter and grand sons in the business, making us a six generation loggers. Without Verso and the Park Falls mill, we have no place to ship birch or ash and extremely limited places to ship pine. Without the ability to ship those species, we have no way of managing our forests correctly. Where we live it is too far to ship wood by truck to Ahlstrom Munksjo in Kaukauna, because of the rules and regulations in the trucking industry. The CN costs are too high, so shipping by rail isn't an cost effective option. We are finally getting logging production up so that we can manage our forest but do not have an outlet for the wood without these mills. Without these two mills, many jobs will be lost in the logging industry which will cause a trickle – down effect. We cannot emphasize enough how much we support this bill. Our livelihoods depend on it along with all the employees that we employ. Please enter this email into the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Thank you for your time.

Max Ericson Sr.
President of Ericson Logging Inc.
Minong WI 54859



Sen.Feyen

From: kelly@ironcountywi.com
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Dan Feyen

As the Director of Iron County Economic Development I support SB 369 and would like this to be entered into the record of the public hearing on SB 369. The Verso Mill Bill is of great importance to the economy of Wisconsin and especially northern Wisconsin where the wood industry is our number one employer. I have been told 25 percent of the states wood basket was used by Verso which is very significant in managing our forests. Our forest lands not only support the wood industry but also wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Without proper management not only will our wood industry suffer but also our tourism industry. These two industries are critical for the north to survive. Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Klein

Iron County Development Zone
100 Cary Road
Hurley, WI 54534
715/561-2922

Notice: It's okay to print this email. Paper, lumber and wood products from working managed forests provide a renewable resource, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. These forests provide thousands of jobs in our area.

FRANKS LOGGING
PESHIGO, WI

N2467 Koronkiewicz Lane
Peshigo, WI 54157
715-582-3193 FAX 715-582-0109
Website: www.frankslogginginc.com
Email: franksinc@centurytel.net

June 11, 2021

Sen. Dan Feyen

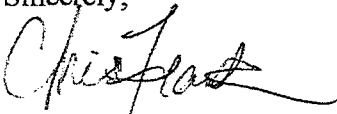
Dear Mr. Feyen,

My name is Chris Frank and I own a logging operation in Northeast Wisconsin. We have been a supplier to Verso for about 25 years. Losing the Wisconsin Rapids mill has been detrimental to our operation along with many other loggers. It has negatively impacted the wood markets volume and pricing. We are struggling to find pulpwood markets to market our wood to.

I wish to have my letter entered into the record of public hearing on SB 369 in order that the Verso mill might be purchased and put back into operation by a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin in order that jobs can return to the community and Wisconsin forests will regain an important buyer for pulpwood being cut in the state, much of it under management plans already on file with the DNR.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Chris Frank
President

Sen.Feyen

From: Mike Gardner <mgardner@northflow.net>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug; Bruce Paulsen
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The forest products economy is very important to Sawyer County. The Sawyer County Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation wishes to be recorded as supporting 2021 Senate Bill 369 in the official committee record. A loan to the Consolidated Cooperative for the purchase of the Verso Paper Mill in the city of Wisconsin Rapids and support toward the purchase of the paper mill in Park Falls will add jobs and provide increased sustainable forest management options for northern Wisconsin. . Do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or data relevant to the decision making process. Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Gardner / Executive Director
Sawyer County / Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corp.
Home Office: 8652N River Rd, Hayward, WI 54843
715-462-4775 office 715-209-8285 cell
mgardner@northflow.net



[Http://www.sclcoedc.com](http://www.sclcoedc.com)



TAYLOR COUNTY FORESTRY
AND RECREATION

224 S. SECOND STREET
MEDFORD, WI 54451

JAKE WALCISAK
County Forest Administrator

JORDAN LUTZ
Administrator Assistant

715-748-1486 Phone
jake.walcisak@co.taylor.wi.us

Senator Feyen
Wisconsin State Capitol
P.O Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

June 11th, 2021

Dear Senator Feyen,

It has come to my attention that SB 369 "Mill Bill" is scheduled for public hearing on Tuesday June 15th. Please accept this as a letter of support and a request for assistance from the State of Wisconsin to provide aid to a cooperative entity in the purchase of the Wisconsin Rapids, WI Verso Mill.

Taylor County Forestry Department manages approximately 18,000 acres of working forest in northcentral Wisconsin. Secure and stable pulpwood markets are essential to the economic and environmental wellbeing of our forests and surrounding communities. The shutdown of the Verso mill in 2020 threatens our ability to use proper forest management practices thus jeopardizing the sustainability of our forests statewide.

The wood producing supply chain is fighting to stay alive. Loggers and log truck drivers alike are struggling to continue operations. Forestry is the number one economic output and number one employer in Taylor County. The vibrance of this industry is vitally important to the success of Taylor County and the communities within our borders.

Verso mill operations have been an ongoing discussion at various County Committees for several months. These discussions have resulted in overwhelmingly strong support for efforts that result in the Wisconsin Rapids Verso Mill continuing operations and resuming pulpwood consumption.

Sincerely,

Jake Walcisk
Forest Administrator

Cc: Representative Swearingen
Representative Krug
Senator Testin

Implications of VERSO Mill Closures

1 To the Honorable members of the Burnett County Board of Supervisors;
2
3 **WHEREAS**, On June 9, 2020, Verso announced idling of their Duluth, MN and Wisconsin
4 Rapids, WI pulp and paper mills by the end of July 2020 for an indefinite period, and
5
6 **WHEREAS**, the idling of these mills will directly impact 1,000 workers and indirectly affect
7 thousands more across the entire state of Wisconsin that support the mills through related
8 forestry work such as logging, and transportation, and
9
10 **WHEREAS**, the prolonged closure of these mills will negatively affect national, state,
11 county and private landowners financially and has the potential to affect the ability to
12 continue proper silviculture techniques on those lands to maintain a healthy forest structure,
13 and
14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Rapids, WI mill utilizes over 25% of all pulpwood produced in
16 the state of Wisconsin, and
17
18 **WHEREAS**, the forest product industry supports many direct and indirect jobs in Burnett
19 County, and
20
21 **WHEREAS**, over the last five years on average approximately 10.4% of Burnett County
22 Forests total raw forest products volume has been used at the Verso mills, and
23
24 **WHEREAS**, timber sale revenues from the Burnett County Forest reduces the Burnett
25 County levy by approximately 10% and the loss of this income will financially affect the
26 15,500 citizens of Burnett County and the public services available to them and the
27 recreational visitors of Wisconsin, and
28
29 **WHEREAS**, a similar impact will be felt by nearly every County operating a County Forest
30 for timber productions.
31
32 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Burnett County Board of
33 Supervisors does hereby request the Governor and Legislature to provide assistance in any
34 way possible to allow continuation of mill operations and/or financial assistance be
35 considered to support the direct loss of jobs, as well as assistance for other industries
36 impacted by the mill closure.
37
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** the State of Wisconsin work with Counties to
39 identify new markets for forest products and provide flexibility and assistance to replace lost
40 revenues.
41
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** the Natural Resources Committee of the Burnett
43 County Board of Supervisors has directed to forward this resolution to Wisconsin Counties
44 Association (WCA), Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA) and all local, regional,
45 state and federal representatives.

Implications of VERSO Mill Closures

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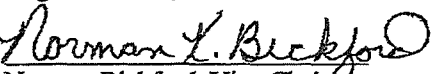
Respectfully submitted by the Natural Resources Committee.
Signed and dated this 9th day of July, 2020.



Edgar Peterson, Chair



Steve Austin




Norman Bickford, Vice-Chair



Gene McLain

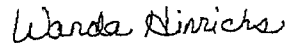
Absent During Vote
Craig Conroy, Secretary

Absent at Time of Vote
Gene Olson

Voted by Phone 
Chuck Anderson

State of Wisconsin
County of Burnett

I, Wanda Hinrichs, the duly elected and qualified County Clerk in and for Burnett County, do hereby certify that the attached resolution 2020-15 Implications of VERSO Mill Closures, was adopted by the Burnett County Board of Supervisors at a legally assembled meeting at which a quorum was present and acted throughout. The date of passage was July 23, 2020.



Wanda Hinrichs,
Burnett County Clerk

BURNETT COUNTY FOREST-VERSO IMPACTS LAST 5 YEARS

Year	Total Pulpwood Volumes	Total VERSO Volumes	% VERSO Volumes	Total Sale Values	Total Value of Wood to VERSO
2015	74181.00	10,360.01	13.97	\$1,508,134.97	\$210,686.45
2016	59210.70	3,418.30	5.77	\$1,196,792.13	\$69,054.91
2017	62210.00	3,641.69	5.85	\$1,325,034.67	\$77,514.53
2018	70316.30	8,479.35	12.06	\$1,568,609.35	\$189,174.29
2019	71356.20	9,057.46	12.69	\$1,559,435.91	\$197,892.42
Totals	337274.20	34,956.81	10.397	\$7,158,007.03	\$744,322.60

Volumes are in Tons and include all species and products. Burnett County does not sell a large amount of log volumes.



N6718 Nightingale Rd
Eland WI 54427
(715) 253-3568

June 11, 2021

This is Vern Krolow of Krolow Logging LLC and Krolow Trucking LLC in Eland Wisconsin.

