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Details: Correspondence (2008 – Pt. 2)

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Housing (AC-Ho)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (Aug/2010)



MISC

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

The Honorable Steve Wieckert
State Representative
Wisconsin Assembly District 57
Room 16 West
State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Assembly Resolution and Special Session

Dear Representative Wieckert,

I am writing to inform you of our situation and to urge your support of Representative Tom Nelson's call for a special session of the Assembly to adopt his resolution regarding the NewPage mill in Kimberly, WI.

Please find enclosed the following:

- A background document that explains the situation and events in chronological order.
- A copy of the resolution.
- A list of quotes from political leaders describing their feelings on the mill.
- A booklet compiled by Local 2-0009 entitled "Kimberly Families" that includes pictures and comments from some of the affected families.

Since so many people will be affected by the closing of this historical mill, I am urging you to contact Assembly Speaker Huebsch and insist that he call a special session as soon as possible for a vote on this critical resolution. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely Yours,

Andy Nirschl
President, USW Local 2-0009

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International
Union

216 N MAIN ST KIMBERLY WI. 920-788-6022 FAX 920-788-6069

NewPage's Attack on Kimberly, Wisconsin

Background

On July 30, 2008, executives from the NewPage Corporation, a Miamisburg, Ohio based paper maker, issued a press release announcing that the company would be shutting down its Kimberly, Wisconsin paper mill in August of that year. The Kimberly Mill, built in 1889 is one of the oldest running paper mills in the country but consistent maintenance and new paper machines kept the mill efficient and profitable. Even as he announced the shutdown NewPage President and Chief Operating Officer Richard D. Willett conceded that, "the Kimberly mill has first-class paper machines and is operated by an excellent workforce."

In total, the mill shutdown would displace about 600 workers, devastating the small Wisconsin town. According to the 2000 census, Kimberly has 6,146 residents, nearly all of them supported, directly or indirectly, by the NewPage paper mill. The town of Kimberly was founded in 1889, the year that the mill opened and was named for John A. Kimberly, the mill's original owner. The local high school's mascot is the Papermaker and the city's crest features two smoke stacks, representing the paper mill's two smoke stacks.

A Different Kind of Shutdown

Mill shutdowns are nothing new in Wisconsin's Paper Valley, but the closing of the Kimberly mill is a uniquely devastating twist in the history of the American paper industry. Generally, paper companies run their mills as long as they are able to generate profits; when mills shut down it is because they simply cannot make ends meet because of increased costs or fierce competition or obsolete equipment.

But in the case of the Kimberly mill, the decision to shut down the facility and devastate an entire community was not driven by the fact that the mill could not turn a profit. The mill is being shut down because the NewPage Corporation wants to decrease production of coated paper so its other mills do better. In other words, NewPage wants to shut down this profitable and efficient mill so it can make *more* money at its other mills.

Raising Prices and Cutting Production

The issue in Kimberly is not that NewPage does not want to run the Kimberly mill; it is that NewPage wants the Kimberly mill to stop producing paper. Until recently the Kimberly Mill was owned by the Finnish Company Stora Enso Oyj. In December of 2007, however, NewPage bought all of Stora's North American operations for \$2.556 billion.

With the purchase of Stora's North American operations, NewPage became the largest producer of coated paper in North America with a 36% market share. With that type of market share, NewPage gained the ability to manipulate the price of paper by reducing production to tighten the supply of paper on the market.

Almost immediately after closing the deal with Stora, NewPage announced a massive wave of shutdowns and layoffs including the #95 paper machine in Kimberly, Wisconsin. Then on July 30 the company announced the complete shutdown of the Kimberly mill. If NewPage wasn't hell-bent on reducing the amount of paper on the market, the company could have easily chosen to sell the facility to another papermaker rather than shutting down the mill. The United Steelworkers, which represents the hourly production workers at Kimberly, offered to help find a buyer and a few buyers have even expressed interest in purchasing the mill. But NewPage has repeatedly rebuffed calls to sell the mill.

Timeline of Destruction

January 18, 2006-Cerberus announces plans to purchase MeadWestvaco's Papers business

March 3, 2006-Cerberus announces that it will be changing the name of MeadWestvaco's Paper business to NewPage Corporation

May 2, 2006-NewPage Corporation begins operations

December 21, 2007-NewPage completes the acquisition of Stora Enso's North American Operations

January 16, 2008-NewPage announces that it will permanently close the Kimberly Mill's #95 paper machine, eliminating 125 jobs

May 5, 2008-Cerberus Capital Management, LLC announces its intent to take NewPage public by filing a registration statement with the SEC.

July 30, 2008- NewPage announces the closure of the Kimberly Mill

With three state-of-the art paper machines and 100 acres of forestland, NewPage could certainly make millions by selling the Kimberly mill. Additionally, the company reports that it expects to lose as much as \$40 million in association with the closure. Apparently making sure that the Kimberly mill does not run is more valuable to NewPage than the millions it could earn from a sale of the facility, the \$40 million it is losing in various shutdown costs, and the livelihoods of 600 families in Kimberly, Wisconsin.

A Shortsighted Plan

NewPage's plan to stop production in Kimberly will likely work in the short run. Already RISI, a major pulp and paper industry research firm, is predicting that the price of grade no. 3 coated paper will increase from \$928 per ton in 2007 to \$1,057 per ton in 2008 and that the price of grade no. 4 coated paper will increase from \$878 per ton in 2007 to \$1,048 per ton in 2008. The immediate impact here is quick profits for NewPage investors and elevated costs for consumers.

But this scheme to drive up prices is ultimately shortsighted. With diminished production among major North American producers like NewPage, foreign competitors will move quickly to increase capacity and flood the North American market with lower cost imports. North American paper producers will ultimately lose market share and prices will once again drop.

Cerberus Capital and Flipping NewPage

While this shortsighted thinking will ultimately hurt NewPage and the American paper industry as a whole, it is not entirely surprising that the company's management has chosen this destructive course of action. NewPage is currently owned by Cerberus Capital Management, LP, a New York based private equity firm.

According to its website, Cerberus invests in "undervalued companies...to help them realize their potential." Generally, this means taking on loads of debt to purchase entire companies, quickly restructuring them to cut costs and make them appear more attractive to investors and then selling them for huge profits. At Cerberus, the entire turnaround usually happens in just a few years. This entire private equity buyout process is very secretive and subject to very few reporting requirements or regulations.

