

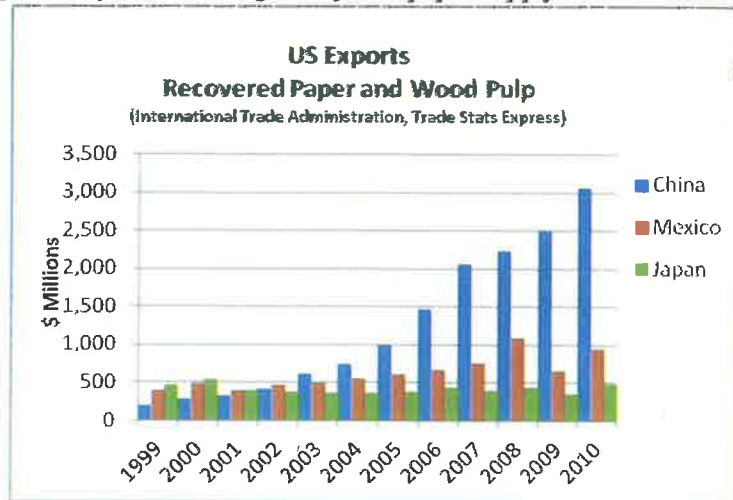
**Save Family Wage Green Jobs in Oregon's Paper Mills: HB 4142
Protect our Recycled Paper Industry**

MEASURE: HB 4142
EXHIBIT: 3
2012 SESSION H BUSINESS & LABOR
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The Problem: Many of Oregon's paper mills have converted to making recycled paper from recovered paper waste. Now the rising cost of recovered waste paper, driven largely by U.S. exports to fill Chinese demand, is destroying Oregon's once vibrant paper making industry. Mills in Oregon rely on a paper supply that is sourced both locally and from across the country.

While the majority of waste paper collected in Oregon stays in Oregon, mills supplement their supply by purchasing paper from other states. As exports of recovered paper skyrocket, local mills struggle with high prices and dwindling supply. The rise of commingling as part of curbside recycling programs has also contributed to higher levels of contamination and increased disposal and maintenance costs for mills.

In 1980, paper mills employed over 10,000 workers in Oregon, paying them family wages and benefits with effective union representation. Today Oregon paper mills employ approximately 3,300 workers and the jobs that remain are in danger. In March 2011, after more than a century of operation, the Blue Heron Paper Company in Oregon City, closed, laying off over 200 employees. In November 2011, SP Newsprint, Oregon's largest recovered paper mill, filed for bankruptcy protection. The mill's fate, along with that of its 300 employees, remains uncertain. As the economic downturn continues, Oregon cannot afford the continued loss of well-paid manufacturing jobs. Mills at home should not close while China's industry booms.



Why We Should Care: Oregon citizens dutifully separate recyclable material for curbside pickup each week across the state. Along with the help of a highly productive waste recovery system, Oregonians divert over 600,000 tons of waste paper from landfills each year. The paper manufacturing industry in Oregon is one of the most sustainable paper making industries in the world. In contrast, China's paper industry has been accused of causing more pollution than the pulp and paper industry of the rest of the world combined. Oregonians that care about sustainability and jobs would not want their recovered paper to leave the state only to arrive in China's dirty mills. Recycling in Oregon should create jobs in Oregon and protect the environment.

The Solution: HB4142, sponsored by Co-Speaker Arnie Roblan, the Republican and Democratic chairs of the Business and Labor Committee, and many other Representatives, will begin to address this problem by expanding the state's preference for procurement of recycled products which is already written into law (ORS 279A.125), to include a preference for paper manufactured at paper mills located in the state. as long as the cost of that paper does not exceed the cost of non-recycled paper or paper manufactured outside Oregon by more than 10%. This is not the full solution to the closure of our paper mills, but coupled with federal action it could help to save thousands of family wage green jobs in our State.

We urge your support for HB 4142, (list of signatories not yet complete..)

Barbara Dudley, Co-Chair - Oregon Working Families Party

Greg Pallesen, Vice President - Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers

Rick Winterhalter, Chair - Association of Oregon Recyclers

John Lucini, VP Pacific Region -SP Recycling Corp., Clackamas, OR

Edward Bortz, Mill Manager - SP Newsprint, Newberg, OR

Andrea Durbin, Executive Director -Oregon Environmental Council

Iwan Maluski, Conservation Pgm. Coordinator - Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Ron Carley, Executive Director - Coalition for a Livable Future

Jim Gausley, USW/ PACE Local 1189 -United Steel Workers

Tom Chamberlain, President - Oregon AFL-CIO