



To: Honorable Members of the Senate Labor and Regulatory Reform Committee

From: Wisconsin Paper Council, Ahlstrom-Munksjö, Construction Business Group, Centergy, UA 400 Pipe Trades, Domtar, Heart of WI Chamber of Commerce, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Office and Professional Employees International Union -Local 39, Packaging Corporation of America, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing, Pipefitting and Sprinkler Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, United Steelworkers, GLTPA, Verso Corporation, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and the Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group.

RE: Request for Support of SB 466: Chemical Recovery Boiler Legislation

Date: August 24, 2021

On behalf of our coalition of industry leaders, economic development associations and numerous labor organizations, we would like to respectfully urge your support for **Senate Bill 466**, which is scheduled for a public hearing before your esteemed committee today.

As you may know, a chemical recovery boiler is an essential part of the pulp production process as it recovers and regenerates cooking liquors. These boilers not only recover chemicals and generate power much more efficiently, but they do so by utilizing a safe, reliable and environmentally sound process.

Currently internal inspections of chemical recovery boilers are required every 12 months, with the possibility of a 6-month extension. Unfortunately, these manufacturing facilities do not know whether such an extension is granted until approximately one month before the 12-month deadline. It is important to note that pre-planning for a facility shutdown and inspection is not only extremely time consuming and costly but the currently notification period is sometimes not conducive for these complex preparations.

Allowing a full 24 months between inspections in cases where the facility has an agreement and is in good standing with the insurer will provide manufacturers and their employees with regulatory certainty so that these facilities can better plan for such inspections and more efficiently manage the resources necessary to accomplish this task. A similar approach is currently taken in states such as Michigan and Maine.

SB 466 is a common-sense measure which will reform the timeline of the inspections of these technologically advanced boilers. As you can see, this legislation has strong support from industry, labor and the economic development community.



Protecting Good-Paying Jobs/Maintaining Global Economic Competitiveness

- As you know, papermaking is an increasingly complex and extremely competitive global manufacturing market. Passage of SB 466 will help papermaking companies remain globally competitive and viable by placing these inspections more in line with other states such as Michigan and Maine.
- Such internal inspections of chemical recovery boilers require facilities to partially or completely shut down their operations, costing time and productivity. This legislation will help companies with chemical recovery boilers better plan and manage the incredible amount of people power and resources necessary to complete such inspections.
- The dollars saved by this common-sense change in the inspection timeline will allow companies like Ahlstrom-Munksjö, Domtar, PCA and Verso to reinvest those monies into critical research and development as well as back into the communities where they are based.

SB 466 Is Better for Wisconsin's Environment

- Shutting down and starting up operations results in higher emissions than consistent operation of this equipment. Thus, more frequent inspections result in higher overall emissions which is not environmentally advantageous.
- Temperature fluctuation, caused by cooling the boiler for inspection, stresses and weakens welds and other stress concentration points thus reducing the integrity of the boiler and shortening the life of the boiler.

Our diverse coalition represents over 30,000 hard-working men and women who believe in enhancing Wisconsin's economy while at the same time protecting our precious environment. SB 466 will protect jobs, maintain competitiveness for this important industry and reduce emissions which is good for our environment.

We respectfully ask that this committee take executive action on SB 466 in an expeditious manner. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislative initiative.



About Our Coalition:

WPC: The Wisconsin Paper Council (WPC) advocates for and represents the state’s pulp and papermaking industry. Wisconsin is the #1 papermaking state in the United States and its members provide family supporting jobs for over 30,000 employees throughout Wisconsin.

Ahlstrom-Munksjö: Ahlstrom-Munksjö is one of the world’s leading manufacturers in sustainable and innovative fiber solutions with about 1,850 employees in its four mills in Kaukauna, De Pere, Mosinee and Rhinelander.

CBG: Our purpose, as a Joint Labor-Management company, is to enhance business opportunities and a quality of life by ensuring fairness, equity and standards of excellence in the construction industry of Wisconsin.

Centergy: Centergy, Inc. is a nonprofit regional marketing and economic development organization. Our purpose is to foster collaboration among private and public-sector leaders throughout the five counties of central Wisconsin that make up the Centergy Region: Adams, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties.

UA 400 Pipe Trades: UA 400 is comprised of approximately 2,300 members serving eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin. Their main purpose is to provide training for their members and qualified manpower to their 105 signatory contractors for all aspects of the plumbing, pipe fitting, HVACR service, and pipe fabrication industries.

Domtar: Domtar is a leading provider of a wide variety of fiber-based products including communication, specialty and packaging papers, market pulp and absorbent hygiene products. With approximately 10,000 employees serving more than 50 countries around the world, Domtar is driven by a commitment to turn sustainable wood fiber into useful products that people rely on every day. Domtar operates paper mills in Nekoosa and Rothschild.

Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce: The Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic membership organization comprised of non-profit, educational, government, and small and large businesses.

IAMAW: With nearly 600,000 active and retired members, IAMAW is one of the most diverse labor unions in North America. From Lockheed Martin to Domtar and Harley-Davidson, you will find IAMAW members across all walks of life.



PCA: Packaging Corporation of America is one of the largest producers of containerboard and corrugated packaging in the United States and the third largest producer of uncoated freesheet in North America, based on production capacity. We have approximately 15,000 employees, with operations primarily in the United States.

UA: The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada (UA), affiliated with the national building trades, represents approximately 355,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, service technicians and welders in local unions across North America.

OPEIU-Local 39: Office and Professional Employees International Union was chartered in 1945 and with more than 104,000 members (representing 110,000 employees) strong, we're one of the larger unions of the AFL-CIO. OPEIU represents employees and independent contractors in a wide variety of businesses and associations.

USW: The United Steelworkers represent workers in a diverse range of industries, including primary and fabricated metals, paper, chemicals, glass, rubber, heavy-duty conveyor belting, tires, transportation, utilities, container industries, pharmaceuticals, call centers and health care.

GLTPA: The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) has provided proven leadership in the Lake States Forest products industry for over 70 years. GLTPA is a non-profit organization proud to represent members in Michigan and Wisconsin and is committed to leading Forest Products Industry in sustainable forest management.

Verso: Verso Corporation is a leading North American producer of specialty and graphic papers, packaging and pulp.

WMC: Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) is the largest and most influential business association in the state, working to make Wisconsin the best place in the nation to do business.

WIEG - The Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group (WIEG) is a nonprofit consumer advocacy trade association that advocates for affordable and reliable energy.