



SCOTT KRUG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 72nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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

DATE: November 2, 2021
TO: Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Recreation
RE: Testimony on 2021 Assembly Bill 682
FROM: Representative Scott Krug

Thank you, Chairman Mursau, and the members of the committee, for hearing this critical bill. Assembly Bill 682 (AB 682, originally LRB 5138) looks to solve one of the biggest issues of the last few generations to face the paper, timber, forestry industry in our state. Since passage and eventual veto of the “Mill Bill” earlier this year the situation continues to rapidly decline. The logging industry is in complete freefall at this point and time, and it is time we work together to lend a helping hand.

The first Mill Bill (AB 367) looked to move federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars allocated to Wisconsin to provide relief for the paper mills in Park Falls and Wisconsin Rapids. These mills and their operations were directly and heavily impacted by COVID-19 and the shutdown of many end users of their products. The use of ARPA funds was objectionable to the Governor, although no one can point to anything in the final rules from the federal government to indicate that this approach is against the spirit of those dollars being used. In the spirit of bipartisanship, we took an approach that we believe fits the Evers administration’s goals for Park Falls and tweaked this bill to reflect the current situation in Wisconsin Rapids.

There are a lot of folks from those communities here to testify today so I will not steal their thunder on what is happening in those communities, but I will tell you what has happened since the veto of the previous effort.

Three days after the veto of AB367 a different opportunity arose in the Wisconsin Rapids Mill situation. A company named Atlas Holdings made an offer to Verso to purchase their entire operation for \$20/share \$886 Million overall. Verso announced in September they would consider the offer if Atlas would increase the price per share. Atlas has yet to answer in part because of the good ol’ Wisconsin winter we are about to face.

MORE

Winter and its cold weather matter when considering mill machinery that is not being used to make paper. Last winter, and up until now, the mill and its machines have been on what could be called a “warm shut down.” The machines are essentially asleep but not left completely unmaintained. Plans to completely stop maintaining machines in the Rapids Mill (a “cold shut down”) would cause up \$100 Million or more in costs to make the plant operational post cold shut down. This potential increased cost is hampering negotiations and is putting the plant at risk. Risk means delay in any possible sale, which means a depleting workforce as time goes on, and delays economic stability for the residents of Wisconsin Rapids. It forces the logging industry into freefall.

This bill will work in two ways. One, we will offer a grant to keep the Rapids Mill semi-operational through the winter months while negotiations take place to finalize a purchase. Nothing guarantees that Verso will do so or that they will finalize a sale. We are reaching out to bridge the gap between the two parties in a situation that directly impacts 2,500 jobs and has a \$906M direct impact on the economy in Wood County alone. Two, for Park Falls we mirror the first Mill Bill in amount of funding (\$15M) in a loan to secure the purchase of the mill to a group that can make it operational. We allow those terms to be set by the WEDC and reviewed by the Joint Committee on Finance (like what was discussed during the first Mill Bill deliberations).

Finally, this bill does have one last provision. In the process of garnering support to spend state GPR there is interest in making sure that all public projects surrounding changes to infrastructure around these mills and other projects in the state of Wisconsin are done in safest manner possible. Right now, current law “prohibits employees from using, possessing, attempting to possess, distributing, delivering, or being under the influence of a drug, or from using or being under the influence of alcohol, while performing certain work on certain projects of public works or public utility projects **and** requires that, before an employer may commence work on a qualifying project of public works or a public utility project, the employer have in place a written employee substance abuse program.” This bill simply extends those provisions to transportation projects (under contract for local governments) such as roads and bridges and provides more definition for what constitutes a public utility.

With the provisions in place in this bill we can help put the forestry economy back on track. We can impact the lives of thousands of families that depend on these mills for their livelihood, and we can help Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls move on from disastrous circumstances which they can not control. I implore you to support AB682 and look forward to answering any questions.



Testimony in Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 682

Henry Schienebeck, Executive Director
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association

Chairman Mursau and Committee members,

The Great lakes Timber Professionals Association members and Board of Directors fully support 2021 Assembly Bill 682 (AB 682).

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 2021, 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 impacted 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 personnel provided in February, county timber sale revenue decreased by 27% compared to 2019.

State: State per cord values dropped from \$41.60 per cord in 2019, to \$34.45 per cord in 2020. In addition, the number of timber sales sold in 2021 was 176 compared to 207 in 2020 and 208 in 2019.

Private: WI Consulting Foresters who deal primarily with private landowners are reporting that approximately 50% of their advertised timber sales are going no-bid which means they are not selling. Of those that are selling the price landowners receive has decreased substantially and varies from 20% to 50%.



