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COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**

**4th District, Virginia**

**October 28, 2009**

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The Honorable Karen G. Mills  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Mills:

I am writing on behalf of more than 1,100 employees of the International Paper Co. sawmill and paper mill in Southeastern Virginia who have recently lost their jobs or are scheduled to lose them in the near future.

The closure of the mills is a devastating blow to the entire community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. During this uncertain time of transition for individuals and families, it is of the utmost importance that the federal government steps forward to ensure appropriate services and benefits are timely provided. To that end, I would like to request that you or the appropriate representative from the Small Business Administration to join me in the coming weeks in the City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton counties for an economic forum on the specific ways SBA and local small businesses can support the community during this challenging time of transition.

I know you share my view that American small businesses are the true engine of the nation's economy. Our small business leaders provide new ideas, employ a vast number of workers, and develop innovative products and services. Moreover, business owners and operators are often times a community's most resourceful and creative thinkers. Although the coming months may prove challenging, I am confident that the ingenuity of the area's small business leaders and SBA's guidance and resources will help the City of Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton counties towards a brighter future.

I would appreciate if you would contact me or Ryan Kaldahl from my staff at (202) 225-6365 / [ryan.kaldahl@mail.house.gov](mailto:ryan.kaldahl@mail.house.gov) at your earliest convenience regarding this request. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you. With kind personal regards, I am

Yours Truly,

J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress