

July 13, 2010

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
United States Senate
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lincoln:

On behalf of the members of the Paper Recycling Coalition who have recycled paper facilities in your state, we would like to express our concern about a potential biomass definition that could cause great harm to the recycled paper industry.

Because of definitions already in law in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), any definition of biomass that includes Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) includes recyclable materials and therefore must contain an exemption for "paper that is commonly recycled." Absent the exemption, recycled paper that currently is critical to the support of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the United States will likely be burned with other municipal wastes. Burning paper for energy recovery is not the highest and best use of recovered paper, and contradicts long established Congressional policy that clearly favors recycling over disposal. The precedent to exclude "commonly recycled paper" from the definition of biomass (Section 45) already exists in law. (c)(3)(A)(ii)II and continuing this exemption is not only consistent with existing public policy, but also offers the greatest environmental benefits.

Among its many economic, environmental, and resource conservation benefits, paper recycling substantially reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Unique to all other forms of packaging, 100% recycled paperboard is the only substrate that actually nets a reduction in GHG emissions for every pound that is used to make a new product. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the benefits associated with paper recycling are derived from the reduced energy used at recycled mills, the reduction of gases that otherwise would be emitted from landfills, and the sequestration of carbon in growing trees that are left standing by the reuse of recovered paper.

Using the EPA WARM modeling tool, paper recycling results in the avoidance of over 115 million metric tons of CO₂e per year. As recycling increases, additional CO₂e avoided emissions will also increase.

Additionally, paper products are made from a renewable resource, often using renewable sources of fuel. These products, in turn, are recycled back into new products. Of all packaging substrates, paper products are exceptional in this regard.

In conclusion, we urge you to contact Majority Leader Reid to support an exemption for "paper that is commonly recycled" from any definition of biomass that includes MSW that may appear in any energy bill likely to come before the Senate in the near future. This is consistent with national and state efforts to recover materials from the solid waste stream and recycle those materials into new useful products.

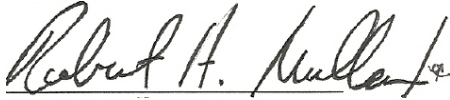
Sincerely yours,

**GRAPHIC PACKAGING
INTERNATIONAL**



David W. Scheible
President & CEO

THE NEWARK GROUP



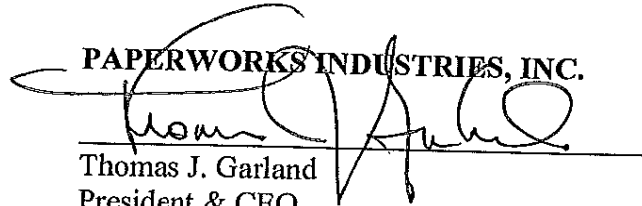
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