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January 16, 2015

The Honorable John A. Woodcock, Jr.
United States District Court for the District of Maine
Margaret Chase Smith Federal Building and Courthouse
202 Harlow Street
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Sir:

My company, Fibre Technologies LLC, an SBA certified HubZone Company and Department of Defense verified "Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business", has been involved as a principal, project manager, consultant and innovator in the forest products industry for over fifteen years. As the owner of this company, I have led many business and product development initiatives and have been instrumental in developing unique packaging facilities and substrates used in the folding carton and corrugated industries.

Most recently several colleagues and I successfully completed, a 2-year project to make profitable an internationally known, failed, newsprint company known as SP Newsprint. This project involved a complete reformation of the management structure and processes as well as the conversion of four paper machines from the production of newsprint to the production of specialty and packaging grades. That process took approximately two years to complete but the new entity, SP Fiber Technologies, was rescued from the scrap heap and after two years is producing more than 1,500 TPD of non-newsprint packaging and specialty grades of paper, profitably. The mills including new capital investments and a new cogenerating facility are contributing in many ways to the communities they serve and to its more than 700 employees.

Like newsprint demand, in secular decline worldwide, so goes the coated groundwood market. And where existing market disintegration is fast moving and unrelenting, where significant damage is measureable daily, the first inclination is to scrap everything. It may the right decision if one's focus is to avoid further losses; it is the wrong decision if you know that the mill can be repurposed in a constructive way.

Our interest in the Bucksport mill dates to the closure announcement made last October, and based on the fact that this mill that can produce lightweight sheets that conform to unique specifications we have developed for high-performance, non-commodity packaging products. I have several colleagues, including Chuck Klass, who are experts in papermaking and coatings, who lend credence to my belief that this mill can be transformed into a viable business, invaluable to Maine and all the people, communities and other businesses it communes with.

In regards to the closure announcement on the Bucksport mill, usually a sale process would follow, confidential memorandums of interest, data rooms, principal briefings, etc. This intense and necessary process provides for the disclosure of, and vigorous vetting of, all information required to fully inform

potential buyers. Such a process was never established, to my knowledge. It could simply be that Verso did not know that there were any other uses for the mill. Fortunately, perhaps, there are.

Absent a "due diligence process" or even a stated willingness of Verso to sell the mill intact, our private equity contacts could not be engaged. More to the point, no business is going to buy this facility without full disclosure from the seller. We are not in the scrap business we are in the business of building businesses.

In closing, my team would be very interested in an opportunity to evaluate the Bucksport mill and would stipulate that any use of the mill would not compete with Verso's markets. With full disclosure this process could be concluded within 6-weeks including required briefings by Verso management and at least two site visits.

Regards,

Robert Pederzani

Owner