



1 June 2011

Honourable Bruce Northrup
Minister of Natural Resources
Province of New Brunswick
Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Northrup,

On behalf of the members of the Saint John Board of Trade we respectfully submit this letter outlining our view and recommendations regarding the forest sector in New Brunswick. Over the past few years, the Saint John Board of Trade has made several submissions to the provincial government regarding the economic impact of forestry in our Province.

Presently we support the government's ongoing public consultation and encourage the government to wait until the Crown Lands Task Forces have completed their reports before enacting any new allocations or regulations. By setting clear timber objectives and the continuation of the 2007 mill wood allocations, we believe that the province will support the continued investment and modernization of the forest products industry in New Brunswick and sustain jobs and prosperity in our community.

The impact of the forest products industry on the development of the economy, culture and society of New Brunswick cannot be understated. From the mills in the North of the Province to those at the mouth of the Saint John River, the forest products industry spans and affects the entire Province. New Brunswick's wealth of experience and national leading forestry practices make this sector a priority where we have momentum and depth.

A vibrant forest products industry is crucial to the economic, social and environmental wellness of the Province, and the Greater Saint John region. The forest products industry in New Brunswick directly and indirectly provides employment income in the hundred millions; JDI alone is approximately \$361 million annually. Thousands of jobs, directly through production facilities and indirectly through private woodlots, suppliers, shipping and transportation industry, university, community college, and numerous local businesses are dependent upon the health of the industry. In addition, roughly \$52 million dollars in personal income tax is generated annually direct from JDI employees alone. The supply chain impact with over 350 suppliers in the Greater Saint John region for JDI totaling \$120 million dollars in purchases displays the interconnectivity of the forest industry to the whole economy.

It is crucial to the Greater Saint John business community that the forest products industry continues to be financially healthy and competitive. The ability for the industry to continue financing its investments is directly contingent upon its ability to locate a reliable supply of raw


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material. Continued reinvestment and sustained employment and economic impact cannot continue without a secure and growing wood supply.

The Board of Trade supports the continuation of the 2007 mill wood allocation and the setting of specific timber objectives on Crown Land, to prevent the loss of jobs and negative impact on our provincial and regional economies. New Brunswick companies like JDI have a proven track record of responsible forest management which is expected to continue and should be recognized in the mill wood allocation and setting of timber objectives. We also strongly encourage the government to wait until the Crown Lands Task Forces have completed their reports before enacting any new allocations or regulations.

The Saint John Board of Trade is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 1,000 members, representing 600 small, medium, and large businesses and organizations and therefore, the interests of more than 30,000 citizens, the Board is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. The elected Board of Directors is representative of the diversity of the membership and their concerns.

Sincerely,



John Warrington
Chairman



Imelda Gilman
President



connected!
member of the canadian chamber of commerce network

CC: Honourable David Alward, Premier of New Brunswick
Honourable Margaret-Ann Blaney, Minister of Environment and MLA Rothesay
Honourable Blaine Higgs, Minister of Finance and MLA Quispamsis
Honourable Trevor Holder, Minister of Tourism and Parks and MLA Saint John Portland
Mr. Carl Killen, MLA Saint John Harbour
Dr. Jim Parrott, MLA Fundy-River Valley
Mr. Glen Savoie, MLA Saint John-Fundy
Ms. Dorothy Shephard, MLA Saint John Lancaster
Mr. Glen Tait, MLA Saint John East
Mr. Bev Harrison, MLA Hampton-Kings