At NewPage, Cerberus is already getting ready to cash out. The firm bought NewPage (formerly MeadWestvaco's papers business) for \$2.3 billion in 2005. Now, just three years later, Cerberus is putting NewPage back on the sale block. On May 5, 2008—only five months after acquiring Stora's North American operations, including the Kimberly mill—Cerberus filed a Registration Statement with the Securities Exchange Commission announcing that it would be selling shares of NewPage on the New York Stock Exchange.

Although the opening share price is not yet known, it is expected that Cerberus will make millions on the deal. And by the time the results of NewPage management's shortsighted strategy are fully realized, Cerberus will be long gone; NewPage employees, Kimberly residents, and paper workers across the United States will be left to suffer.

Run it or Sell It

NewPage obviously has the right to decide if it no longer wants to run the Kimberly mill—that is a business decision for NewPage's management and investors to make. But shutting down a perfectly good paper mill and laying off 600 is simply unreasonable and unacceptable. If NewPage chooses not to run the Kimberly mill, it should be sold to an investor that will run the mill and provide good jobs and stable incomes for families in Kimberly, Wisconsin.



Quotes from Dignitaries Concerning the Shuttering of the Kimberly Mill

Senator Russ Feingold

"The people of Kimberly make up a strong, dedicated workforce that any business would be lucky to have. I am proud to be working with Congressmen Petri and Kagen and Senator Kohl to secure a meeting with NewPage officials and make it clear to them what a mistake it would be to close this facility and lose the talented workforce. If NewPage is moving in a different direction, it should sell the mill, so others who are interested can benefit from the great assets Kimberly has to offer. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the delegation to help the Kimberly community in any way we can."

US Senator Herb Kohl

"I made it clear to the CEO of NewPage that my office stands ready to help the company in any way we can to remain in Kimberly and be profitable. The community is reeling from the shock of NewPage's decision to close the paper mill and we will do all we can, in the most practical terms, to be helpful."

US Congressman Tom Petri

"Every job is important to me. It is particularly galling to have a 6th Congressional employer shut down, even though the business is efficient and competitive. If NewPage doesn't want to run the mill, let somebody else do it. People's livelihoods are at stake."

US Congressman Steve Kagen

"As Kimberly goes, so goes our nation. We are drawing the line right here in the Fox Cities to answer the question; what are we going to make in America? We make paper here. That is what we do, and we're not going to allow anyone to steal our jobs overseas."

Wisconsin State Representative Tom Nelson

"So Kimberly goes, so goes the nation. If we can't keep a profitable, successful mill going, how can we keep any other facility open and running?"

Wisconsin State Representative Dean Kaufert

"I have always supported free trade, but I think it's time we have fair trade."

Kimberly Village Administrator Rick Hermus (Chief Executive for 25 years)

"Even if it's not NewPage, I cannot fathom that facility being idle in the next few years. If it is, it is a god-awful shame for what it's come to in this country; to have a state of the art papermaking facility gathering mothballs. It makes no sense whatsoever."

"One of our major fears is that this is the tip of the iceberg. If you shutdown a mill like this for profit reasons and we're a state of the art facility, what's going to happen to some of the older mills in the Valley."

Pat Maley (Former Kimberly Mill Manager)

"Frankly, I think this an example of corporate irresponsibility at its absolute worst."



Our Mill, Our Families, Our Story
USW Local 2-9 and the Kimberly Mill

Families of Kimberly, Victims of NewPage



Almost 120 years ago, John Kimberly founded the Kimberly mill. Since then, this facility has made many transitions – from newsprint to coated paper, ran multiple machines, and has been passed on from company to company.

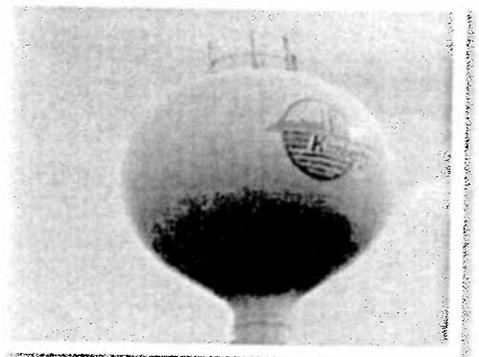
Even as NewPage has described the paper machines here as "first-class" and the workforce as "excellent", NewPage has made a decision that will leave the village of Kimberly without a paper mill for

the first time since 1889.

On July 30, 2008, NewPage announced the shutdown of the Kimberly mill, effective September 8, 2008. On that day, 600 family-supporting jobs will be lost. Not only will these employees be without a paycheck, but they will lose their benefits as well.

Many of the current employees have worked at this mill for decades – only to be told by NewPage that it does not matter. It

does not matter if they have been here since graduating high school and have no other job experience



or skills. It does not matter if they are near retirement age and will have a hard time getting hired elsewhere. It does not matter if they can no longer afford to keep their family home or car because of the inability to pay for it. It does not matter that employees will no longer be able to help their children afford college, or be able to help them get on their feet after graduation. It does not matter that they can no longer afford the necessities, such as food and heating oil for the upcoming winter, as the prices have skyrocketed in recent months. Even so, we are here today to tell you that it does matter.



It does matter because the job losses not only affect the employees at the Kimberly mill and their families, but the surrounding community as well. People being unable to purchase the good and services that they always have will greatly affect other businesses in the area. As families are forced to move elsewhere to find employment, property taxes may go up...and on and on; the list of negative effects this plant closing will cause is endless.

To be blunt, Kimberly will not benefit from this mill closing. Wisconsin will not benefit from this mill closing.

This is not just about Kimberly and 600 jobs. This is about the families who are injured. This is about Niagara; this is about central Wisconsin; this is about Port Edwards; this is about Green Bay and every other town in Wisconsin that has lost good-paying papermaking jobs to corporate greed.

Enough is enough – this is not only a statewide issue, but a nationwide issue, and our elected officials must join in this fight. No longer will we allow ourselves and our brothers and sisters to become the victims of companies; the time for change is now.

If we do not take action, and we choose to remain complacent, we will continue to watch American jobs disappear. On the following pages, please find the stories and photographs of the workers of the Kimberly mill and their families that will be devastated by the mill's closing.

Working families such as these deserve our attention and support, and it is our hope, that they will not remain victims of NewPage.

