



Maine on Paper

An industry we can't afford to lose



**The future of Verso Paper Corp. is now
inextricably linked to our success in Maine.
That is why the challenges outlined in this report must
be addressed. Verso needs Maine, and Maine needs
Verso as a leader in a sustainable and thriving
pulp and paper industry.**



Verso simple.™

Verso An industry leader

Verso is one of the leading producers of coated papers in North America. Our customers include the most recognizable names in catalog and magazine publishing, and we sell to them through a variety of distribution channels, including direct sales, commercial printers, paper merchants and brokers.

Our paper mills, warehouses and sales offices are strategically located in close proximity to major printing publication customers, giving us the ability to deliver our products quickly and cost-effectively. We operate 11 paper machines at four mills: our two facilities in Maine at Jay and Bucksport, plus Quinnesec, Michigan, and Sartell, Minnesota.

Verso is North America's second-largest producer of coated groundwood papers, which are used primarily for catalogs and magazines, and we are one of North America's lowest-cost producers of coated freesheet paper, which is used primarily for magazines, annual reports and brochures.

In addition to coated paper, we have a strategic presence in supercalendered (SC) paper, which is used primarily for retail advertising inserts. We also produce approximately 874,000 tons of kraft pulp annually, of which about 70 percent is consumed at our own mills and the remainder is sold as market pulp.

2007 was Verso's first full year as a new company. Formerly the Coated and SC Papers business of International Paper Company we were acquired by private equity firm Apollo Management, L.P., in August 2006. In the spring of 2008, we became a publicly traded company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

A sustainable company

While what we do is important, of even greater importance is how we do things. Our commitment to sustainability runs through every facet of our company. And for us, sustainability ultimately is about people. Our reason for conserving resources and protecting the environment is to assure that future generations can share the same opportunities and abundance that we enjoy.

But the future won't matter much if we don't take care of people today. This means providing a safe and healthy



workplace for our employees, conducting business ethically and responsibly, being a good neighbor and treating all with fairness and respect. By integrating these values into everything we do, we are building a sustainable company whose worth is measured not only by the dollars we make, but also how we make them.

Maine and our future

While Verso is a new company, our heritage runs deep in Maine through our mills in Bucksport and Jay and our 1,600 employees in the state. Our skilled papermakers in Maine manufacture more than 1.2 million tons of paper annually.

When Verso's Maine mills were part of International Paper, they represented less than 10 percent of that company. Today these mills represent half of Verso's facilities, half of our sales and 60 percent of our workforce. In 2007, they received a major portion of our capital investment for the year.

The future of Verso is inextricably linked to our success in Maine. In this report we outline many of the challenges facing our company and our industry in Maine. We discuss the steps that we are taking to meet these challenges and the help that we need from the State of Maine.

These are issues that must be addressed. Verso needs Maine, and Maine needs Verso to remain a leader in a sustainable and thriving pulp and paper industry – an industry that Maine cannot afford to lose.

The impact of Maine paper

The pulp and paper industry continues to be the largest segment of manufacturing in Maine, contributing about 4.1 percent (\$1.477 billion) of the Gross State Product.

Pulp and paper also are Maine's second ranking export, representing more than 20 percent of all foreign exports from the state in 2007.

Maine's pulp and paper companies spend \$898,000,000 statewide on goods and services in Maine; nearly a third of that amount, \$292,000,000, is spent within 60 miles of each mill.

The industry pays the highest manufacturing wages in the state, an average of \$58,136 per year. It is the largest manufacturing employer, accounting for more than one out of every six manufacturing jobs. The total direct and indirect impact on wages is well over \$1 billion.

In many cases, paper mills comprise 60-80 percent of the local property tax base, in addition to providing the best jobs in the area and supporting other local businesses.

All of Maine benefits from the pulp and paper industry. Moreover, with facilities in places like Bucksport, Baileyville, Madawaska, East Millinocket, Lincoln, Jay, Madison, Millinocket, Rumford and Skowhegan, pulp and paper companies are vitally important to Maine's rural economy.

