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February 7, 2020

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 761 – Somerset County – Property Tax Exemption for Manufacturing Property-
Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc.

Dear Delegate Kaiser and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County respectfully requests your support of HB761 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.