Michael H. Bolton
Director, USW District 2
AFL-CIO • CLC

Andy Nirchl, 28 years of service

"I have worked 28 years at this facility. It is the only job I have ever had. My wife and children have medical issue which now will be hard to afford. I have worked to try to put money aside for the children's education, which is now in great jeopardy. House payments and bill payments will be very difficult, if even possible."



Barry Stumpf, 28.5 years of service

"I had planned on retiring early, but now I will have to work until age 65. I also have a daughter getting married in the next two years that I have to pay for after helping her through college."

"This is just one more example of corporate greed."

Bill Huisman

"I built my home and raised my family here because of where I work. Being close enough to walk to work was important to me. Pollution has been a major concern of mine, and not using a car to get to work was my personal contribution to the gas crisis. Not to mention the financial burdens that my family will endure through all the chaos in the months ahead!"

"It's a shame that a mill that employs so many people is shutting down, without even a chance to let it be sold. Over just a few weeks of time, many lives will be changed forever. We can't begin to explain the stress and emotion over such a decision. It is just devastating!"



Bob Vander Bloemen, 28 years of service

"I don't know what to say. My son will need braces soon. It will be hard to come up with the money."

"This is dirty what they did; an American company putting American people out of work."



Alan Spaulding 30+ Years of Service

After working 30+ years in the same mill, everything changed in a single day. Gone is the talk of retiring in 10 years. Now, we talk about want ads and surviving on a salary that will be cut from \$50,000-\$55,000 to one of about \$25,000. That is, if you can find a job. There won't be any money for contributing to our IRA's. They are going to have to grow on their own and with the economy the way it is....

For us, the most devastating part of this is the loss of our health insurance. Because of a kidney/pancreas transplant and a chronic depression/anxiety disorder, we are both "uninsurable". Private health insurance companies won't accept us because we cost them money. The transplant anti-rejection medication alone is \$2000 a month. Then there are the monthly blood work tests that need to be done to watch for signs of rejection. Where are we going to come up with that kind of money without a job??

It is nearly impossible for older workers to find a job that will pay the kind of wages that people who have worked at the same place for decades make. How do you start over, at the bottom, in seniority, vacations, wages and benefits after spending your whole adult working at the same place?





Craig Sampson, 28 years of service

"With this job I was able to provide everything my family and I needed. Now I feel let down. I don't understand why they are shutting down the mill."



Dave Van Boxtel, 36 years of service

"NewPage's decision to close this mill because of corporate greed has robbed us of our dreams and stable future. A profitable mill that's shut down because of corporate greed is just wrong!!"



Daniel Sonderegger, 31 years of service

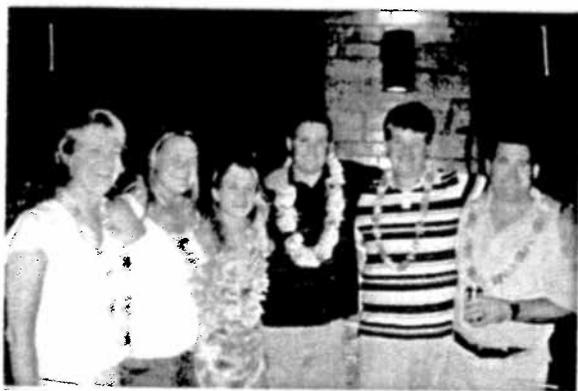
"Financially not ready for this. Without any warning, we are not prepared for this at this time in our lives. We worry about the possibility of losing our home and the effects it will have on our children."

"We were totally blindsided! There is no reason besides corporate greed that this mill shouldn't be sold and kept running."



Crystal Schmitt

"It's depressing to know that I will no longer be financially stable."



Dan Geenen, 28 years of service

"How does one comprehend the reality that after 28 years of service you are about to be unemployed? The questions are endless; will I get another job, should I go to school. Should I sell my house? How long will it take to find another job, what will happen if it takes too long? WHY??"

"The closure of the mill will have far reaching effects beyond me, but well into the many communities surrounding it."

Brian Bazile, 28.5 years of service

"We're going to have to adjust our lifestyles and try to go on to the best of our abilities."



"Why are they doing this? We're making millions and they close our mill"



Bruce Refke, 27 years of service

"Starting over at 45 years old is scary and stressful because of the loss of a good wag and the loss of health and dental insurance for my family. We can't do a lot of things we would normally do, like vacation, state wrestling tournament, etc. My kids' futures are in question because I can't help with school. Have to take money out of my retirement (401k) to make payments."

"I feel upset, shocked and betrayed after 27 years of service"

Bruce Van Zeeland

"It turned our life upside down. Working at one company for 28 years and having no other skills to compete in this horrible job market. My wife is struggling to find a full time job now. We cannot help out our three kids with college. We worry about losing our home."

"It is very sad that we cannot trust an American company to keep American jobs. Someone better step up in the government or us citizens will all be either rich or in poverty."



Carl Sweere, 28 years of service

"To tell you the truth, this shutdown impacts every aspect of our lives. It's hurting us emotionally, physically, mentally, and of course financially."



Bruce Zuleger, 27 years of service

"I have three kids to try and get through college. Our life style will change in a big way. We weren't treated fairly"

Dave R. Kimball, 29 years of service

"My kids are not going to have to lives they are used to, from \$65,000 a year to maybe \$17,000. My 16 year old is planning on going to college, I will have a hard time trying to help him out and pay my own bills. 50 years old, nobody wants to hire us!"

"I cannot believe how the government is handling this!"



William J. Vandenberg, 28+ years of service

"I'm 52! years old, 28! years of service and no job and no insurance. They lost a lot of dedicated and skilled workers because of corporate greed. Please sell us!"

Victor Schmitt, 28 years of service

"Over the last 28 years I have missed a lot of family functions, holidays and moments in my children's lives because of my dedication and loyalty to the mill. Only to be crushed by a company that has owned for less than the mill for less than a year."





Dennis Verstegen, 37 years of service

"I could lose everything I have ever worked for."

Don Green, 28 ! years of service

The mill closure was very disruptive and life altering, I'm not sure what the future will bring now. I thought we were set, we had our plans and retirement dreams. Now, I don't know? I actually believed NewPage and their promise to keep the mill open, I had no idea they were so immoral and uncaring."

