

879 individuals listing affiliation with Temple Inland Inc. submitted the following:

Dear Senators Baucus and Grassley,

I make my living working for Temple-Inland in the forest products industry. I am extremely proud that our industry is the leading producer and user of renewable biomass energy in the nation. That's why I am concerned that you are considering disqualifying black liquor, a renewable biomass byproduct of the paper-making process, from eligibility for the alternative fuels mixture tax credit. Disqualifying black liquor from credit eligibility would threaten the health of our industry and jeopardize the good-paying "green" jobs it provides.

Black liquor is a renewable biomass fuel used by pulp mills to produce electricity and heat, thus making it possible for those facilities to generate approximately 66 percent of their energy needs onsite. Using black liquor for fuel avoids fossil fuel use and, unlike fossil fuel, black liquor is carbon neutral-thus providing exactly the kind of environmentally friendly energy that the alternative fuel mixture tax credit was designed to encourage. In fact, the energy we produce from biomass exceeds the total energy produced from solar, wind and geothermal power combined.

You need to preserve the eligibility of forest products facilities to receive this credit not only because of the industry's contribution to renewable energy production but also because good paying jobs, like mine, could be lost by this action. The economic downturn has caused a dramatic decline in demand for consumer goods, which in turn has caused an historic decline in demand for paper, packaging and building materials. The forest products industry has already lost 300,000 workers since 2006: a quarter of its workforce. When mills close, manufacturing jobs are lost, and the renewable energy they produce is lost, too.

I urge you not to revoke this important tax credit. By maintaining black liquor's eligibility, you are supporting renewable energy production and "green" manufacturing jobs.

Sincerely,