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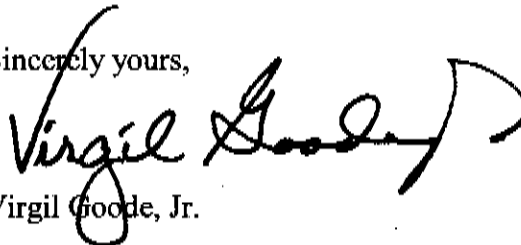
July 8, 2008

Ms. Audrey Zink-Sharp
Professor and Director
Virginia Tech
Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute
230 Cheatham Hall-0323
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Professor Zink-Sharp:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2008 and for your work on behalf of the forestry throughout the southeastern United States. Your research is having a positive impact on the use of sustainable forestry products and bio-based materials. I was especially pleased to learn of your progress in reducing the amount of energy required to produce conventional wood-based composites. Increasing renewables and decreasing the amount of energy used is an important element to a comprehensive strategy, one that includes increased exploration of domestic sources of fossil fuels and increased reliance on alternative energy sources, which we must pursue to tackle our current energy crisis. Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of our area.

Sincerely yours,



Virgil Goode, Jr.

VGJr/mm

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