

**RESOLUTION NO.** 14

**A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECENT VERSO MILL CLOSURES.**

**WHEREAS**, On June 9, Verso Corporation announced idling of their Wisconsin Rapids, WI and Duluth, MN 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 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 silviculture techniques on those lands to maintain a healthy forest structure; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Rapids, WI mill utilizes over 25% of all mixed hardwood pulpwood produced in the state of Wisconsin; and,

**WHEREAS**, the forest products industry is the number 1 employer in Taylor County based on both employment and economic output; and,

**WHEREAS**, over the last five years, 10% of all mixed hardwood pulpwood on active sales from the Taylor County Forest was consumed at the Verso Mill in Wisconsin Rapids; and,

**WHEREAS**, timber revenue from the Taylor County Forest reduces the County tax levy and the loss of this income will financially affect the 20,000+ citizens of Taylor County and the public services available to them; and,

**WHEREAS**, a similar impact will be felt by nearly every County operating a County Forest in the state of Wisconsin.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Taylor County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 30 day of September, 2020, ask that the Governor and Legislature direct assistance 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 Taylor County Forestry and Recreation Committee has directed this resolution to be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) and all local, regional, state and federal representatives.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

**FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE:**

  
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Charles Zenner

  
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Michael Bub

  
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Gary Beadles

  
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Myron Brooks

  
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Gene Knoll