In terms of wages, taxes and support for the local

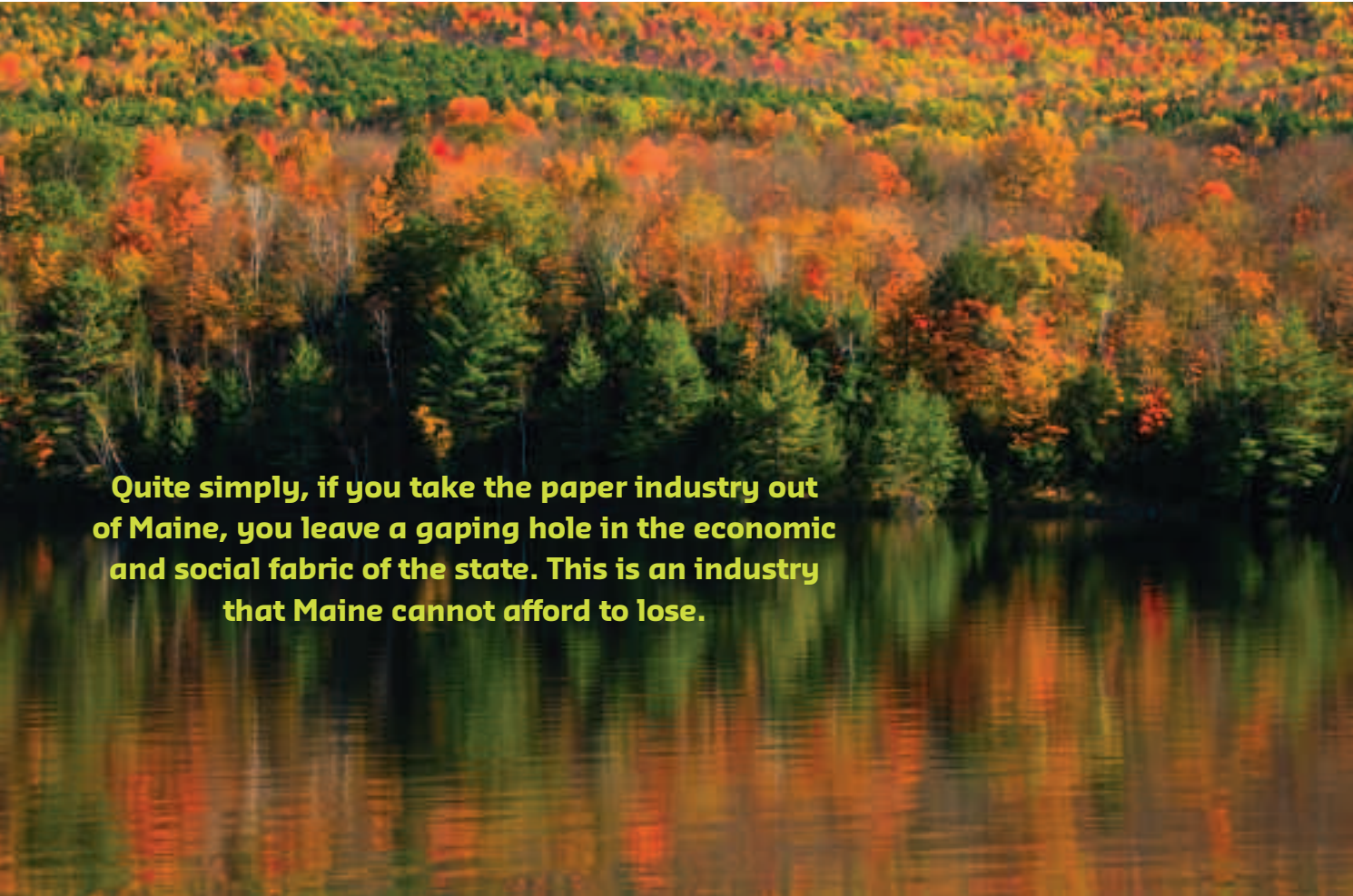
economy, there is nothing comparable to pulp and paper. While Maine can and should continue to promote industrial clusters, ecotourism and the creative economy, these pursuits cannot begin to replace the impact of pulp and paper company jobs in rural Maine.

