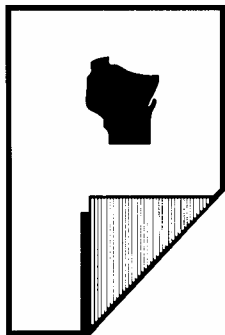


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Wisconsin Paper Council Calls on State to Act Quickly on Economic Development and Environmental Regulatory Reform

NEENAH – The Wisconsin Paper Council is calling on the State of Wisconsin to act quickly on economic development and environmental regulatory reform.

“Wisconsin needs to act sooner, rather than later in enacting economic development and environmental regulatory reform,” said Patrick Schillinger, president of the Wisconsin Paper Council.

Stora Enso North America, Weyerhaeuser and Glatfelter have announced mill shutdowns and nearly 1,000 employee terminations recently.

“We cannot afford to wait any longer,” Schillinger said. “We are pleased that the Doyle administration and the state legislature have developed proposals to enhance Wisconsin’s economic climate and reform its environmental regulatory process. Now we need action on those items,” he said.

Wisconsin is the number one papermaking state in the country, a title which it has held for the last 50 years. Papermakers are the highest paid manufacturing employees in Wisconsin, earning on average \$49,000 per year.

The WPC recently issued a report detailing the challenges Wisconsin’s paper industry faces and offered recommendations for action. The report, titled “The State of Wisconsin’s Paper Industry: Recommendations for Action,” was released in June, 2003. It contains specific recommendations for improving Wisconsin’s business climate by enacting tax reforms, environmental regulatory reforms, and creating a strong energy policy.

“If we can improve Wisconsin’s business climate, we can maintain Wisconsin’s paper industry, which is so vital to its economy,” Schillinger said.

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