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7/30/18

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stuart Isaacson and I am an owner of PalletOne/Isaacson Lumber company in Livermore Falls, ME. We have been operating in the Androscoggin County for over 60 years. We are the largest pallet manufacturer in the Northeast and in the top 20 hardwood sawmills in the nation. We saw 18 million board feet per year to satisfy our pallet manufacturing process. Like all sawmills, we create byproducts, paper quality wood chips, sawdust and bark throughout the sawing operations. These byproducts are essential to the longevity of our mill and represent 12% of our total sales. As you can imagine, without the ability to sell these residuals to the local paper mills, pellet mills, biomass plants and schools, our company would be operating at a loss. We would be forced to shut out doors and 175 employees in our local area would be without jobs. Not only would our direct employees suffer from this, but most all of our local loggers would be greatly affected as well. The pallet industry is a much-needed industry for all loggers and land owners as they are able to find a home for the industrial grade logs that don't meet the standards of the grade logs used for flooring and furniture. Without sawmills who can utilize this industrial grade logs, all of this material would be sold to the paper mills for pulp at a reduced profit that is not sustainable. If Maine paper, pellet and biomass plants are forced to curtail production due to the OTR they will lose the efficiencies that similar plants around the world can gain from operating at full production. Loosing these efficiencies will greatly reduce the Maine mills ability to compete on the global market. In conclusion, it is clear that the Department's proposal to opt out of the OTR is in the best interest of Maine and its labor force. I am requesting that we opt out of the OTR, not only for our business, but for our hardworking employees trying to support their families. I am asking for the local loggers who have been hard hit by other economic factors they have faced in the last 10 years. I am asking so that Maine's forest can continue to be working forests for decades to come. Let's not continue with roadblocks that hinder one of Maine's historically largest incomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Isaacson", written over a faint blue line.

Stuart Isaacson