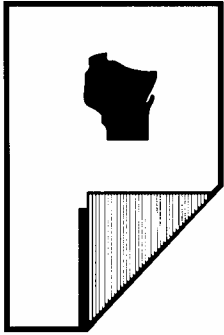


# WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Paper Industry Releases Recommendations for Action**

NEENAH – The Wisconsin Paper Council released recommendations for action by the industry and State of Wisconsin aimed at strengthening the presence of the paper industry in Wisconsin.

“We reviewed the major issues affecting the overall health of the paper industry in Wisconsin and developed a set of initiatives that will level the playing field in Wisconsin and make this a better place for the paper industry to thrive,” said Patrick Schillinger, Wisconsin Paper Council President.

The top three priorities for the paper industry include tax reform, environmental regulatory reform and a strong energy policy.

“There are only certain economic factors within the State’s control,” Schillinger said. “We need to work cooperatively with Wisconsin’s policy makers in order to change corporate leaders’ perception of Wisconsin and encourage investment and development here,” he said.

The report entitled *The State of Wisconsin’s Paper Industry: Recommendations for Action* is part of the economic cluster initiative developed by the Department of Commerce. A copy of the full report can be found at [www.wipapercouncil.org](http://www.wipapercouncil.org) under “latest news.”

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"I am pleased with the work the Wisconsin Paper Council is doing to push forward the development of a paper industry cluster in Wisconsin," said Department of Commerce Secretary Cory L. Nettles. "For more than 50 years, Wisconsin has been the nation's leading paper manufacturer, and I look forward to further discussions with industry representatives as we work together to explore options for growth."

The recommendations contained in the report were developed by industry officials as well as nearly 150 interested stakeholders that met twice in the last year to guide the overall process.

Recommendations have been developed for a broad range of issues from fiber supply, research & development, public relations, education, and labor but the main focus will center on tax reform, regulatory reform and energy costs.

Wisconsin has been the number one paper producing state in the nation for the last 50 years employing over 45,000 people in Wisconsin with annual wages of over \$2.5 billion. Papermakers earn the highest wages of any manufacturing sector.

"Wisconsin is known throughout the world as the leader in paper production and with these initiatives we can continue that strong legacy," Schillinger said. "Paper production helps drive Wisconsin's economy and it's time that policy makers paid attention to our industry in order to ensure that these high quality jobs stay here," he said.

The Wisconsin Paper Council is the trade association of the pulp, paper and allied industries in Wisconsin with headquarters in Neenah. It has 25 regular members and 100 associate members.

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