A long tradition

Maine's paper industry has a long tradition in this state, going back almost 300 years when paper was made primarily from rags. Companies were attracted to Maine because its rivers and streams provided power for the mills and water for papermaking.

When papermaking shifted from rags to wood pulp in the mid to late 1800s, hydropower, coupled with Maine's vast supply of high quality wood fiber, fueled decades of investment in new mills and papermaking capacity, helping Maine become the leading paper producer in the country.

Over the last 50 years, Maine has slipped into second place among papermaking states as companies invested in Wisconsin, Washington and a host of Southern states where lower labor and energy costs made investment attractive, but the pulp and paper industry has remained the foundation of the state's manufacturing economy.



Quite simply, if you take the paper industry out of Maine, you leave a gaping hole in the economic and social fabric of the state. This is an industry that Maine cannot afford to lose.



New realities

The last new paper mill built in Maine came online in 1981 and since that time the industry has undergone profound changes. Competition from Europe, Latin America and Asia has forced Maine's paper mills to compete on a global scale.

In recent years, Maine has seen older mills close. Thousands of jobs have been lost. Vast woodlands and hydropower systems have been sold, and new owners have taken over mills from legacy companies like International Paper, Great Northern and Oxford.

Some in Maine see pulp and paper as a dying industry, destined to go the way of shoes and textiles. That is a mistake. While today there are fewer mills and workers than in the past, and many of the names have changed, Maine is producing more paper than at any time in its history.

Investment in technology, the upgrading of older paper machines and innovative new processes have enabled Maine's remaining paper mills to operate more efficiently, increasing their productivity while at the same dramatically decreasing their environmental impact. However, much more investment is needed if Maine mills are to catch up to newer facilities around the world.

Today's paper companies also have learned to focus on

niche markets where they can be innovative and successful in an increasingly volatile and fragmented global market. In addition, Maine's paper industry retains two advantages that it has always had: highly skilled papermakers and high quality wood fiber.

While Maine's pulp and paper industry is very much alive and is still the engine of Maine's manufacturing economy, the industry has never faced greater challenges. Some are based on the new realities of the global economy, but many of the most difficult challenges facing the industry are found right here in Maine, such as high energy costs, inefficient transportation and an inconsistent and unpredictable regulatory environment.

Competing in a global economy requires focus, investment and innovation. Maine has two choices: it can continue to accept its structural disadvantages that jeopardize the industry's future, or it can help the state's paper industry stay focused, attract investment and pursue innovation.

This report outlines the challenges that we face, the steps we are taking to remain competitive and the help that we need from state government and the people of Maine to remove the barriers that are standing in the way of the paper industry's future success.



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Challenges and Solutions

Energy

The issue

In 1990, the energy costs to produce a ton of paper were relatively stable and predictable. These days, as everyone knows, energy costs have risen dramatically and have become anything but stable. Moreover, Maine's energy costs are much higher than the U.S. average, placing a special burden on paper companies, which require massive amounts of energy to run papermaking machines and generate the steam used in the papermaking process.

Natural gas is the predominant fuel used in generating electricity in Maine, and we pay a premium for it compared to Midwest prices. Every \$1.00 increase in the price of natural gas translates into a significant monthly increase in fuel costs for our mills.

While Maine is a net exporter of electricity, the state's aging power infrastructure and lack of diversified fuel sources help to keep energy costs high, which in turn creates a competitive disadvantage for Maine paper companies.

What Verso is doing

Both of Verso's mills use a mix of fuels in papermaking. At Jay we burn waste oil, biomass and pelletized waste paper. We also generate hydropower and buy electricity on the grid. In addition, we have the potential to use natural gas in three gas-fired turbines. At Bucksport we use natural gas, oil, coal, biomass and tire-derived fuel (TDF). At both mills, we have the ability to adjust our fuel mix hourly in order to achieve the best result at the lowest cost.

Verso is continually looking for ways to conserve energy, improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We have increased our use of renewable biofuels to the point where they accounted for 53 percent of our fuel use in 2007. These biofuels include bark, solids from wastewater treatment and wood lignin recovered from the pulping process – all fuels that were once considered waste products.

How Maine can help

Since energy is such a major cost component of papermaking, Verso and Maine's paper industry need access to multiple fuels to avoid overdependence on any one fuel. The state can help by supporting approval of an LNG import terminal in Maine, which will increase the supply of natural gas, and by clearly

identifying benefits to ratepayers before approving major investments in Maine's electricity infrastructure, such as new transmission lines, with the goal of lowering costs.

In addition, no new regulations or costs should be loaded into Maine electric rates until federal regulations are created to level the playing field in North America.

- **Support a Maine LNG terminal to increase the supply and lower the cost of natural gas.**
- **Identify benefits to ratepayers before approving major electricity infrastructure investments.**
- **Do not load further regulations or costs into Maine's electric rates until the federal government levels the playing field throughout the U.S.**



Sustainability/ Certification

The issue

The paper industry has an advantage over many other industries in that its primary raw material, wood fiber from trees, is a completely renewable resource – if the forest land from which it is harvested is managed sustainably, as it is in Maine.

That is an issue because major paper users, such as publishing companies and catalog merchants, increasingly are demanding that the paper they buy begins with fiber from forests that are certified sustainable by an independent third-party. They also want assurance that sustainable practices are followed throughout the manufacturing process, from tree harvesting to finished paper.

Here in Maine we are planting more trees than we are cutting. According to the Maine Forest Service, the current net growth to harvest ratio for Maine forest lands is 1.14:1, close to the minimum sustainability ratio of 1:1. That is important in a state that is 90 percent forested and where most of that land is managed by private owners. As the Maine Development Foundation notes in its 2008 Measures of Growth In Focus report:

“Maine’s forests support healthy wildlife populations, provide clean water, offer recreational opportunities, and supply raw materials used to create products ranging from newspapers to alternative fuels. Maintaining a long-term balance between growth and removals can sustain Maine’s forests.”

Maintaining that balance can also sustain Maine’s paper industry. Maine was once a leader in certified forest acres, but other states and regions have moved ahead of Maine, giving companies that operate in those areas a competitive advantage.

What Verso is doing

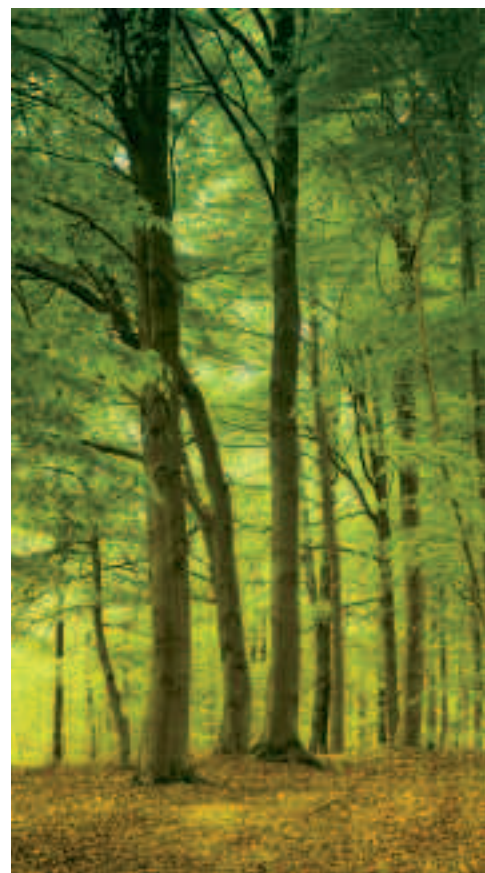
As a new company, Verso has made sustainability one of its founding principles, integrating sustainable practices into every aspect of our business. Since papermaking is resource-intensive, Verso is trying to use trees, water, energy and chemicals as efficiently as possible in ways that do not harm the environment.

