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American Loggers Council Members Meet in Washington, DC

Loggers take their issues to the Hill

April 7, 2014 – Hemphill, TX - On April 3-7, 2014, members of the American Loggers Council met in Washington, DC with coordinated efforts to present issues important to the timber harvesting industry to lawmakers up on Capitol Hill. Over 60 members were in attendance, including representatives from Caterpillar Forest Products, John Deere and the Southern Loggers Cooperative.

Over 100 hill visits included discussion on major issues such as Youth Careers in Logging, Truck Weight reform, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reform, implementation by the US Forest Service of new authorities in the 2014 Farm Bill to help them achieve their allowable sale quantities, and biogenic carbon accounting methods that are being looked at by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that could impact the expanding woody biomass markets.

On Thursday morning, ALC members were briefed on these four issues by ALC staff and heard a presentation from Dan Sakura with the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) on tax issues that could impact reestablishing and managing private forest lands.

Following all day Thursday and Friday morning visits to the Hill, members gathered at a Friday afternoon briefing session where presentations were made from the US Forest Service on 2014 Farm Bill provisions and the 2014 and proposed 2015 budget, US Department of Transportation on CSA and freight issues, the Federal

Forest Resource Coalition on US Forest Service Timber Sale issues, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture on grants that might be available for Forestry Research (including timber harvesting), and Tom Trone with John Deere who discussed the emerging technologies being provided by OEMs on telemetric systems that adapt to forestry equipment.

One immediate opportunity as a result of all of the meetings was an invitation to testify before the House Natural Resources Committee supporting H.R. 4315; H.R. 4316; H.R. 4317 & H.R. 4318 regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA). There were also numerous members supporting the positions of the ALC in both the House and Senate.

On Saturday morning, the ALC Board of Directors held their spring meeting where committee reports were given and strategies were discussed to pursue further action on all legislative priorities. The National Woodland Owners Association was voted in to become an Organizational Associate Member of the ALC.

ALC President Brian Nelson remarked that “each year the fly-in continues to grow and members have become very comfortable with making their visits to the Hill and discussing our issues. What is more enlightening is the fact that now our sponsors are joining with us to add their unique perspective to further our issues. I would like to thank all of those who made the commitment and took the time to be with us as we continue to represent the professional timber harvesters across all of the United States.”

About American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization representing timber harvesting professionals in 30 states. For more information contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or visit their website at www.americanloggers.org.