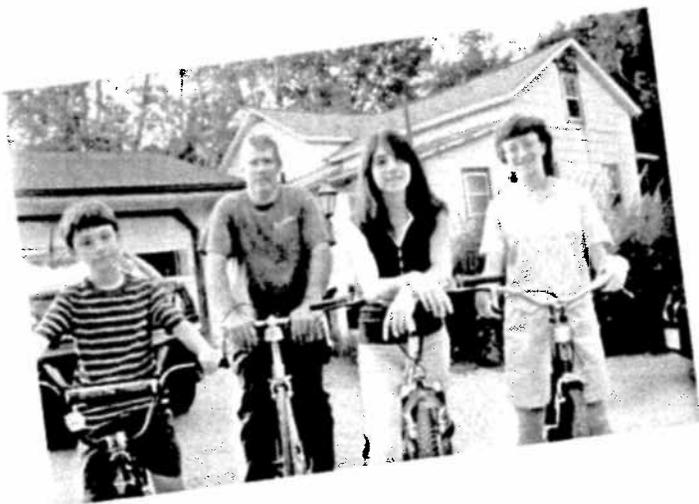
"I am angry that NewPage's owners are so uncaring and immoral. They are destroying people's lives and futures."



Don Wendel, 30 years of service

"Our daughter is in junior high school and the thought of paying for college with this uncertain future is daunting. We also need to move to a larger home or add on to ours, and that will now be postponed indefinitely. We may have to sell a car we bought in March."

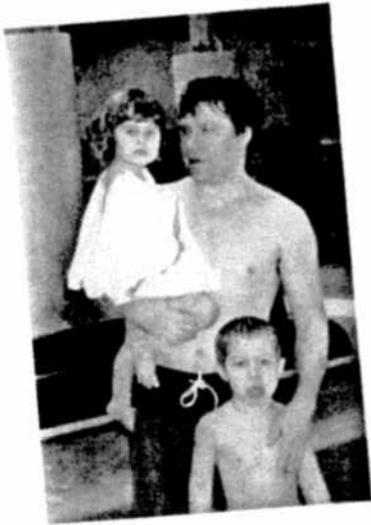
"It is shocking and disheartening that the owners made such a quick decision to shut it down. It is causing such great devastation to so many families, and the entire Kimberly community."



Gary Lee Schiedermayer, 35 years of service

"As the primary provider for my family and dedicated employee of this mill of 35 years, this closure has created an unspeakable loss for us. This emotional rollercoaster and the financial instability have not only affected our immediate and extended families and friends, but will greatly create tremendous hardships for the community, schools and parish. I fear for the social and emotional implications of this closure."

"We feel we are being physically suffocated by this lack of uncertainty, the fear of the unknown, and the lack of control regarding our family's future."



Gary Tessen, 28 years of service

"This has had a critical impact on my life. I am devoted to provide for my family, this closure brings a great challenge for me."

"We have been betrayed by those at the top!"

Jeff Biese, 28 years of service

"This has brought about a complete change of our life style. Not having this job will cut my household income in half and make just paying the bills a struggle. I have lost my sense of security."

"Because NewPage chose to shut down the mill without seeking other options, I feel betrayed and hurt."



Tom Brockman, 29 years of service

"This will be the end of life as we know it, all because of corporate greed!"



Earl Baumgart, 32 years of service

"Our life as we know it is no longer, now that we have to start all over. The vacations you have worked so hard to build up so you spend time with your families. Insurance and the retirement that we bargained for over three generations is all gone! For what?"

Corporate greed has taken it all away. Just the stress alone is a killer."

Jeff Van Asten, 27 years of service

"I am 47 years old and have worked in this mill since graduating from high school. Who is going to hire me at 47 years old with only a high school diploma?"

"I am a hard-working middleclass American and now I am out of a job because big business wants a monopoly!"

Jeffery Wyngard, 30 years of service

"The closure of the Kimberly mill has changed my ability to provide for a good education for my family so they would not be forced to work a factory job like myself. It has also put the very roof that my family lives under in jeopardy. It is hard to understand how companies have the right to inflict so much hardship on a community. For 120 years this mill has been a part of this community and the heart of the valley. This will impact not just our employees, but also many others not yet seen. You cannot tell me those approximately 480 million dollars a year to operate the Kimberly mill will not affect the local economy in a way that it may never recover from."



"It is a sad day for the families of this mill and the Kimberly community. When will corporate America be a little more responsible for the people and the communities that they operate in?"

James A. Dercks, 29 years of service

"The closing of the mill is changing our retirement plans. Instead of saving for retirement, we will now have to focus on paying the bills today. As a 55 year old, the inability to save more for the future will mean a less secure and comfortable retirement."

"It is so sad that a quality and productive mill and its people are not valued by society."





Jeffrey Jansen, 31+ years of service

"This has affected all aspects of our lives. How will we afford our home? How will we pay the gas, electric bills? How will we pay the auto, health and home insurance? Or the medical bills from our daughter's hospital stay while away at college? We have to cancel the newspaper, Dish TV and we sold our computer. Filling out resumes and applications is something I haven't done in over 31 years."

Jerry Jansen, 41 years of service

"Just over two years left until I can collect social security. I don't know what I'm going to do until then. Nobody is going to hire someone at my age. I feel like my life has been sucked out of me."

All these family members have worked at the Kimberly mill: Grandfathers Joe Jansen and Bill Senecal, Sr.; Fathers Stan Jansen and Bill Senecal, Jr.; Aunts and Uncles Leone Skowen, Buelah Vanden Hogen, Mary Vanden Hogen, Whitey Jansen, Butch Jansen; Brothers-in-laws Rick Senecal and Ron Senecal; Sons Craig, Scott and Matt Jansen; Nephews Travis Jansen and Chad Gross.

Jim Killian, 30 ! years of service

"The total uncertainty this mill closure has, on each and every person life."

"Having the most inspired and quality workers lose their livelihood is a total devastation."



Jody Fries, 28 years of service

"This has had a devastating impact on us. It changes all our plans for the future, including retirement, location, standard of living, vacations, and our children's college funds."

"This is an irresponsible, selfish act of corporate greed."



Joe Gorzelitz, 30 years of service

"This is a total loss of income for us. I am now looking for a job at half the amount of pay. It hurts all of our families and community. You don't know what you've until it's gone"

"I feel betrayed and lied to by this company."



Joe Hubers, 29 years of service

"How can you explain the impact on your life after 29 years of dedicated service? It's tremendous!"

"In 9 months this company has destroyed 600 families and a whole community."

