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January 31, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chairman, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 352 – Somerset County – Tax Exemption for Manufacturing Property-Duration  
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Dear Senator Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County respectfully requests your support of SB352 with amendment to grant a property tax exemption for Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc. (ESFP) located in Somerset County. ESFP is a major employer within the County which has invested millions of dollars in the local economy. Issues pertinent to the status of the County's authority to grant this exemption for ESFP have been resolved through a settlement agreement reached in September 2019.

Somerset County is hopeful that, with enactment of this legislation, all questions concerning the County's authority to grant this exemption for ESFP will be finally resolved and we strongly urge a favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Ralph Taylor  
County Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza  
The Honorable Charles Otto  
Kirk Simpkins, P.A.  
Reena Patel, Esq.