While only 11 percent of forests globally are certified, 60 percent of the fiber used in Verso’s products came from third-party certified sources in 2007, and our goal is to steadily increase that amount each year. In Maine, we have worked with government agencies, trade associations and environmental organizations to make forest certification more accessible and affordable to small, private landowners.

All four Verso mills have been certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for chain of custody, which means that we have in place procedures to document FSC-certified fiber as it passes through our supply chain from the forest to the manufacturing process to our customers.

Verso also is a founding sponsor of the FSC Family Forest Alliance, which works to extend forest certification to family landowners. We support suppliers whose lands are already third-party certified by partnering with them to increase our purchases, and our forest resource team has met with owners of large non-certified forests to help them understand the certification process and encourage them to participate in it.

We also provide underwriting support to Maine’s Master Logger Certification Program and the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands, through which



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natural resource professionals can inexpensively gain access to FSC certification for their landowner clients.

Verso's commitment to sustainability is a transparent process that impacts every aspect of our operations. We publish an annual Sustainability Report, regularly update the Sustainability section of our Web site, and maintain an ongoing dialogue with our stakeholders. In addition, we participate in the Environmental Paper Assessment Tool (EPAT), an online tool that enables paper companies and paper buyers to share and compare data on the environmental and social impacts of papermaking.

How Maine can help

The State of Maine must assume a more active leadership role in encouraging the third-party certification of Maine forests. The customers of Maine's paper companies are demanding the use of fiber from certified forests and if the state does not increase the number of certified acres, Maine-based companies and their workers will suffer.

In a state like Maine, which has a

few large landowners and many small to medium-sized landowners, certification simply cannot be left up to every individual family or company owner. There must be a concerted, statewide effort for certification, including incentives for landowners to undergo the certification process.

These might include covering the costs associated with the certification process, actively leading a landscape certification process, and finding ways to encourage loggers to become certified.

In addition, Maine must recognize that competition for wood resources will create new challenges to forest sustainability and to the economic sustainability of wood-based industries in Maine. As we evaluate new energy strategies that propose greater use of wood for fuel, we must assure that these strategies guarantee long-term forest sustainability, that they do not sacrifice one valuable consumer product for another, that they do not drive inflation or otherwise have an adverse effect on the U.S. economy, and that all potential consequences have been thoroughly evaluated.

- **Assume a leadership role in promoting third-party certification throughout the state.**
- **Create incentives for woodlands owners and loggers to become certified.**
- **Ensure that all wood harvested, whether for lumber, pulp and paper, biofuel or other industrial purposes, comes from sustainably managed forests.**
- **Develop public policy to assure that any new energy strategy that includes greater use of wood for fuel carefully evaluates all potential environmental and economic consequences, does not sacrifice one valuable consumer product for another, and does not drive inflation or otherwise have an adverse effect on the Maine or national economy.**



Workforce

The issue

By 2015 more than 45 percent of Verso's current workforce will turn over primarily due to retirement, and according to the Maine Pulp and Paper Association, nearly one-third of Maine's papermakers will reach retirement age in the next decade.

Compounding the issue of looming retirements is the concern that today many young people no longer see the pulp and paper industry as an attractive career choice. Unlike years past, when many students graduated one day and went into the mill the next, there is no longer a steady supply of new workers. An entire generation of young people has grown up knowing little about the paper industry except cutbacks, layoffs and mill closings.

In addition, outdated but lingering perceptions about papermaking being dirty, noisy work prevent many young people from seeing that today's papermakers are more likely to work in a computerized control room than they are on the mill floor.

And along with that new work environment comes the need for higher-level skills. On-the-job training is no longer the primary route to a career as a papermaker. Today workers need strong reading, math, science and computer skills.

There also is a need for professionals with undergraduate and graduate degrees in various engineering disciplines. Today's engineering graduates have many options available to them, and starting a career and a family in a rural town is not always the most attractive opportunity.

On the positive side, today's smaller workforce, coupled with a demand for people with higher skill levels, means that Maine's pulp and paper industry has more opportunities for rapid advancement than ever before.

What Verso is doing

Verso is working to engage young people by hosting information sessions at our facilities and making presentations to students at area schools. We support programs like the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation's "Consider Engineering" summer program and scholarships for engineering students. We also have ongoing cooperative education programs for college juniors and seniors enrolled in pulp and paper-related engineering programs.

One of our newest efforts is the Andro Apprentice Program which is open to eight area high school seniors. If selected for the program based on testing and interviews by employees, students will receive a full scholarship to Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) for an Associates Degree in Pulp and Paper Technology. They will have employment for two summers and for two years following graduation. Following the two-year apprenticeship, Verso may offer the participants a permanent, full-time position based on performance.

How Maine can help

Maine is concerned about young people leaving the state for better job opportunities, yet the paper industry offers above average compensation, the ability to build a career here in Maine, the opportunity to work with high-tech equipment, and a lifestyle that takes advantage of Maine's four-season recreational opportunities. There is a shortage of young talent coming into the industry, both in terms of hourly workers and the next generation of engineers, accountants and managers.

Maine must work with Verso and the state's other paper companies to expose young people to the paper industry and the career opportunities that are available to them right here in the state. The Department of Education should undertake a program to help guidance counselors and others who influence young people to encourage the exploration of the paper industry

as a career choice.

The community college system should expand the availability of the KVCC pulp and paper curriculum to other areas of the state. The Maine Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development should partner with the pulp and paper industry to promote the advantages of working in rural Maine.



In addition, high school education must provide young people with a solid foundation in math, science, reading, writing, and computer technology. Post-secondary education at the community college and university level needs to support degree programs that are critical to sustaining Maine's paper industry.

- **Create a program to help guidance counselors and others encourage career exploration in Maine's pulp and paper industry.**
- **Expand the KVCC pulp and paper curriculum to other parts of Maine.**
- **Partner with the industry to promote living and working in rural Maine.**
- **Ensure that high school provides a solid foundation in basic skills and support post-secondary degree programs that are critical to the industry.**

Environmental regulations

The issue

The days of “pickereel vs. payroll” are long over for Maine’s paper industry, and companies like Verso willingly embrace a new environmental ethic that uses resources wisely and leaves as small an environmental footprint as possible. Environmental and economic sustainability are no longer seen as mutually exclusive but as heavily dependent on one another.

In virtually every category – air pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, wastewater discharges, hazardous wastes and solid waste in landfills – Maine’s paper companies have made significant reductions in their impact on the environment. Companies like Verso have in many cases gone above and beyond what is required, and Verso has highly trained environmental managers and staff to ensure that laws, regulations and permits are complied with and best practices are followed at each mill.

Verso supports strong and fair regulations. We are totally committed to reducing our environmental footprint and to complying with all of the environmental permits under which we operate. Like any business, however, we can be most effective when there is predictability in the permitting and enforcement process. Working with the State of Maine, it is in our mutual interest to have a system of science-based regulations that offer real environmental benefit and can be implemented in the most cost-effective manner.

Papermaking is a capital-intensive business. Spending millions of dollars on questionable or marginally effective regulations instead of maintaining equipment and making our mills more competitive is a luxury we simply cannot afford in today’s competitive

environment. It is not a question about investing in the environment vs. investing in productivity; it is about using financial resources as we do all other resources – for maximum efficiency and benefit.

What Verso is doing

Verso is committed to reducing its overall environmental footprint, meeting or exceeding all environmental laws and regulations and preventing pollution.

