

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 14, 2023

Acting Secretary Julie Su  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Su,

We write in support of the North Carolina Department of Commerce's request for an Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) in anticipation of the closing of the Pactiv Evergreen Paper Mill in Canton, North Carolina, and the significant reduction of their facility in Waynesville, North Carolina later this year.

The closure of the Pactiv Evergreen Paper Mill is devastating news for western North Carolina, especially for the more than 1,100 employees and their families, and the many other local businesses and workers in the region that will be negatively impacted by its closure. As the largest employer in the area, NC State University economists estimate its closure will create a nearly \$1 billion-dollar ripple effect on the local economy.

Securing an NDWG grant is critically important to ensuring the region has the resources it needs to adapt and retrain its workforce for new opportunities ahead of the expected closure of the mill on June 9, 2023. Specifically, this grant will allow the Southwestern Workforce Development Board and Mountain Area Workforce Development Board to provide employment and training services, career services, and supportive services to impacted workers.

While the closure of the Pactiv Evergreen Paper Mill presents a formidable challenge to the region, we know the strength of the Western North Carolina workforce there, and with some additional tools from the NDWG program, the community can remain a strong regional economic driver. As such, we respectfully request you expeditiously give North Carolina's application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress