



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

March/April 2011



THE HILL: A NEW ATTITUDE

Crad Jaynes, SCTPA

SCTPA's Danny McKittrick, Billy McKinney, Tommy Barnes and Crad Jaynes traveled to our Nation's Capitol March 17 – 19 for the American Loggers Council Spring Board meeting and legislative visits with our South Carolina U.S. House and Senate representatives.

One thing was evident in our visits and echoed by other ALC members visiting their respective U.S. representatives in both houses, there is a new attitude on Capitol Hill.

As evidenced by the November elections, many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives changed party affiliations. Not as many changes occurred in the U.S. Senate. Nonetheless, there have been subsequent changes in both legislative bodies that may re-direct our nation to more prosperous times. Or at least, let's hope so.

South Carolina has four freshman House members and they were "fired up" to make impacts legislatively and move the state and nation forward. SC's freshman House members are Jeff Duncan, R-District 3, Trey Gowdy, R-District 4, Mick Mulvaney, R-District 5 and Tim Scott, R-District 1. Our Senators remain unchanged with Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint.

Visits were made to each House and Senator's office to meet with Congressmen and Senators, if available, and staffers assigned to sustainable forestry, natural resources,

transportation and environmental issues on Thursday March 17, and Friday, March 18.

SCTPA presented a package of information detailing the issues for discussion including the American Loggers Council Position Papers as well as issues directly related to the Palmetto State for timber harvesting, unmanufactured forest products trucking, burdensome regulatory issues and development of alternative markets for woody biomass utilization.

There was a different attitude. Not only displayed by the four newly elected House members as well as Congressman Joe Wilson, R-District 2, who is a tremendous supporter of



*Tommy, Danny & Billy
at U.S. Supreme Court*

our industry, but by long time Congressman James Clyburn, D-District 6, who sometimes in past meetings has not really "gotten" the fact the forest products industry is the leading economic sector in his district. And he is always reminded of that.

But a new attitude is evident. The meeting with Congressman Clyburn and his staffer was held in his U.S. Capitol Building office since he is now the Democratic Leader having lost his position as House Majority Whip due to the election. So it was

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refreshing to see Congressman Clyburn more interested in the issues the timber harvesting industry is challenged with now. He even instructed his staffer to research why the 2008 Farm Bill Renewable Biomass definition that included wood is not being pushed now in Renewable Energy Legislation versus the now touted definition that excludes wood. He also voiced his concerns regarding the EPA Tailoring Rule that said the burning of woody biomass is the same as burning a fossil fuel regarding air emissions. However the EPA rule has been revised for a three-year period while the agency studies the issue.

The visits were probably the best we have had over the seven years going to Washington, DC. But there was a difference in the agenda issues presented by the American Loggers Council and SCTPA.

As Matt Jensen, American Loggers Council President indicated, we were not there to ask for or get anything like funding, a handout or to keep anything in the federal budget the way it was. We just presented the issues and requested support for those issues to move America's timber harvesting industry forward.

John Deere hosted the ALC delegation at the National Association of Manufacturers for a Friday afternoon speaker session that was very informative.

Freshman Congressman Reid Ribble, R-Wisconsin and ALC President Matt Jensen's U.S. House member discussed how the House hearing for the Environmental Protection Agency went and how the Committee including both Republican and Democrat members



Wisconsin Congressman Reid Ribble

tore up EPA Director Lisa Jackson about how EPA has stifled our nation's economic development because of EPA's overreaching and burdensome regulatory authority. He also indicated this was an issue Congress would be addressing.

He also mentioned only 30 of 435 U.S. House members have actually run or now run a business. Congressman Ribble owns and operates a commercial roofing company and as he put it, "I know the problems of EPA's overreaching regulatory authority."

His comments about the extremely low number of House members owning and operating businesses was interesting from the standpoint of how do our representatives understand small and larger business operations if they themselves haven't done it.

Maybe it's time for a call for term limits to eliminate career politicians. Congressman Ribble said he would serve only a limited term, if re-elected, then he wanted to pass the representation on to another businessperson to bring a business sense to DC. And of course, he was fired up too!