At the Androscoggin Mill, Verso has:

- **Decreased hazardous waste production by 84 percent**
- **Reduced the need for fossil fuel by using its own hydroelectric power to generate electricity**
- **Removed 98 percent of pollutants from water effluent**
- **Installed odor reducing equipment 10 years before it was required**
- **Voluntarily reduced phosphorous discharges by one-third since 2004**

At the Bucksport Mill, we have:

- **Reduced air emissions by 74 percent since 2000**
- **Reduced nitrogen oxide emissions by 80 percent since 2000**
- **Reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by 80 percent since 2000**
- **Reduced landfill sludge by 58 percent since 1995**
- **Removed 99 percent of the pollutants discharged to our water treatment plant**

In addition, Verso has reduced its overall fresh water usage by 15 percent and its energy usage per ton by 18 percent.

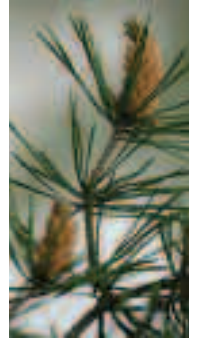
We also have partnered with Time Inc. and the National Recycling Coalition in Recycling Magazines is Excellent, or ReMix, a public education program to promote the recycling of magazines and catalogs.

How Maine can help

Maine has long relied on two part-time boards, the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) and the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), for environmental and land use permitting. Given the size, science and complexity of many of today’s permit applications and the demands placed on these citizen-regulators, the time may be right for Maine to reconsider and update its permitting process.

The current system is costly and adversarial. A new model that more effectively recognizes the complexities of today’s environmental and land use permitting will go a long way toward establishing a fair, predictable, less costly and more timely process for making important environmental and land use decisions.

Moreover, we believe the process can be improved without any significant changes to existing regulations or the cost of administering them.



- **Update the environmental and land use permitting process to recognize the complexities of major projects and issues.**
- **Provide predictability in the permitting process through consistent interpretation and application of laws and regulations.**

Transportation

The issue

Transportation is another key factor in the competitiveness of Verso and Maine's paper industry. We need a regular supply of bulk raw materials coming into our mills and a steady stream of finished paper leaving our mills. Because of the massive volumes of material coming into and going out of our mills, dependable rail service is essential.

Most customers for Verso's paper products are in the South and Midwest. With a roll of our paper weighing more than 5 tons, the fewer times that we or our customers have to handle the product the better. That is why the ideal situation is to load paper onto a rail car right at the plant and ship it directly to the customers, most of whom have their own rail sidings. It is very expensive and impractical to store paper in our warehouses or to transfer it between carriers en route to customers.

From an environmental standpoint as well, rail is a far more efficient way to move paper. A rail car can haul close to 80 tons of paper, while a truck can haul only about 20 tons. Considering that our Bucksport mill produces about 50 tons of paper per hour, relying heavily on trucking is simply not a viable alternative for shipping large amounts of paper.

Unfortunately, while we are heavily dependent on rail service for receiving raw materials and shipping product, we have only one choice when it comes to rail service. We have a critical need for more modern equipment and more reliable service from this carrier.

What Verso is doing

While rail is by far the most efficient way to move products in and out of the mill, Verso also relies heavily on trucking companies. Raw wood comes to the mill almost exclusively by truck and around 20 percent of our paper is shipped by truck.

We enjoy a good working relationship with the trucking companies that we use. We have worked with them on scheduling deliveries and pick-ups and other logistical issues designed to avoid idling times and unnecessary fuel use, all of which helps to reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

How Maine can help

Maine must realize that good rail service is critical to the success of its paper industry and other large manufacturers, especially as the cost of gasoline and diesel continue to rise. The adequacy of rail service is not just an issue between the railroad owner and its customers; it is a major economic development and public policy issue for Maine.

The state must use its authority and resources to ensure that Maine businesses have access to adequate and dependable rail service. This might include establishing a revolving loan fund for railroads to upgrade or acquire locomotives and boxcars, and/or a state purchase and lease-back program for new equipment.

In addition, because weight limits on federal highways like I-95 are lower than on state roads, the trucks we use cannot be filled to capacity, raising transportation costs and energy consumption. The members of Maine's Congressional Delegation have been trying to pass legislation to make the weight limits the same on both federal and state roads in Maine, but they need continued support from state officials, businesses and the public.

