



RESOLUTION



Resolution No. R07-2020-1353

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPLICATIONS OF VERSO MILL CLOSINGS

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 of time, and,

WHEREAS, the idling of these mills will directly impact 1,000 workers and indirectly affect thousands more across the entire state of Wisconsin that support the mills, through related forestry work such as logging and transportation, 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 silvicultural techniques on those lands to maintain a healthy forest ecosystem, and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Rapids 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 Ashland County, based on number of employees, and,

WHEREAS, 75% of total pulpwood on active sales in Ashland County is hardwood pulp, of which over 55% would be consumed at the Wisconsin Rapids mill, and,

WHEREAS, timber revenue from the Ashland County Forest augments the County levy by 11% and the loss of this income will financially affect the 16,000 + citizens of Ashland County and the services available to them, and,

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

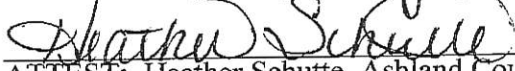
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors, of the County of Ashland ask that the Governor and Legislature direct that assistance be provided, in any way possible, to allow continuation of mill operations and/or financial assistance be considered to support the direct loss of jobs, 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee has directed to forward this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA), and all local, regional, state and federal representatives.

Signed at the City of Ashland, Wisconsin on this 7th day of July, 2020.


Richard Pufall, County Board Chairperson


ATTEST: Heather Schutte, Ashland County Clerk

CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, correct, and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly passed by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors of the County of Ashland on the 7 day of July, 2020 and that said resolution has not been repealed or amended, and is now in full force and effect.
Dated this 7 day of July, 2020

Heather W. Schutte, Ashland County Clerk