Joe Lewandowski

"In the short term, it's thrown my life into turmoil. It is difficult not to be depressed. I'll be less able to help my children with their educations. I'll not be able to afford many of the things I have in the past."

"This is simply a shame, a waste of good equipment and a good people."



Joel C. Swedberg, 31 years of service

"This has been very stressful; I can't imagine ever being able to retire this way. I feel I let my down."

"All I worked for is being taken away because of greed."



Joel Taggart, 29 years of service

"A few short weeks ago we were living the life I've been working daily toward for the past 29 years. Overnight that changed, likely for the remainder of my working life."

"The mill is a cornerstone of this community; the closure will be far reaching for many years."

John Belongea, 28 years of service

"This is a blow to the plans that we have for our children in supporting them through their college years."

"A quality mill with quality people; destroyed by corporate greed."



John Ruys, 31 years of service

"It turned my life upside down, along with the rest of my family."

"NewPage just flushed 120 years of papermaking down the toilet."

Karl Van Eperen, 29 years of service

"Working at the Kimberly mill has fulfilled my needs and desires to provide for the needs of my family. It provided the security of knowing that hard work and dedication will enable my wife and self to work toward a plan for a secure future and retirement. It also helped set an example to my children of how hard work and dedication will pay off."

"I know that life offers no guarantees. However, the fact that a decision is being made to turn out the lights and walk away from a mill that is profitable and filled with people who are dedicated to continue to work hard, makes me wonder if the example I strived to set for my children of hard work and dedication to an employer was a worth example."



Mark Frahm, 28 years of service

"This has thrown my retirement plans out the window! I will not be able to help support my daughter with her college plans. My financial status is in a total uproar. I will have trouble paying the bills month to month. Finding a job at my age will not be easy."

"The head officers should be ashamed of themselves for putting this many people of work over a couple percentage points of profit. This mill is a money maker and they can't deny that."



Mark Tilque

"This closing has greatly reduced the college assistance I give to my two daughters, not to mention a possible greatly reduced income."

"It is a real shame that our governors, senators, congressmen and so forth continue to allow manufacturing to disappear from this country. How many more mills will have to close down before they wake up and do their job?"

Marv Janssen, 35 years of service

"After being a loyal employee of the Kimberly mill for 35 years I feel like the rug has been pulled out from under me and my family. The uncertainty of our future is overwhelming. The mill closing will not only affect me and my family but our whole community."

"It is unnecessary and cruel for an American owned NewPage to cause such hardship and heartache for so many hardworking innocent families"



Michell Dolan, 29 years of service

"My husband has Parkinson's disease. Without health insurance our prescriptions would be \$7,400 a year. That doesn't include regular routines that are done."

"I feel angry and disgusted that we have been put out of work by corporate greed."

Mike Tatro, 27 years of service

"The closing of the NewPage plant will drastically affect me and my family. With only nine years left until retirement, we have a home to pay off, along with college tuitions and a wedding next summer. I, along with my co-workers, depend on that job."

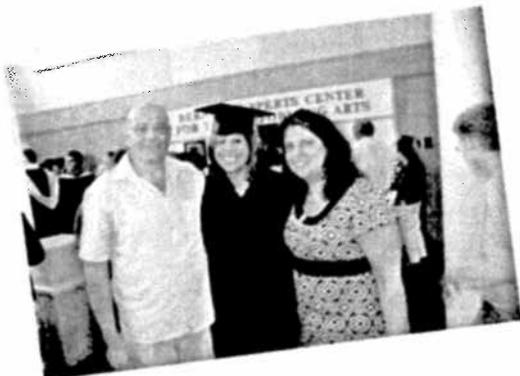
"I feel NewPage is self centered and basically full of greed; cold hearted and stubborn. It is a terrible thing for our whole community to face."



Michael VandeVoort

"This is a life changing time for me. Just when I was thinking about getting set for my daughter to go to college and getting myself set for the future, the rug gets pulled out from under me. There are so many jobs that will not allow the same standard of living that my wages had provided me in the past, inflation and energy costs had already been taking their toll. I have never been more unsure of my future."

"This is an example of corporate greed at its finest."





Ned Wittman, 35+ years of service

"This will have a major impact before and after retirement. Starting now with cutbacks on items across the board; small and large, which will affect other business in the Valley."

Paul Vermeem, 30 years of service

"I am a diabetic and on blood thinners, with the loss of this job I might not be able to find health insurance."



Tony Ruys, 30+ years of service

"This is a big change after 30 years of going to work. a real kick in the pants. If NewPage can't handle the competition, they should get out of the paper business."

Tom Eiting, 28 years of service

"With the closing of the mill there is a real possibility of having to sell my house if I can't find a job that pays close to what I make now. Not to mention the loss of health, dental and life insurance. With all the shipping records and millions upon millions we made for the company - it makes no sense to shut down a money maker!"

Tom Sanderfoot, 25 years of service

"After 25 years, the loss of my job will be devastating. Everything has gone up in price. I am sure our savings will be gobbled up expenses in no time. We had planned to help our children with college in three years, but I don't know if this will happen. The job market is so slim; it may take a long time to find another job."

"All our lives we have been taught to be productive. now we are being punished for it."





Randy Gossens
32 years of service

"My name is Randy Gossens and I am 51 years old. I have been married to my wife, Vicki, for 25 years and we have two children. Our son, Dan, is 22 years old and just graduated from Michigan Tech University and our daughter, Kacie is 19 years old and will be a freshman this fall at UW-Whitewater.

"With the closing of the Kimberly Mill, we will not be able to help out with our daughter's education the way we did our son. My wife and I are very proud of the fact that our son graduated from college and that we were able to help him financially with his chosen career.

"I am approaching retirement age and we are working very hard to pay off our house mortgage and invest money for retirement. With the stock market the way it is, we have been watching our investments decrease. A couple of years ago we decided to invest in land, which we will have to try and sell (when no one is buying) to make ends meet.

"We do not live an extravagant lifestyle and are careful with our money. With only a high school diploma, finding a comparable paying job is not going to happen, especially being over 50 years old."



Randy Jansen, 35 years of service

"This impacts every aspect of your life; not only financially, but your health, friends, family, peace of mind, community, retirement and your faith and trust."

"It is amazing to think a corporation can negatively affect an entire community on a whim in the name of greed."

Richard Scheibe, 31 years of service

"I don't know where to go next. I was planning for retirement, but do not know when that will come now."

