



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 6952 • MADISON, WI 53708

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Eugene Scalia  
Secretary  
US Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia:

We write today in support of an application for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) submitted recently for the community of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. The situation centers on the closure of a large paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids owned by Verso Corporation. This mill closed in July 2020.

As legislators from Northern and Central Wisconsin and members of the Wisconsin Rapids Together Task Force, which we have convened to assist the community in issues related to the mill closure, we strongly support the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) petition that has been filed in support of the employees at the Verso Wisconsin Rapids paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids.

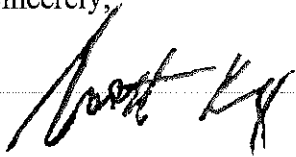
For 116 years, the Verso paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids has been a significant employer and fundamental part of the communities around it. The mill employed 900 people in a city of just 18,000. The closing of this mill is going to have a tremendous impact on Central Wisconsin and the state as a whole. Because this mill consumed one-quarter of the pulpwood cut annually in Wisconsin, the closure will also affect vital timber and transportation industries throughout the state.

As members of the task force, we are familiar with the issues that have affected the demand for Verso products, which include the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the importation of products comparable to those that Verso produced has not suffered such an acute decline. As a result, we are confident that this application meets the requirements for Trade Adjustment Assistance. On behalf of the people of Wisconsin, we ask that you review and approve this petition as soon expeditiously as possible.

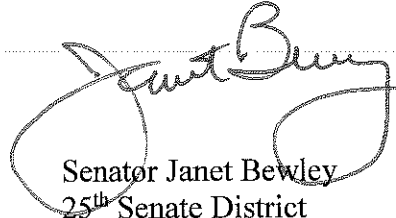
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We will continue to work together to support our friends and neighbors affected by the idling of the mill, and we ask that you treat this matter with urgency and provide a timely response. Thank you for your consideration.

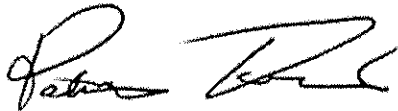
Sincerely,



Representative Scott Krug  
72<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



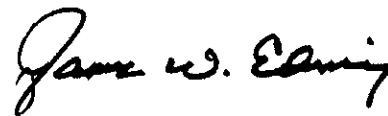
Senator Janet Bewley  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Patrick Testin  
24<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Representative Katrina Shankland  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Representative James Edming  
87<sup>th</sup> Assembly District