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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

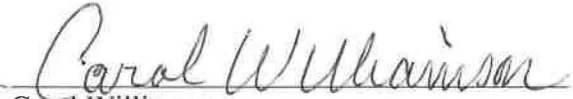
WHEREAS, a similar impact will be felt by nearly every County operating a County Forest for timber production.

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

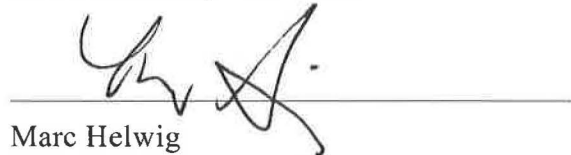

Carol Williamson
Sawyer County Clerk

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