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.

AB 682 will provide a hand up, not a handout, to one of the shuttered mills in northern Wisconsin and will help preserve an opportunity that one of the largest wood consuming facilities in Wisconsin will have the opportunity to reopen.

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 continued attention this issue has received. This loan and grant 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 black ink that reads "Henry Schienebeck".

Henry Schienebeck
Executive Director, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association



To: The Honorable Chairman Jeff Mursau and Members of the
Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation

From: Scott Suder, President of the Wisconsin Paper Council (WPC)

Re: WPC Support for Assembly Bill 682

Date: November 2, 2021

Thank you, Chairman Mursau and Members of the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation, for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 682. On behalf of our Wisconsin Paper Council's members throughout Wisconsin, I would like to express our support for this legislation. We believe that his legislation recognizes the long-term value the paper, pulp, and forestry industries have to our state's economy.

The Wisconsin Paper Council (WPC) is the premier trade association that advocates for the papermaking industry before regulatory bodies, and state and federal legislatures to achieve positive policy outcomes. WPC also works to educate the public about the social, environmental, and economic importance of paper, pulp, and forestry production in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest. The Wisconsin Paper Council advocates for common-sense regulations and legislation that balances a healthy environment with a healthy economy.

As you may know, the pulp and paper sector employs over 30,000 people in Wisconsin and has an annual payroll of \$2.5 billion. Wisconsin is the number one paper-producing state in the United States, with the output of paper manufactured products estimated to be over \$18 billion.

The Wisconsin Paper Council would like to thank the lead bill author, Representative Scott Krug, as well as the co-sponsors of this bipartisan legislation for their continued support of the industry, our members, and our employees. This legislation will assist in maintaining the viability of both paper mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls.

As we look toward the future of the papermaking industry, we encourage Legislative leaders and other policymakers to work with our trade association to ensure that Wisconsin maintains its status as the number one paper products producing state in the nation. We look forward to working with you on future holistic policy initiatives which will assist the papermaking industry to continue to thrive in our great state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our trade association's perspective on Assembly Bill 682.



OFFICE
OF THE
MAYOR

November 1, 2021

Representative Jeff Mursau
Chair of Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Via Email: rep.mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov

Dear Representative Mursau,

As Mayor of the City of Wisconsin Rapids, I wish to be registered as supporting LRB 5138, which would provide up to \$1 million to help keep the Wisconsin Rapids paper mill in nearly operational condition, allowing more time for a sale and reopening to happen with as much existing equipment as possible.

As I've shared with legislators and the media, the closure of our city's paper mill has had a profound effect on our community, our region and our state – including significant job losses, lost tax revenues and negative impacts to Wisconsin forest lands. LRB 5138 poses an opportunity to help support the paper mill's future by maintaining the equipment through another Wisconsin winter and ensuring continuing marketability of the facility as a paper mill. I urge you to support this proposal and I thank you for recording my support of LRB 5138 in the official committee record on the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script 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

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

November 1, 2021

Representative Jeff Mursau
Chair, Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Room 113 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Support for AB 682

Dear Representative Mursau,

The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) is writing in support of AB 682 and request to be registered as such in order that the paper mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls might be purchased to be put back into operation as soon as feasible. This will help ensure jobs return to those communities and greater Wisconsin, and that our forests will regain important buyers for pulpwood harvested in the State. Please note, these comments are only in support of the first portion of the bill helping to reopen the mills in Park Falls and Wisconsin Rapids.

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 market is putting sustainable forest management, including the viability of our healthy forests, in jeopardy.

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

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

rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com
www.wisconsincountyforests.com

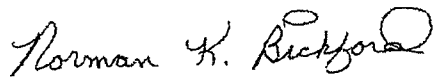
Wisconsin County Forests Association

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.

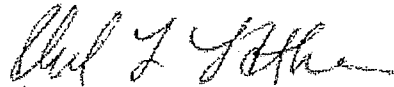
In summary, forestry isn't just our job but our passion, our pride and our way of life. We implore you to help keep Wisconsin a national leader in forest products and natural resource management by supporting AB 682. By financially supporting the forest products industry, we can go a long way in ensuring 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

Lange, Alison

From: Patrick Smith <psmith@co.florence.wi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, November 02, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Rep.Mursau
Cc: Rep.Swearingen
Subject: Support of LRB 5138

Rep. Mursau,

Please take this email that the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department is in support of Bill LRB-5138 for funding the Wisconsin Rapids Paper Mill and Park Falls Mill. Thank you.