"How could corporate America do this to the mill and the village of Kimberly?"



Ron Feistel, 31 years of service

"This changes everything. I will be 50 in April, and my son is a senior in high school. I don't know where or how I can help him with tuition in light of this."

"The closing of the mill has devastated 600; I pray all will be okay."



Ronald Pynenberg

"If the mill were being closed because of old equipment and machines is one thing, but just to shut it down to take paper off the market is another. This has put our life in complete turmoil."



Ron Reider, 30 years of service

"I have had to put everything on hold and I can't help my kids with college. I am going to have to live week to week because of greed. When is enough money ENOUGH?"

Ron T. Van Den Heuvel, 23+ years of service

"I'm not sure about finding a new job at my age and I hate the thought of having to start all over."

"How much better could the mill have been run? We did all that they asked."



Rory Noonan, 28 years of service

"The affect on our income will change how much I can help my children. I have two just starting out on their own, and two in college."

"We have a viable mill, and if NewPage doesn't want to run us they should sell us to someone who will!"



Steve Cotnoir, 25 years of service

"This is not just affecting my life, but the whole community. I will miss the people more than the money."



Steven J. Van Asten, 25 years of service

"I am wondering how I'll pay the remainder of our mortgage and how we are going to send our kids to college, among other things."

"We need to stop corporate greed or this whole world will be in trouble."



Terry J. Vanden Berg, 28 years of service

"After 28 years of dedicated service I am unemployed; no insurance and little hope of securing a job with benefits at 53 years old."

"This closure is a financial impact not only on my family, but for the entire community."

Timm Biesterveld, 30 years of service

"The loss of my job has created uncertainty on how we will make our house and car payments along with all of our other bills."

"I put in 30 years, so much for loyalty from my employer."





Todd J. Abel, 28 years of service

"It's amazing how one company can destroy so many people that worked so hard, worked so many weekends, holidays and night shifts."

Tom Kilsdonk, 24 years of service

"I have major changes coming in a short period of time: financial, emotional and social. My wife now works two jobs with no health care, it will not be enough."

"I feel like someone blindfolded me, dropped me off in the middle of the forest and left me there. I am angry, frustrated and nervous."



**Tom Sternhagen,
29 years of service**

"I can't pay the mortgage, the property taxes or the car payments. Our son can't go to college now and we have no more health insurance."

"This is nothing but corporate greed, with no regard for human life."



Thomas Martzahl, 25 years of service

"At 52 years old it has been a real challenge to accept the fact that I am now unemployed."

"It is a shame that so many people have lost a job that has supported their families for years. It will have a negative impact on the entire Fox Valley. There is no reason it is not being sold when there are interested parties."

Tom Neubert, 28 years of service

"I won't be able to provide for my family's lifestyle. This is going to add such stress and hardship."

"I am very dissatisfied that a multi-million dollar company will not let us little workers work, keeping their own greed over everything else."



Lee Peerenboom, 28 years of service

"It's a dirty shame they want to shut down a profitable mill just because of greed!"

Paul Rietveld, 25 years of service

"The loss of wages, insurance and the decline in our quality of life will be the biggest impact. This makes me sick."

Mark Van Stappen, 28 years of service

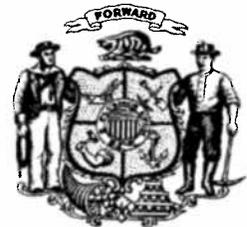
"My grandfather, John VerVoort (left) started at the mill in 1892 at age 16. He worked there until his death at age 62. The mill provided for his family of 16 children. My neighbor told me during the Depression the mill would pick men daily to work, so that everyone had some money to feed their families. That mill is a part of us all. After countless hours of work, through holidays and weekends, I was looking forward to retirement. That will need to wait. With two boys in college, helping them will be a challenge.

"I will never surrender to the idea of greed being part of the business world. As I've stated above, decades ago we had a greater sense of moral and companies took care of our communities. Corporate America best take note, the winds of change are blowing!"





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
Low Voltage Distribution Equipment Section

MISC

October 24, 2008

Representative Steve Wieckert
57th Assembly District
Room 16 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Re: ADOPTION OF THE 2008 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

Dear Rep. Weickert:

I'm writing to express support of Wisconsin adopting the 2008 National Electrical Code without amendment, and to respectfully ask you and your fellow members of the Wisconsin Housing Committee to carefully review the enclosed information as you continue the adoption process.

The premise of the *National Electrical Code (NEC)* is and will always be to "safeguard persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity." As representatives of homeowners and their families throughout Wisconsin, the Housing Committee is charged with helping to ensure that premise is upheld. Wisconsin homeowners and their families deserve nothing less.

The *NEC* is the country's most universally adopted installation code, with a more than 100-year track record of providing electrical safety for millions of Americans through regular and thorough revisions that incorporate the latest in safety technology - with minimal cost impact.

In particular, one of the new additions to the 2008 *NEC* is an expanded requirement for arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) - an innovative form of circuit breaker that detects and prevents arc faults - a leading cause of electrical fires in the home and a condition that standard circuit breakers do NOT detect. While the proven safety device has been required by the *NEC* since the 1999 edition, Wisconsin remains the **ONLY** state in the U.S. to NOT have adopted any requirement of its own for AFCIs, despite its life-saving potential.

Each year across the U.S., home electrical fires kill about 360 people, injure more than 1,000 and destroy close to \$1 billion in property. The 2008 *NEC* expanded requirement for the combination AFCI to additional living areas of the home will give the home's electrical system a level of protection no other device can provide - clearing the way for a potentially dramatic decrease in the number of electrical fires that occur annually.

Unfortunately, not everyone agrees. The new electrical code requirement for AFCIs has come under attack from some special interest groups who believe that a minor economic impact, not safety, should be the driving force in establishing new building code requirements.

Among those groups is the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), who has organized a full-scale, cross-country effort to derail the expanded *NEC* requirement for these life-saving devices. It seems the NAHB has recruited its Wisconsin chapters to actively lobby key decision makers with inflated cost figures and distorted information.



NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
Low Voltage Distribution Equipment Section

AFCI Safety - Page 2

I believe the NAHB stance to be misguided and a deliberate attempt to undermine the safety of Wisconsin citizens. Home safety should never be put on the backburner; in this case the cost for the average new home would increase by \$160-\$240 to achieve complete 2008 code compliance - which includes not only the expanded AFCI requirement, but also the new requirement for tamper resistant receptacles and ground fault circuit interrupters - according to a comprehensive cost analysis conducted by the Ohio chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI).

