

# Black Hills Forest Resource Association

2218 Jackson Boulevard, Suite 10, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-3452, (605) 341-0875

June 7, 2004

The Honorable Earl Pomeroy  
US House of Representatives  
Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pomeroy,

We write to ask your support for the new Jobs bill (H.R. 4520) introduced on June 4, by Rep. Bill Thomas. This legislation would replace the WTO illegal FSC/ETI export tax provisions with a lower tax rate on domestic manufacturing. U.S. exports to Europe are being hurt by the 8 percent tariff now being imposed by the EU on 169 different wood and paper products. Without Congressional action the tariffs will rise to 17%, which will virtually eliminate U.S. exports to Europe and jeopardize the American jobs that support those exports.

U.S. manufacturers of wood and paper products are just now beginning to see signs of economic recovery. Tariffs on U.S. exports threaten the recovery in our sector and could lead to more job loss if we lose our European customer base due to the tariffs. Now that the value of the dollar has rebalanced against the euro, U.S. exports should be growing and we should be regaining the ground that was lost during the past five years. These tariffs are preventing U.S. forest products companies from regaining lost market share.

We are already suffering from a high level of taxation on U.S. manufactured paper and wood products. According to a recent study of the forest products industry, taxes on U.S. investments in paper and wood products manufacturing exceed those of our major competitors in all but one country. Since 1997, this industry has closed approximately 220 U.S. wood and paper manufacturing facilities representing more than 120,000 manufacturing jobs.

Please vote to lower tax rates on income from domestic manufacturing and inputs to forest products manufacturing, such as timber. A vote for the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 is a vote in support of U.S. manufacturing and the thousands of families that depend on the forestry and forest products industry sectors.

Sincerely,

Tom Troxel  
Director

[For]

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# Black Hills Forest Resource Association

2218 Jackson Boulevard, Suite 10, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-3452, (605) 341-0875

June 7, 2004

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth  
US House of Representatives  
Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Herseth,

We write to ask your support for the new Jobs bill (H.R. 4520) introduced on June 4, by Rep. Bill Thomas. This legislation would replace the WTO illegal FSC/ETI export tax provisions with a lower tax rate on domestic manufacturing. U.S. exports to Europe are being hurt by the 8 percent tariff now being imposed by the EU on 169 different wood and paper products. Without Congressional action the tariffs will rise to 17%, which will virtually eliminate U.S. exports to Europe and jeopardize the American jobs that support those exports.

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Please vote to lower tax rates on income from domestic manufacturing and inputs to forest products manufacturing, such as timber. A vote for the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 is a vote in support of U.S. manufacturing and of the thousands of families in South Dakota who depend on the forestry and forest products industry sectors.

Sincerely,

  
Aaron Everett  
Forest Programs Manager

  
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