

June 9th, 2020

Wisconsin Rapids Area Leaders' Statements on Verso Closing

The following statements were issued by Representative Scott Krug, Senator Patrick Testin, and Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Shane Blaser:

“COVID-19 has impacted our lives more than we could have ever imagined. Today, we see another horrendous side effect from this outbreak. Businesses big and small have been decimated from decreased demand and forced shutdowns and today, Verso in Wisconsin Rapids took the latest hit. A full shutdown has never happened in the history of this mill, dating back to 1904. Today, the impossible became reality. Growing up in Wisconsin Rapids my heart hurts today like it never has before, it is now my mission to provide as much opportunity as possible for these families to remain and thrive in Wisconsin Rapids.” – *State Representative Scott Krug*

“This morning, hundreds of families received devastating news that will have an impact on the entire Wisconsin Rapids community. Throughout its history, the City of Wisconsin Rapids and its people have proven to be resilient. This is a city that overcomes challenges – and I’m going to do all that I can at the state and local levels to ensure that the community and the families that are directly affected recover from this as quickly as possible. I have already reached out to Secretary Caleb Frostman at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to talk about what can be done. Together, we will continue to work to push Wisconsin Rapids forward on the path to recovery.” – *State Senator Patrick Testin*

“I am disappointed by the news that Verso Corporation plans to suspend operations at their Wisconsin Rapids mill and lay off their hard-working, dedicated employees. And during a time when so many have so little, with COVID-19 impacting our health and wealth, this news is even more devastating. My heart goes out to each and every one of these employees and their families.

Paper, pulp, and forestry work is a vital part of our community's history, spawning the charming, resilient community we know today; and this news is certain to have a profound impact on our community. I commit to furthering Senator Testin’s and Representative Krug's efforts to support the affected employees and our community in this difficult transition.” – *Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Shane Blaser*

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Contact:

Representative Scott Krug

Rep.Krug@legis.wi.gov

(608) 266-0215

Senator Patrick Testin

Sen.Testin@legis.wi.gov

(608) 266-3123

Mayor Shane Blaser

Mayor@WiRapids.org

(715) 421-8216