

Budget Recommendation BETR Program

Good Morning, Senators, Representatives, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Michael Theriault, I am the President of (SPFPA) Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America Local 550 located at the Sappi Somerset Mill. I am here today to strongly oppose the elimination of the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR).

- My members rely on the sustainability of the Somerset Mill
- Eliminating the BETR program is not better for our mill.
- Sappi has put millions of dollars back into the Somerset Mill, to stay ahead of the ever-changing industry.
- I have worked at Sappi Somerset for over 25 years, I have seen the changes and progress.
- Monies currently received from the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program allow the mill to employ, not only our own 800+ employees but the numerous support contractors, loggers, small business owners, and teachers like my wife, who teaches the children of many of those who rely on our mill to survive.