It is very important to both my companies that the Verso Mill is up and running. So much of the wooded acreage relies on that mill for proper management. Without proper management we have unhealthy forests. With that mill being closed it affected a lot of companies and individuals in so many ways that aren't even realized. My trucking company alone was impacted by a 40% loss since the closure as I hauled a lot of wood to that mill. It has greatly affected the efficiency of my logging company also.

I wish to be registered as supporting SB 369 and wish my email to be entered into the record of the public hearing, in order that the Verso Mill might be purchased and put back into operation by a cooperative entity based in Northern Wisconsin in order that jobs can return to the community and Wisconsin forests will regain an importance buyer for pulpwood being cut in the state, much of it under management plans already on file with the DNR.

Thank you,

Vern Krolow

Krolow Logging LLC and Krolow Trucking LLC

Sen.Feyen

From: Dean Bowe <dean.bowe@co.lincoln.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Sen.Feyen; Rep.Krug
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Dean Bowe and I am the County Forest Administrator for Lincoln County Wisconsin. Even though a low percentage of the wood harvested from our county was actually purchased by the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids, the impact of losing a market for nearly 1/4 of the pulpwood produced in the state has a negative impact on the industry statewide.

I would like to go on record in support of passing AB 367 so that the closed Verso mill may be purchased and put back into production by a Wisconsin based cooperative. Not only will this allow good paying jobs to return to Wisconsin Rapids but it will reestablish a market for the pulpwood resource being produced by landowners in central and southern Wisconsin. Purchase of this mill by a Wisconsin based entity will also increase interest in keeping the mill operational for the long term.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Bowe

--
Dean Bowe
County Forest Administrator
Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department
801 N Sales Street, Suite 106
Merrill, WI 54452
Office #: 715.539.1034
Cell #: 715.218.1685

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***Elected Officials and Members of Committees:** In order to comply with Open Meetings Law requirements, please limit any reply to ONLY the sender of this electronic communication.*

Sen.Feyen

From: Aaron <aarmatt7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 8:36 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: SB 369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Feyen,

My name is Aaron Matticks and I am the owner/operator of Matticks Logging LLC in Milladore, Wisconsin.

I am writing you today to voice my support of SB 369. I support the bill because the closing of the Verso paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids has had a detrimental effect on my business as well as the logging and forestry industry in Wisconsin as a whole. Any effort to get and keep the mill operating is vital in order to preserve the forest products industry in Wisconsin.

Please include this email in the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Thank you for your time,

Aaron Matticks

Sen.Feyen

From: lorbiecki <lorbiecki@wi-net.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Bill SB369 - Verso WI Rapids Mill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Honorable Sen. Feyen:

My name is Mason J Lorbiecki.

My father was employed as a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Woodyard at the Verso Mill in WI Rapids, WI for 23 years.

I wish to be registered as a supporter of Bill SB369 in the Official Committee Record, in order that the Verso Mill might be purchased and put back into operation by a co-operative entity based in Northern Wisconsin.

I support Bill SB369 so thousands of jobs can return to the community and State, and Wisconsin foresters will regain an important buyer for 25% of the pulpwood being cut in this great state, much of it already under management plans on file with the DNR.

Thank You,
Mason J Lorbiecki

Sen.Feyen

From: lorbiecki <lorbiecki@wi-net.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 8:01 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Cc: Rep.Krug
Subject: Bill SB369 - Verso WI Rapids Mill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Honorable Sen. Feyen:

My name is Calvin J Lorbiecki.

My father was employed as a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Woodyard at the Verso Mill in WI Rapids, WI for 23 years.

I wish to be registered as a supporter of Bill SB369 in the Official Committee Record, in order that the Verso Mill might be purchased and put back into operation by a co-operative entity based in Northern Wisconsin.

I support Bill SB369 so thousands of jobs can return to the community and State, and Wisconsin foresters will regain an important buyer for 25% of the pulpwood being cut in this great state, much of it already under management plans on file with the DNR.

Thank You,
Calvin J Lorbiecki

Sen.Feyen

From: Robert Wunrow <amc78concord@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 6:08 PM
To: Sen.Feyen; Rep.Krug
Subject: Support of SB369

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

For Testimony to be entered into the record of the public hearing of SB369.

My name is Robert Evan Wunrow of Nekoosa, and I support this bill.

I am proud to say that I am an I.B.E.W. Local #1147 Union Electrician at the (Legacy) Consolidated Wisconsin Rapids Paper Mill...currently known as the Verso Wisconsin Rapids Mill.

I, personally, have worked at the Wisconsin Rapids Mill since January 6, 2014, but have Family ties to the mill that date all of the way back to the year 1980. I have always wanted to work at the mill since I was a little kid, when my Mom would take me through the plant floor to show me around (as it was okay to do that back then).

