

IMPLICATIONS OF VERSO MILL CLOSURES

TO THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, On June 9, VERSO announced 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 entire state of Wisconsin that support the mill through related forestry work such as logging, and transportation and,

WHEREAS, the prolonged closure of this mill will negatively affect nations, state and county private landowners financially and has the potential to affect the ability to continue proper silviculture techniques and 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, 11% of total pulpwood on active sales in Jackson County is consumed at the Wisconsin Rapids mill, and

WHEREAS, timber revenue from the Jackson County Forest reduces the County levy and the loss of this income will financially affect the 20,449 citizens of Jackson 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 County Board of Supervisors of the County of Jackson ask that the Governor and Legislatures direct that assistance be provided in any way possible to all 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 Jackson County Forestry and Parks Committee has directed to forward this resolution to Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) and all local, regional, state and federal representatives.

Karen Thayer
Karen Thayer, Chair

Jerrold Schmidt

Ed Chamberlain
Ed Chamberlain, Vice Chair

Thomas Clark
Thomas Clark

Norman Stoker
Norman Stoker

Ray Johnson
Rm Cayne
John Ford
Shawn Poyner
Ray Allen

I HEREBY CERTIFY
RESOLUTION # 32-9-2020
WAS ADOPTED ON Sept 21, 2020
BY JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kyle Deno
KYLE DENO, JACKSON COUNTY
YES 19 NO 0