Patrick J. Smith

Florence County Forestry

& Parks Administrator

5617 Forestry Drive

Florence WI, 54121

(715) 528-3207

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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.

Lange, Alison

From: John Bergin <johnf.bergin@wctc.net>
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Rep.Mursau
Cc: Scott Krug; Rep.Krug; Henry Schienebeck; Anthony T Langenohl
Subject: Re: Park Falls mill and WR Mill support and substance abuse prevention LRB 5138
Attachments: Econ. Impact on letter head.docx

With Attachment

On Nov 1, 2021, at 10:21 AM, John Bergin <johnf.bergin@wctc.net> wrote:

Attention Representative Mursau:

The bill to support Park Falls is critical in many ways. Loss of this employer will have a major impact and remove many family sustaining jobs from the community. It will also impact the loggers and Forest land owners throughout Wisconsin. The closure of the Wisconsin Rapids mill will have an even larger impact on Wisconsin. The attached document from Ram Dahal, Forest Economist, WI DNR and Collin Buntrock, Forest Products Team Leader, WI DNR indicates an impact, estimated at over 2,500 employees with gross output of over \$950 million. The WR mill must not remain shut and providing heat for the winter period will allow future viability.
WR MILL Closing Impact on WR Families

In 2000 the Median Family income in the Wisconsin Rapids area was \$ 58,086

Per the attached study by Incourage Community Foundation. An update of that study in 2012 indicated Median family wage had dropped to \$49,042 because of NewPage downsizing and moving much of the management functions to Ohio.

Today the median family income has dropped per the US census data attached to \$42,531.

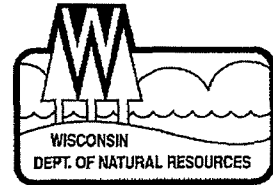
In 21 years, inflation has eroded the value of that dollar. The impact on families has been dramatic, the percentage of persons in poverty is 16% well above state norms.

It may or may not be direct cause and effect however drug use and its consequences have also become a major community impact.

Thank you for your support of this legislation!

Best regards,

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



February 22, 2021

Subject: Verso economic contribution analysis

Ram Dahal, Forest Economist, WI DNR
 Collin Buntrock, Forest Products Team Leader, WI DNR

Introduction/methods

The economic impact of the Wisconsin Rapids Verso paper mill closure was estimated using IMPLAN data and software and reported in 2020 dollars. The mill is located in the community of Wisconsin Rapids in Wood County. The mill employed 915 workers and notified the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development of 900 potential layoffs. The following is an estimated economic impact resulting from the idling of Verso Mill.

Total economic impact due to the mill closure

If a full mill closure occurs, the total job loss in Wood county and surrounding eight counties including direct, indirect, and induced effects is estimated at over 2,500 employees with gross output of over \$950 million (Table 1). A significant percentage of these impacts are realized within Wood County (Table 2).

Table 1: Estimated total economic impact of the Wisconsin Rapids mill

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income (\$)	Value added (\$)	Output (\$)
Direct	900	85,606,586	166,635,363	692,284,500
Indirect	989	60,537,530	94,697,773	188,781,395
Induced	633	25,281,375	44,699,567	79,830,722
Total	2,523	171,425,491	306,032,703	960,896,617

Table 2: Estimated economic impact of the Wisconsin Rapids mill in Wood County

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income (\$)	Value-added (\$)	Output (\$)
Direct	900	85,606,586	166,635,363	692,284,500
Indirect	749	44,156,504	66,839,830	127,617,463
Induced	552	21,833,219	37,911,087	67,871,004
Total	2,201	151,596,309	271,386,280	887,772,967

Economic impact to surrounding counties

The Verso mill located in Wood County provides benefits to surrounding counties as well through indirect and induced effect (inter-industry purchase and household spending). The Following table illustrates how surrounding counties currently benefit from the mill's economic impact and may be impacted due to the mill closure.

- As a result of the mill closure, Portage county would lose an estimated 130 jobs with gross output of above \$32 million
- Total job loss in surrounding eight counties would result in over 300 jobs with gross output of above \$70 million

Table 3: Estimated economic impact of Verso mill to surrounding counties

County	Employment	Labor Income (\$)	Value added (\$)	Output (\$)
Portage	132	8,342,978	15,856,031	32,844,118
Marathon	71	4,159,536	6,625,532	15,344,093
Adams	22	1,244,876	3,122,496	6,618,887
Monroe	34	1,696,660	2,435,613	4,746,329
Jackson	15	1,140,535	2,070,197	3,950,326
Juneau	13	1,060,717	1,660,733	3,282,674
Clark	24	1,480,196	1,868,829	3,629,109
Waushara	3	122,352	167,247	363,173