The people of Wisconsin Rapids used to envy anyone who worked within the Mill walls. You actually WERE somebody. You were a part of a PROUD operation, and everyone in the mill was like your family. And through my own experience, and opinion, that unfortunately started to go downhill when the original owners of the mill, Consolidated, sold the entire empire in the year 2000. The original Consolidated Company was ALWAYS ahead of the industry curve. If there was a specific type of paper that was on the come-up, they were already working on figuring out where to fit it into their product mix in the mill. An example would be the last major construction project, #16 machine, which was aimed at making Paper for the "Digital Era." Basically, printer paper...in 1992.

The Wisconsin Rapids mill used to be THE Standard on HOW to make Paper. Other Companies LONGED for the success that Consolidated was able to produce at the Wisconsin Rapids Mill for over 100 years. But now, it's been well over 20 years since the last major upgrade, and some equipment maintenance has been neglected over the past 20 years...with some paper machine product lines demolished and removed. However, what machinery does remain is VERY valuable in the Papermaking world. And the brick & mortar and Infrastructure is STILL there...And speaking for myself, as an Electrician, the Electrical and Data Infrastructure is still WORLD-CLASS.

Consolidated in the 1990's was so far ahead of every other paper manufacturer...that EVEN TODAY, and even speaking from personal experience, the others STILL don't hold a candle to what the Rapids Mill has in place TODAY.

If there were to be ONE Paper Mill left running in the entire WORLD...It DESERVES to be the Wisconsin Rapids Mill. However, the mill just needs a little assistance right now; to get back up on its feet...To be that dominant FORCE that it used to be in the Paper industry. It needs an "Aid" in the Transfer of Assets to an Entity that will be able to invest the time, effort, and resources it needs to do such that.

We are READY to get to work. We are READY to make it the profitable Mill again that will sustain GOOD-PAYING jobs for Generations to come...With PRIDE.

Wisconsin Rapids PRIDE. Together...

Thank you for your time.

Sen.Feyen

From: John Bergin <johnf.bergin@wctc.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Sen.Feyen; Sen.Testin
Cc: Scott Krug; Rep.Krug; Reinemann, John
Subject: WEDC LOAN for purchase of Verso Wisconsin Rapids mill

Dear Senators Feyen, Testin,

I am from Wisconsin Rapids and request your support of bill SB 369.

Passage of AB 367 is a critical component of returning the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids to successful operation.

Forest Land Owners, Loggers, Log Truckers and Wisconsin Citizen Employees have based their past and future livelihood on that mill operation.

During the Consolidated years I spent 15 years at the mill, in leadership positions and was the Division Manager when Consolidated spent \$ 500,000,000 to build 16 machine and modernize the converting operation. The assets are viable and can achieve success in new markets.

Wisconsin Forests require this market to remain healthy and viable, loss of this market will detract from this dynamic viable renewable resource.

I have joined forces with the Timber Cooperative and collaborated in forming the Consolidated Cooperative to operate the facility. The Cooperative has formed a viable business plan that will create a profitable operation.

Purchasing the mill, developing future products, and remanaging the mill will cost in excess of \$100,000,000, we will require solid investment from private sources as well to achieve success.

Please give this high priority.

Please add this message into the record of the public hearing on SB 369.

Respectfully,

John
John F. Bergin
Owner
Technical and Investor LLC
4411 Quarry Circle
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8817
Cell: 414-364-4399

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Sen.Feyen

From: Rep.Krug
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: FW: Mill Bill

From: MATT HANNEMAN <mthmaross@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Rep.Krug <Rep.Krug@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Mill Bill

I am writing this to show my support towards the Mill Bill. As a second generation maintenance worker there, it pains me to know that corporate greed and lack of innovation "idled" the Rapids mill. It came with no warning and no steps to try and implement new grades of paper or other products. The current owner was in way over their heads trying to run and maintain a plant of that magnitude. The games being played by the current owners are almost unimaginable. As the secretary for Local 655, I have been aware of all the tricks they are trying to pull. Either way, the Rapids mill is vital to our economic stability not only in Wisconsin Rapids but the entire region. My parents have 140 acres in an MFL program, with a harvest scheduled for last winter. The trees weren't harvested because there was no place to take them. This is just one example of the impact the Rapids mill being "idled" has on land owners. As a journeyman millwright there, I received excellent training from a motivated and knowledgeable work force. I am proud of the things that we were able to accomplish while working there. In summary, I, we, the community need to be passionate about this topic. I personally miss my job, my coworkers, and seeing smoke from the stacks. It's hurtful for me to even look that direction when driving past the facility that I called home for 8 years.

Thank you for reading this. Please forward to the correct folks to get this thing turned around.

-Matt Hanneman