



March 24, 2021

Chairman Eric R. Pratt
Committee on Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy
Minnesota State Senate
St Paul, MN 55155

Chairman Pratt and Members of the Committee,

As the founder and CEO of ST Paper, I thank you for the hearing on S.F. 2190 and we thank Senator Rarick for authoring this legislation.

This bill offers an opportunity for ST Paper or other parties to refurbish and reopen the existing plant in Duluth, creating employment opportunities and economic growth for the city. It provides the necessary support for a successful transformation of the property. We also hope to have support like this from the City of Duluth and St. Louis County, as well as the assistance of Minnesota Power for reasonable electricity rates.

Our plans, if they result in an agreement with Verso, would be to create a new tissue plant in Duluth. ST Paper already operates two similar mills in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin and Franklin, Virginia. The demand for tissue paper is strong and immutable. We are confident that we can create a permanent presence in Duluth offering well-paying jobs, making a significant equity investment, and becoming a stable manufacturing partner with our employees, suppliers, customers, and the citizens of Duluth.

We support the bill as written and express the hope that it can move forward as part of this year's action on the budget.

We thank Senator Rarick for his support and the support of DEED's staff of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Sharad Tak
CEO and Founder
ST Paper, LLC