



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Governor Continues to Leave Wisconsin Rapids in the Lurch

While Future of WI Rapids Mill Remains Unsettled, Evers Continues to Ignore Solutions

Madison: Nearly sixteen months have passed since **\$2.5 billion** in federal money for pandemic relief first became available to Wisconsin, yet Governor Evers continues to withhold funding that could facilitate the sale and re-opening of the shuttered Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids.

More than a year ago, Governor Evers vetoed bi-partisan legislation authored by Sen. Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Rep. Scott Krug (Town of Rome) that would have utilized some of these federal funds to create a \$50 million loan to enable the mill to be purchased by American buyers. Today, more than \$200 million remains unallocated, yet it appears that neither the mill nor the 900 families whose lives were impacted by the closure are a priority for Governor Evers.

“To say we’re disappointed would be an understatement,” said Testin. “The Governor continues to show us that Wisconsin Rapids is an afterthought – and that’s unacceptable.”

Ownership of the Wisconsin Rapids mill passed to a Swedish Company – BillerudKorsnäs – when they acquired Verso at the end of last year. As of yet, no plans have been announced about the mill’s future.

“Even though he’s wasted almost a year and a half, there is still time to do the right thing,” noted Rep. Krug. “I believe that these funds could still help facilitate a sale to American buyers who understand that the mill is an asset – but we’re running out of time.”

Before its closure in 2020, the mill had been a regional economic driver for 126 years.

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