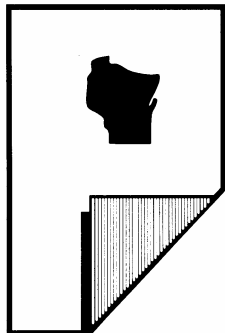


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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2004

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WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL HAILS REPORT ON IMPROVING TAX CLIMATE

NEENAH – Wisconsin’s paper industry is set to see an improved tax climate, according to a report released by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

“We have worked hard to change Wisconsin’s tax climate and were successful in enacting meaningful change to some of Wisconsin’s tax policies that were putting our papermakers at a competitive disadvantage,” said Patrick Schillinger, President of the Wisconsin Paper Council. “This report indicates that a paper company in Wisconsin will begin reaping those tax climate changes in the near future,” he said. “We are up against global competitors and any barriers to being the low-cost producer need to be addressed,” he said.

The key change is enactment of the Sales Tax Exemption for Fuel and Electricity Used in Manufacturing. This was the major tax initiative of the Wisconsin Paper Council. The bill passed the Legislature last year and was signed into law by Governor Doyle.

“Improving Wisconsin’s business and regulatory climate is imperative to maintaining and enhancing the paper industry in this state,” Schillinger said.

Wisconsin has been the number one papermaking state in the country for the last 50 years, directly employing over 40,000 people in Wisconsin and supporting another 60,000 jobs here.

The Wisconsin Paper Council is the trade association of the pulp and paper industry.

For an electronic version of the “Corporate Tax Burden Comparison: Paper Industry” report, please visit the Department of Revenue web site at www.dor.state.wi.us.

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