This estimate is considerably less than the inflated numbers presented by homebuilders for AFCI expansion alone. Compare these minimal cost estimates to the hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and nearly a billion dollars lost in electrical fires each year in the U.S., and the cost to potentially prevent that destruction from occurring seems insignificant.

Fortunately, nearly twenty state code adoption panels, including the Minnesota Board of Electricity, have already seen through the NAHB's ill-conceived tactics and have moved to adopt the 2008 NEC with the expanded AFCI requirement fully intact. It's my hope the same lies true in Wisconsin, especially considering no AFCI requirement whatsoever exists. Cutting costs at the price of human lives is not the direction Wisconsin should be heading, and frankly, it's not fair to Wisconsin families.

Fire and electrical experts overwhelmingly agree that AFCIs are a technological leap forward in home safety. Its expanded use as outlined in the 2008 *NEC* has the full support of a growing list of prominent fire and electrical safety groups. This list includes, among others, the National Fire Protection Association, the Electrical Safety Foundation International, the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the Independent Electrical Contractors Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). In fact, the CPSC believes that AFCIs, if installed in all homes, could prevent more than 50 percent of the 68,000 electrical fires that occur every year.

With this mind, enclosed is some additional information for the committee to review as it continues the adoption process. The complete adoption of this updated set of safety standards, including the expanded requirement for AFCIs, will bring Wisconsin to the forefront of electrical safety and have a profound effect on homeowners - preventing the loss of lives and property while saving millions of tax dollars used to battle residential fires.

We appreciate your devotion and hard work in making Wisconsin a safer place to live.

Respectfully,

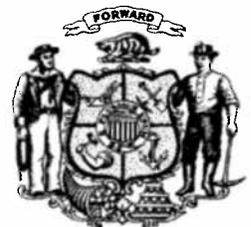
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerard Winstanley".

Gerard Winstanley
Program Manager
The National Electrical Manufacturers Association

cc: Secretary Dick J. Leinenkugel, Wisconsin Department of Commerce



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Becher, Scott

From: Stewart, Helen S - COMMERCE [Helen.Stewart@wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2008 1:31 PM
To: Becher, Scott
Subject: Meeting Attendees

Misc

Hi Mr. Becher,

As requested, below are the attendees from the WBA:

Attendees: Brad Boycks (WBA), Cindy Gruebling (WBA), Chad Wuebben (WBA), Charlie Johansen (WBA), Pattie Stone (WBA), Bill Wendle (WBA)

I look forward to meeting you.

Regards,

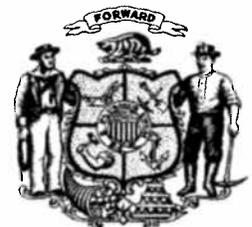
Helen Stewart
Executive Staff Assistant

Wisconsin Department of Commerce
201 W. Washington Ave., 6th Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Phone: (608) 266-8976
Fax: (608) 266-3447



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Becher, Scott

From: Fred [hielectron@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2008 8:38 PM
To: Rep.Wieckert
Subject: Comm 16

Misc

Good evening.

I have been reviewing the State of Wisconsin Proposed changes to the 2008 National Electrical Code. It would be nice if I could understand how a final draft of Comm 16 could be changed without public hearing or input? I am referring to the changes to Article 406.11 for the acceptance of Tamper-Resistance Receptacles. In the final draft there was no rejection to this article but now there is an rejection to it. How has this change taken place? Who was the person or persons who wanted the change and why?

Can you explain how some organization or person has access to modify a national safety standard without outside input?

Please feel free to contact me at anytime. Is there any time that you would be willing to meet on this matter of the adoption of the 2008 National Electrical Code?

Thank you so much for your time.

Fred W. Brown
HI Electron
13977 Meadow Drive
Cambridge, WI 53523

608-658-5190 (cell)
608-423-7836 (fax)



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Becher, Scott

From: Terry Maier [tmaier@ci.west-allis.wi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 9:27 AM
To: Leinenkugel, Dick J - COMMERCE
Cc: Anthony Tadysak; Rep.Wieckert
Subject: Revised rules in Comm. 16

Misc

Per the email updates received from the Dept of Comm.. I was informed that Comm. 16 has been revised. This revision includes:

- a. Arc fault receptacles rule will not go into effect until January 1, 2010.
- b. Tamper resistant receptacles rule has been dropped.

I object to this revision.

I would like to know why we have a process set up with committees, public hearings and dept. reviews, only to trash the system and let politicians do what they want. The only reason given is to save money. Did you do any research on the amount of emergency room visits due to kids inserting objects into electrical outlets (according to CPSC, it is around 7 accidents per day).

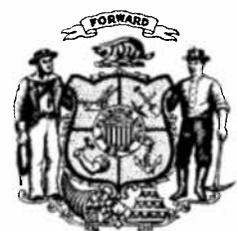
There is more documentation which if you are interested I can forward to you. I do ask that the revision is rescinded and the Comm. 16 presented to the legislature for adoption, is left intact.

Thank-You,

Terry T. Maier
Electrical Inspector
City of West Allis, WI
414-302-8406



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Becher, Scott

From: Anthony Tadysak [atadysak@ci.west-allis.wi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 2:21 PM
To: Leinenkugel, Dick J - COMMERCE
Cc: Rep.Wieckert
Subject: Proposed changes to Comm 16 Electrical code.

Misc

On November 5th 2008, a change in the comm 16 draft proposal was sent to the legislature. The modification delays until 1/1/10 the National Electrical Code requirements dealing with Arc-Fault protection, And deletes the NEC requirement for tamper-resistant receptacles in dwelling units..

I strongly object to this revision.

These code requirements are about life safety, period. Why are you fighting against safety???

Approximately 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment every year for injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical receptacles. This equates to about 7 children each day. Injuries range from electric shock to first-second-and third-degree burns. Some cases prove fatal. Tamper resistant receptacles have long been considered the most reliable means of child protection. Pediatric care locations have required tamper resistant receptacles for years.

In response to these statistics the National Electrical Code (NEC) has been revised to include a requirement for all residential receptacles, or outlets to be tamper resistant. The revision taking effect with the 2008 NEC. (NEC 406.11)

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association estimates that tamper-resistant receptacles will add less than \$50.00 to the cost of a new home's electrical system. What price for life!!!