Economic contribution of overall pulp and paper industry

The pulp and paper sector is the largest forest products industry in Wisconsin. The industry also ranked first in terms of total number of jobs and total value-added in the nation. In 2017, the majority of forest products industry worker were employed in the pulp and paper industry, over 30,000 jobs. The industry paid over \$2.5 billion in labor income. Average annual income for the industry was \$84,000; \$30,000 higher than the state average. The industry shared 1.4% to total gross state product. The contribution of pulp and paper industry are much more than its value of production or employment. The economic contributions of the industry are transferred to other sector of economy through inter-industry purchases (indirect effect) and household spending (induced effect). Considering total economic contribution of the pulp and paper industry (including direct, indirect, and induced) the industry supported over 95,000 jobs, \$6.2 billion in labor income, \$28.5 billion in gross output, and \$10.4 billion in value added. The sector that benefited most from pulp and paper sector includes healthcare and social assistance; wholesale trade; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; retail trade; accommodation and food services; transportation and warehousing; other services (except public administration); and professional, scientific, and technical services. Each of these sectors employed more than 4,500 jobs tied to pulp and paper sector in 2017.

Table 4. Economic contribution of pulp and paper industry in Wisconsin

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income (\$MM)	Value-added (\$MM)	Output (\$MM)
Direct	30,262	2,539	4,496	17,912
Indirect	34,996	2,271	3,481	6,444
Induced	30,614	1,359	2,399	4,140
Total	95,872	6,168	10,376	28,496

Glossary

Employment: Full-and part-time employees and self-employed individuals.

Labor income: Sum of employee compensation and proprietor income.

Industry output: Total value of production by the industry in the given year.

Value-added: Sum of employee compensation, proprietor income, other property income, and taxes on production and imports less subsidies.

Direct effect: Industry's own production.

Indirect effect: Inter-industry purchase in response to direct effect.

Induced effect: Household spending from consumption of goods and services using incomes generated from direct and indirect effect.

Total effect: Sum of direct, indirect, and induced effect.

Lange, Alison

From: John Bergin <johnf.bergin@wctc.net>
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2021 10:22 AM
To: Rep.Mursau
Cc: Scott Krug; Rep.Krug; Henry Schienebeck; Anthony T Langenohl
Subject: Park Falls mill and WR Mill support and substance abuse prevention LRB 5138

Attention Representative Mursau:

The bill to support Park Falls is critical in many ways.

Loss of this employer will have a major impact and remove many family sustaining jobs from the community.

It will also impact the loggers and Forest land owners throughout Wisconsin.

The closure of the Wisconsin Rapids mill will have an even larger impact on Wisconsin.

The attached document from Ram Dahal, Forest Economist, WI DNR and Collin Buntrock, Forest Products Team Leader, WI DNR indicates an impact, estimated at over 2,500 employees with gross output of over \$950 million. The WR mill must not remain shut and providing heat for the winter period will allow future viability.

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Thank you for your support of this legislation!

Best regards,

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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Lange, Alison

From: Scott Koerner <skoerner@charter.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 8:19 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: 2021 Bill

I am in support of the new mill bill. 2021

Scott Koerner

Sent from Mail for Windows

Lange, Alison

From: matt berdan <mattberdan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: LRB 5138

My name is Matthew Berdan and my address is 203 N Elm Ave. Marshfield WI. I support the papermill and substance abuse prevention bill LRB 5138. I worked at the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids for 6 plus years before being laid off in August 2020. thank you for your time in this matter

Lange, Alison

From: Jeff Lobner <lobnerje@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 10:54 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: paper mill and substance abuse prevention" bill, LRB 5138

My name is Jeff Lobner. I support the paper mill bill. I am a logger, who has been severely impacted by the closure of the Wisconsin Rapids Mill. Any help from the State of Wisconsin to get this mill back running would be greatly appreciated.

Retraining me for new job skills would not be a good alternative. For me being able to work in my chosen profession, a logger, is what I have always wanted to do my whole life. My life is now on hold due to the Rapids mill not buying pulpwood.

Regards,
Jeff Lobner
Wisconsin Rapids, Wi.

Lange, Alison

From: Steve Kariainen <outlook_33620E83D4CC6481@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: LRB 5138

Honorable Representative Mursau,

I am writing in support of the Paper Mill and Substance Abuse Prevention Bill (LRB 5138). This legislation would help facilitate the reopening of two critically important Wisconsin paper mills. The closure of the Park Falls and Wisconsin Rapids mills has already had an impact of the logging and forest products industry and threatens the long-term health and productivity of our public and private forests.