- **Recognize reliable rail service as a major economic development issue.**
- **Establish a revolving loan fund and/or purchase and lease-back program for new equipment and track improvements.**
- **Work with Maine's Congressional Delegation to raise truck weight limits on Maine interstate highways.**



Cost structure

The issue

That Maine is an expensive state in which to do business is well documented. There also is a somewhat pervasive attitude at both the state and local level that the ever-increasing cost of government programs and an endless stream of new regulations can simply be passed on to businesses, especially large corporations, over and over again without any consequences. Over time, that attitude has had a corrosive impact on investment in Maine.

To survive, businesses need to invest, but before investment can occur, business owners need to feel confident that their investment will return dividends, that the playing field is level, that the rules will not change without warning and that the company is valued by the local community and the state. Over-regulation, exorbitant costs, an inability to plan and budget with confidence, and an unwelcoming attitude all drive investment to other places.

Maine's paper companies, more than ever in their long history, are competing in an intensely competitive global marketplace. They need every incentive to stay here and invest here for the long term.

While it is good news that Maine recently joined most other states in removing the personal property tax on business equipment for new investments, programs like the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) on earlier investments and tax increment financing (TIF) incentives have long been treated as political footballs.

They have been subject to frequent attempts to change the reimbursement formula or the eligibility criteria – long after participating businesses had already made investments under the

original terms. For companies, these programs represent a long term contract that is built into planning and budgeting, not some program that can be changed on a whim because the state needs additional funds.

Municipalities also need to understand that paper companies want to be good neighbors, but imposing redundant local regulations or a disproportionate share of the local tax burden on one company has a cumulative effect when combined with all of the other costs of doing business. These added costs consume financial resources that could be better used to invest in new equipment, facilities and processes that will make Maine's mills more competitive.

What Verso is doing

Verso tries to work in partnership with its local communities and the State of Maine. We try to maintain an open dialogue with state and local leaders and to understand and respond to issues in a proactive and positive way that leads to both effective and cost-efficient solutions. The town of Bucksport has worked hard to keep the local tax burden on the mill at a constant level.

We are willing to pay our share of taxes, but we expect value from government services in return and recognition that our resources are not

unlimited. We provide good paying jobs with an annual payroll of \$160 million, buy \$400 million of goods and services from local companies and generously support local organizations; in return, we ask for fairness, transparency and a stable business environment in which we can grow our business.

How Maine can help

Maine can help us succeed here by publicly recognizing the value of its pulp and paper industry, by taking issues like BETR and TIF off the table, by enacting meaningful, comprehensive tax reform, by publicly addressing studies and reports that fail to recognize the industry's value to the rural economy, and by carefully considering the cost, impact and effectiveness of new regulations and legislation.

- **Take the politics out of BETR and TIF.**
- **Enact comprehensive spending and tax reform.**
- **Address reports and studies that fail to acknowledge the industry's value.**
- **Prepare impact analyses of new regulations and laws.**



A call to action

It is impossible to separate Maine's future economic well-being from the future of its pulp and paper industry. While efforts to diversify the state's economy are important and worthwhile, no amount of eco-tourism or creative economy jobs can supplant the economic impact of pulp and paper, especially in rural Maine.

The pulp and paper industry has undergone profound changes in recent years and still faces many challenges, but Verso and Maine's other paper companies are well on the way to creating a stronger, more sustainable industry in our state. With additional support, assistance and leadership from the State of Maine on the issues outlined in this report, we can ensure that pulp and paper remains the foundation of Maine's manufacturing economy for generations to come.

After all, this is an industry Maine can't afford to lose.

If you share our concerns about the future of Maine's pulp and paper industry, here are some ways that you can help:

- **Contact your state representatives and senators and ask them to support the recommendations in this report.**
- **Schedule a speaker for your local civic or business organization.**
- **Promote a greater understanding of the importance of Maine's pulp and paper industry among your relatives, friends and co-workers.**

To learn more about Verso and these issues, please visit www.versopaper.com/timeforaction or contact Bill Cohen at 207-469-1249.





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