American Forest & Paper Association

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AF&PA Statement on
H.B. 5036
An Act Concerning Children's Products and Chemicals of High Concern

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The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) appreciates the opportunity to share our perspective on legislation under consideration by the Connecticut Committee on Children, H.B. 5036.

AF&PA serves to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. AF&PA member companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative - *Better Practices, Better Planet 2020*. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 4.5 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures approximately $200 billion in products annually, and employs nearly 900,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately $50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 47 states. In Connecticut, the industry employs over 4,000 individuals, with an annual payroll of over $250 million. The industry pays an estimated $1.7 million in state and local taxes that support vital public services.

It ultimately is the Legislature's responsibility to strike the proper balance between the scope of the program and the resources available to achieve success. Programs that take on more than they can achieve generally are unsustainable and may do little to advance public health and environmental protection.

The State of Connecticut should devise the most efficient way for the Commissioner of Public Health to regulate consumer products and must be careful to avoid duplicating prior regulatory efforts. AF&PA urges the Legislature to exempt food packaging or food contact materials (FCMs), as FCMs are already regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA), a comprehensive federal