Sincerely,

Steve Kariainen
11331 N Sunset Circle
Hayward, WI 54843

Sent from Mail for Windows

Lange, Alison

From: Arnie Schraeder <schraederarnie@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: Paper Mill and Substance Abuse Prevention Bill LRB 5138

My name is:

Arnie Schraeder
3845 Leonard Rd
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

I support the Paper Mill and Substance Abuse Prevention Bill LRB 5138.

As a long-time former employee of the Verso Pulp Mill, I believe providing funds to keep the mill in a condition that would facilitate reopening would greatly benefit the community, county, and state.

Thank you.

Sent from Mail for Windows

Lange, Alison

From: philmolepske <philmoleske@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 9:16 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: Mill Bill 2

Philip Molepske
640 Dewey st Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

I support the

paper mill and substance abuse prevention bill

As a member of local 434 plumbers and steamfitters. And former employee of verso. I am currently working at verso draining pipes and getting it ready to "go cold" this winter. It is sad to see the facility in the current state it is in. I feel that any help that can be provided to assist the mill running again would be a great idea.

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Lange, Alison

From: philmolepske <philmolepske@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 9:06 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: Mill Bill 2

I support the Mill Bill 2

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Lange, Alison

From: Jim Burdick <14indianjb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 6:19 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: LRB 5138

Dear Representative Mursau,

I am in full support of bill LRB 5138. I am seeing in real time the affects of the shuttered Rapids Mill and the substance abuse that is seeming to shadow many of the former workers of the Verso Corp Wisconsin Rapids Mill and their families. It's been rough for a lot of folks. I don't really understand Governor Evers pointed indifference to giving us a badly needed life line to help get this paper mill back up and running. Any help that you can be will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Jim Burdick

Lange, Alison

From: Tim Walters <Tim.Walters@waltersbrotherslumber.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: papermill and substance abuse bill

Rep. Mursau,

I do support the "Papermill and Substance Abuse Bill LRB 5138". My reasoning is that without the two paper mills operating in Wisconsin we have seen a drastic loss in logs coming into sawmills in Wisconsin which has had a negative effect on sawmill profitability. Pulpwood is generated as a result of cutting sawlogs. Loggers have not had adequate markets for pulpwood which has resulted in less sawlogs being cut for sawmills.

Thank you,
Tim Walters

Lange, Alison

From: Robert Wunrow <amc78concord@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: LRB 5138 Support

I support LRB 5138.

If there should be only ONE Paper Mill left running in the entire WORLD...It DESERVES to be the Wisconsin Rapids Mill. It just needs a little bit of assistance right now; to get back up on its feet...To be that dominant FORCE that it used to be in the Paper industry.

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...

Lange, Alison

From: Jane Carlson <jslapp@wctc.net>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: paper mill and substance abuse prevention" bill, LRB 5138

Dear Rep. Jeff Mursau,

“paper mill and substance abuse prevention” bill, LRB 5138

I live in Wisconsin Rapids, WI and see the loss of jobs, people moving out or having to look for work outside of town up to Wausau , 1 hour away. The area is getting to look depressed and loss of businesses just puts people to have to go out of town to shop or online, which just compounds the problems. Please help Wisconsin Rapids, Park falls and surrounding area to get the mills up and going. It not only affects WI Rapids, but other small towns who would shop in Rapids or by being employed by the papermill. My husband works for an engineering firm who does work for paper mills, these small firms rely on work for theses mills. With these mills going down, a lot of knowledge goes away for existing mills if they don't have the work small businesses will have to go for other types of work or go out of business!

Jane Carlson
440 20th Ave South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
715-423-5412

Lange, Alison

From: Jj <remington36@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: Mill bill

JJ Bursky 153973 south road Mosinee wi
I am for the mill bill

Lange, Alison

From: Matt Jensen <whitetaillogging@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: Mill bill

I'm Matt Jensen 4349 Quade Lane Crandon Wisconsin 54520. I would like to go on public record in support of the new mill bill. I am a 35 year all business owner in the forest industry. Thanks in advance for your efforts of this important legislation. Matt Jensen Whitetail Logging LLC

Lange, Alison

From: DARIN <dduncan67@centurylink.net>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 12:51 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: bill LRB 5138

My name is Darin Duncan, owner of Darin Duncan Logging LLC, W9343 Broken Arrow Road, Conrath WI 54731 . I support the "paper mill and substance abuse prevention" . I own a logging company with subcontractors and we need these mills open for our business to survive. The economy in my part of the state counts on these mills. Thank you for your consideration in signing the bill.