



# Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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On behalf of Jump River Electric Cooperative, serving six rural Wisconsin counties, we are requesting your support on an issue facing our communities. On June 9, Verso announced the idling of their Duluth, Minnesota and Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin pulp and paper mills by the end of July 2020, for an indefinite period. The idling of these mills will directly impact 1,000 workers, as well as indirectly affecting thousands more across the state that support the mills through related work such as logging and transportation.

The prolonged closure of these mills will negatively impact national, state, county, and private landowners and has the potential to affect the ability to continue proper silviculture techniques used on those lands to maintain a healthy forest structure.

The Wisconsin Rapids mill utilizes over 25% of all the pulpwood produced in the state of Wisconsin. The forest products industry is the number one employer in Rusk County. Approximately 58.7% of total pulpwood on active sales in Rusk County is hardwood pulp; of which, over 90% would be processed at the Wisconsin Rapids mill.

The timber revenue earned from the Rusk County Forest reduces the county levy by 15% to 20%. The loss of this income will financially affect the 14,000+ citizens of Rusk County and public services available to them. Similar impacts will be felt by nearly every County operating a County Forest for timber production.

Jump River Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization; we belong to the communities we serve. We have faced financial uncertainty during this extraordinary time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic impact of the Verso idling will have an immediate and lasting effect on our business and other small businesses in the Counties and communities we serve.

The Jump River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and Management ask that assistance be provided in any way possible to allow the continuation of mill operations and/or financial assistance be considered to support the direct loss of jobs, as well as assistance for any business impacted by the closure.

Sincerely,



James Anderson  
CEO / General Manager  
Jump River Electric Cooperative