

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY



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April 16, 2010

Mr. John J. Smolak, President & CEO
Franklin Southampton Economic Development, Inc.
601 N. Mechanic Street, Suite 300
Franklin, Virginia 23851

RE: Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Program
Funding Opportunity

Dear Mr. Smolak:

It is my understanding that the City of Franklin intends to submit a request to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for funding under the Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Program to establish a "Center for Renewable Biomass Energy Development" that will focus on research, training, technical assistance and entrepreneurship initiatives.

As a community adjacent to the City of Franklin, Southampton County has already begun to feel the impacts of the closure of International Paper's Franklin Mill and welcomes any opportunity that will help us to create and retain jobs. With an abundance of forest resources, we are excited by the opportunity that biomass energy development presents.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am delighted to offer this letter of support for the application and will be pleased to follow up with an official resolution of support following our next meeting on April 26.

With kind personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CTAA GRANT

WHEREAS, closure of International Paper's Franklin Mill will result in over 2,500 jobs lost at the mill, area suppliers and local service and retail businesses,

WHEREAS, the federal government has established that the mill closure is the result of international trade,

WHEREAS, the US Economic Development Administration's new Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program is aimed at helping create and retain jobs by providing project grants to communities that have experienced, or are threatened by, job loss resulting from international trade impacts,

WHEREAS, Franklin City, Isle of Wight County and Southampton County (The Communities) are the heart of what is called Virginia's "Wood Basket", an area of great abundance in forest product resources,

WHEREAS, such forest products constitute a valuable source of biomass that can be used as a renewable and sustainable energy resources,

WHEREAS, the Communities, working in collaboration, seek Community TAA funding to establish a "Center for Renewable Biomass Energy Development" (The Center) that to focus on research, training, technical assistance and entrepreneurship development related to renewable biomass energy industries, thereby leveraging existing capacity and expertise in agriculture and forestry to build a new regional economy and employment base,

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin, being the eligible grant recipient under the program, will be the official applicant on behalf of the Communities,

BE IT RESOLVED, the [LOCALITY INFO] hereby endorses the grant request and empowers the Economic Development Director to finalize details with regard to the [CITY/COUNTY] involvement.