Safety and welfare should be the top priority for the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, not saving \$50.00.

The NEC establishes the minimum requirements for the safe electrical operation of a home. Why would you disregard a minimum National Electrical Code requirement? The Department of Commerce should be electrical safety advocates, and continue to promote the safety benefits included in the 2008 NEC, not throw minimum codes in the trash.

I ask that the revision is rescinded and the Comm. 16 presented to the legislature for adoption, is left intact.

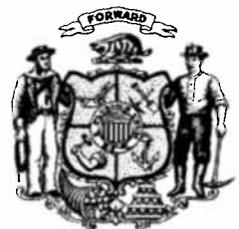
Thank-You

Anthony Tadysak
President
Southeastern Wisconsin Electrical Inspectors Association
(414)-302-8405

For more information visit the following web sites: www.childoutletsafety.org
www.cpsc.gov/library/neiss.html
www.iaei.org



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Fischer, Scott

From: eschylinski@mower.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 10:12 AM
To: Rep. Wieckert
Subject: Tamper-Resistant Outlet Support Letter from NEMA

Misc

November 12, 2008

Representative Steve Wieckert
Room 16 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Steve Wieckert:

On November 5, a germane modification to Comm 16, Electrical Code, was sent to the Wisconsin legislature in response to issues identified by the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Housing, deleting the 2008 National Electrical Code(r) requirement for tamper-resistant electrical outlets, or receptacles, to be installed in new residential construction (Section 406.11). On behalf of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), I wholeheartedly support Section 406.11 and urge the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Housing, and the Committee of Commerce, Utilities and Rails, to reevaluate this decision and retain the standard in the Wisconsin electrical code.

More than 20 states have already begun enforcement, or are on schedule to implement the Code by early 2009. In fact, if the deletion remains, Wisconsin would be the only state to have officially rejected the tamper-resistant requirement.

Excluding Section 406.11 from the state electrical code denies local children the same level of protection against electrical injuries as others in the U.S., and research indicates a definite need for this safety measure.

The tamper-resistant requirement was written into the NEC after considerable research and discussion. Each year approximately 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment for injuries related to electrical outlets, according to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data.

Tamper-resistant receptacles offer the only automatic and permanent protection against electrical injuries. If a foreign object is inserted into an outlet, the built-in shutter system prevents the object from touching electrically live components. Plugs can be inserted and removed as usual, and research shows that plugs are not more difficult to remove with these devices. Tamper-resistant receptacles offer greater peace of mind which many of your residents, especially parents and grandparents, would appreciate.

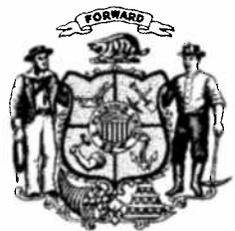
NEMA is working with burn surgeons, nurses and other members of the American Burn Association - medical professionals who treat debilitating and disfiguring burn injuries every day, often related to electrical receptacles. The ABA supports NEC Section 406.11 because it recognizes the priceless benefits of this greater level of electrical safety.

It is critically important that this remain a mandatory provision in Wisconsin.

Please consider reversing the germane modification made to the Electrical Code on November 5, and support Section 406.11. More information about the tamper-resistant Code can be found at www.childoutletsafety.org. Together we can create a safer world for children.

Sincerely,

Andrei Moldoveanu
Technical Director, National Electrical Manufacturers Association





American Burn Association

625 N. Michigan Avenue, Ste. 2550
Chicago, IL 60611

Voice (312) 642-9260 • Fax (312) 642-9130
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John A. Krichbaum, JD

Associate Executive Director

Susan M. Browning, MPH

November 12, 2008

BY FAX TO:

Rep Steve Wieckert (Chair)
Fax Number: 608-282-3657

RE: 2008 National Electrical Code

Dear Rep Steve Wieckert (Chair):

Soon you will consider the adoption of the 2008 National Electrical Code which includes a requirement that all new home construction use tamper-resistant electrical receptacles. This requirement was included in the new national code after considerable research and thoughtful discussion.

The purpose of the requirement is to protect very young children from electrical burn injuries. These children are too young to *learn* not to stick keys, hairpins and other objects into electrical outlets. At this very early age, in fact, we are encouraging children to learn about shapes—to learn that round pegs fit in round holes and square ones in the square holes. It is unrealistic to expect them to discriminate between a toy and an electrical outlet. We certainly don't want them to learn this by trial and error.

Adopting this code will contribute significantly to reducing these disfiguring and disabling electrical injuries. It is critically important that the wording of this code not be changed from the current mandatory provision to a permissive statement. Adopting this code will reduce the suffering and pain that is the human cost of these injuries and will lessen the health care costs associated with these injuries.

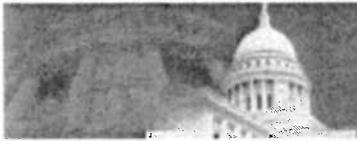
On behalf of burn surgeons, nurses, and other members of the burn care team and the patients they serve, the American Burn Association urges your state to adopt the 2008 National Electrical Code requirement that all new homes use tamper-resistant electrical receptacles.

If you would like further information on this issue, please contact Jimmy Parks, RN, MS, Chair of the ABA Burn Prevention Committee, at The Burn Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital, 800 Marshall Street, Slot 210, Little Rock, AR 72202 (501-607-4374; fax: 501-978-6411; ParksJC@archchildrens.org).

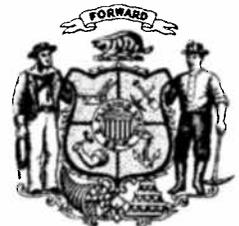
We thank you for your time and consideration of this correspondence.

Jimmy Parks, RN, MS
Chair, ABA Burn Prevention Committee

John A. Krichbaum, JD
Executive Director, ABA



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Misc

November 12, 2008

Representative Steve Wieckert
Room 16 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Steve Wieckert:

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It is critically important that this remain a mandatory provision in Wisconsin.

Please consider reversing the germane modification made to the Electrical Code on November 5, and support Section 406.11. More information about the tamper-resistant Code can be found at www.childoutletsafety.org. Together we can create a safer world for children.

Sincerely,

Andrei Moldoveanu
Technical Director, National Electrical Manufacturers Association