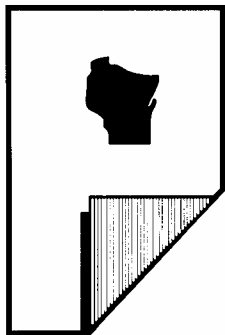


WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL

250 N. GREEN BAY ROAD
P.O. BOX 718
NEENAH, WI 54957-0718
PHONE: 920-722-1500
FAX: 920-722-7541
www.wipapercouncil.org



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For More Information Contact: Pat Schillinger, President
920-722-1500 (work)
920-419-7030 (cell)

Tax Reform Bill Benefits Paper Industry

NEENAH – The State Legislature’s powerful Joint Finance Committee passed Assembly Bill (AB) 507 today.

AB 507 is a critical tax reform bill being pushed by the Wisconsin Paper Council. AB 507 changes current law which allows manufacturers to use an income tax credit for sales taxes paid on fuel and electricity purchases to a sales tax exemption. Since manufacturers have been experiencing low income, they have not been able to fully utilize the credits. AB 507 will allow for realization of the tax recovery.

“We in the paper industry applaud the Joint Finance Committee’s action today,” said Patrick Schillinger, President of the Wisconsin Paper Council. “We are beginning to level the playing field in Wisconsin which will allow our paper mills to more evenly compete against other states,” he said.

There is currently \$155 million in owed, unused credits which demonstrates that the current system is flawed and needs to be fixed. Thirty-one (31) other states allow a sales tax exemption.

“Our mills need to do everything they can to reduce costs and save jobs,” Schillinger said. “Changing this critical tax policy that was not working as it was intended is a major step in the right direction,” he said. “We now call on the rest of the State Assembly and State Senate to pass this bill,” he said.

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