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10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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October 24, 2003

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne  
Acting Under Secretary  
Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics  
3010 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E944  
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Secretary Wynne:

In response to your recent policy announcement of October 2 on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), I want to bring your attention to a company in my district that has developed a unique wood alternative with RFID capabilities.

Hunter Paine Enterprises, LLC ("Hunter Paine"), a Lafayette, California based technology firm has developed an environmentally friendly and affordable alternative to wood. Hunter Paine has developed, tested and patented an environmentally sound, phytosanitary, and 100% recyclable replacement for commercial lumber known as Lexite™. Lexite™ is a composite structural material produced primarily from recycled rubber tire particles and recycled paper which is stronger and more durable than wood. Having met with representatives of Hunter Paine, and witnessed the environmental, efficiency and security benefits of this product, I would encourage you and the Department of Defense to give Hunter Paine full consideration for future acquisitions and product research and development.

Hunter Paine estimates that Lexite™ could ultimately replace 11% of the forest lumber currently devoted to pallet production. Other potential applications could also reduce our nation's reliance on diminishing timber reserves and foreign imports, as Lexite's™ strength and performance capabilities make the product well suited for a wide variety of uses. Further, Hunter Paine estimates that, at full production, Lexite™ will annually remove over 38 million scrap tires from our nation's crowded landfills. With its unique ability to conceal Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and wireless sensors within its composite matrix, Lexite™ may have far reaching environmental, commercial and national defense applications.

Lexite™ pallets exceed the exhaustive ASTM D1185 and MIL-STD-1660 testing protocols and are certified by the Department of Defense's Validation Engineering Division as a military grade, logistics platform. Lexite™ pallets also surpass the International Plant Protection Organization standards (ISTM #15) enacted by the United Nations to reduce the risk of introducing and/or spreading quarantined pests associated with wood packaging material

(including dunnage), made from coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood, in use in international trade.

Accordingly, I enthusiastically support Hunter Paine's efforts to produce and market this product which provides such clear benefits to our economy and our environment. The California Environmental Protection Agency and Integrated Waste Management Board have already participated in providing grant support and debt financing for Hunter Paine, as has the city of Pittsburg, California.

Again, I believe Lexite™ technology would help the Department of Defense meet its goal of incorporating RFID technologies in systems across DoD by January of 2005, and I respectfully request you give Hunter Paine's product your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen O. Tauscher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "E".

Ellen O. Tauscher  
Member of Congress