John Deere's Chief Economist J. B. Penn made a presentation about the global and U.S. economies. He indicated the global economy is growing and the U.S. economy is growing slowly, but positively. John Deere's Kevin Karlix, Director of Sales - The Americas and Nate Clark, Forestry Marketing Manager talked about biomass and the development of alternative markets and other forestry issues their company was involved with.



John Deere Economist J.B. Penn

Bill Kovacs, Vice President of Environment and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, presented the most informative and thought provoking

presentation. He talked about the Cost of Regulation from EPA that amounts to \$1.75 trillion to U.S. businesses and the economy. That's \$8,000 per employee and \$10,000 to each small business. He presented several charts showing the environmental lawsuits filed against the federal government for projects, not only timber sales on national forests, but other projects such as roads, construction, bridges, green projects, etc. He said the environmentalists make "money" suing the federal government to the tune of \$1.1 billion to enviro plaintiffs.

Between 1989 and 2005 there were 949 lawsuits filed against the U.S. Forest Service with the Sierra Club leading the way with 101. But here is the kicker. There is a thing in the federal government called the Judgment Fund set up in the U.S. Treasury to pay enviros for lawsuits... and this Fund is secret. There's only one other thing in the U.S. government that is secret and that is the Central Intelligence Agency.

Enviros spend \$10 billion per year on campaigns, lawsuits, etc against the federal government. But hey, if they are getting paid, and it's payment whether they win, lose or draw on the lawsuit, why not? Is there something desperately wrong with the system? Definitely!

Jay Jensen, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA, talked about how Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is the first Ag Secretary to pay close attention to forestry in the country. He also outlined some of the USDA initiatives directed at forestry.

Bill Imbergamo, Senior Staff for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry discussed what the Committee was addressing for legislation in the

U.S. Senate regarding forestry, EPA and issues related to the forest products industry.

The ALC board meeting was productive with reports being presented from the Communications, Master Logger Certification, Governmental Relations, Transportation, Membership and Biomass Committees and a Wood Supply Research Institute report.



Jay Jensen - USDA



Bill Imbergamo

(Continued on page 3)

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ALC Board Meeting

Two resolutions were passed regarding the CWA Ninth Circuit ruling and the EPA Tailoring Rule. The ALC five-year strategic plan was discussed with further work to be completed at the summer board meeting. Matt Jensen and Danny Dructor presented details for the September 2011 ALC Annual Meeting in Wisconsin.

Dr. Matt Smidt, Auburn University and now cooperating with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the National Occupational Research Agenda discussed how ALC might fit in with the organizations to assist in safety and risk research for the logging industry. Bill Jones, Southern Loggers Cooperative, explained the benefits and successes of the Cooperative for products and fueling stations. Nadine Block, SFI Sustainable Forestry Board, talked about SFI and the problem with LEED excluding SFI certified wood products for green building construction.

The D.C. visit was well worth the time. And as they say, "The World Is Run By Those That Show Up," ALC continues its work representing our nation's loggers as a focused, professional organization. SCTPA is proud to be an American Loggers Council member association.



SFI's Nadine Block

IMPACTED EMPLOYERS NEED RELIEF



SC SENATE CLOSING IN ON UI TAX RELIEF

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman (Florence), alongside Senator Greg Ryberg (Aiken), introduced a new plan to provide employers with Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax relief during the May 2nd week of the session.

With the ongoing budget battle and the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) expected to announce a budget surplus of more than \$100 million next week, Chairman Leatherman rallied support for a proposal for the state of South Carolina to share in the payback of the more than \$900 million owed to the federal government.

The plan, dubbed "Scenario 34," would provide \$100 million in true tax relief to employers in rate classes 2-20 and help pay down the federal debt this year. All previous scenarios considered by legislative leaders helped provide short-term relief for employers by either extending the payback time or shifting taxes.

Chairman Leatherman's plan provides employers with actual tax relief. While the plan does not offer as high a percent rate cut this year as some were hoping for, the major benefit of "Scenario 34" is that the federal debt employers are expected to pay will drop from \$933 million to \$833 million, savings employers will continue to benefit from in future years.

"Scenario 34" also includes other major relief efforts that have been previously discussed, pro-

viding long-term cost savings to employers. Those measures include reducing the number of state benefit weeks from 26 weeks to 20 weeks, saving 8 percent annually.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce has suggested reducing benefits, like other states have done during this crisis, in an effort to decrease the state's payouts, but also to encourage unemployed workers to accept the more than 50,000 currently available jobs in South Carolina.

Other components of "Scenario 34" include restricting seasonal benefits and allowing employers to claim a credit to UI accounts when they offer an employee severance pay. If seasonal restrictions were implemented in South Carolina, it could result in savings of tens of millions of dollars annually.

Under the agreement reached unanimously by the Senate, \$100 million has been adopted in the state budget. During the May 9th week, the Senate will debate H.3762, legislation offered by Chairman Dan Cooper (Anderson), which includes the other cost saving components of "Scenario 34."

Governor Nikki Haley took a leadership role in offering her own plan, "Scenario 27," which would issue revenue bonds backed by employers, therefore not impacting the state's AAA credit rating, and offer tax relief to the highest taxed employers.

Both "Scenario 27" and "Scenario 34" meet the tenants of the South Carolina Chamber's position not to borrow interest-bearing money from the federal government or shift taxes between businesses. The Chamber supports both plans. SCTPA is a SC Chamber of Commerce member.

(Continued on page 4)

More on the UI Tax Issue

Governor Haley's plan would issue revenue bonds to help pay \$972 million in federal loans that kept the state's jobless receiving benefits amid chronically high unemployment and economic downturn.

Last year SC legislators overhauled the state's jobless benefits system and rolled out a repayment plan that increased taxes for some employers by hundreds of dollars per worker.

Businesses with the worst records for firing and laying off people have been complaining. Employers in that worst unemployment tax bracket were told they'd pay \$1,128 a year for each worker on their payroll, and increase of about \$660.

Legislators have spent months trying to soften the rate increases. But Haley and many lawmakers have insisted that a break for them shouldn't cost employers with good records more and that the state shouldn't borrow more money.

Haley's proposal calls for the state to issue \$120 million in revenue bonds this year and \$60 million next year.

Those bonds would be repaid by employers in the state's worst unemployment tax rate classifications during the next seven years. They'd see their state unemployment tax assessments fall by 28 percent this year. For the employer in the worst rating category, bills would drop to \$829 per worker.

Tim Pearson, Haley's top aide, said, "We think it gives them an appropriate amount of relief. The people who will get the relief are the ones that are paying it back."

The SC House has sent the Senate a bill that would extend the federal loan repayment to seven years from five years. House Majority Leader Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington, said extending the loan payment was an effort to blunt rate increases and encourage hiring.

The SC Department of Employment and Workforce is offering businesses a payment plan of up to six months to pay their taxes due for the 2011 first quarter. Employers need to file their quarterly reports, send in at least 10 percent of what they owe and include a letter indicating they want to use the payment plan. A 1 percent per month interest charge will be applied to the outstanding balances of all businesses using the payment plan.

The Department's Executive Director John Finan indicated the Department can work with businesses to come up with a payment option depending on individual circumstances. Options are monthly payments, weekly payments and payments over two installments.

SC's new unemployment insurance law passed in the wake of the \$1 billion debacle created 20 rating tiers for employers with those that laid off the most employees seeing the largest increases in their insurance rates.

About half of all companies are in the lowest tier and will pay less than \$11 an employee each year, an 88 percent decrease in their unemployment insurance premiums.

Governor Nikki Haley named Major General Abraham Turner the new head of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SC DEW). A former commander at Fort Jackson, he currently serves as Chief of Staff of the United States Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska. Turner will succeed General John Finan.

SCTPA Comments: SCTPA has been in contact with House and Senate members expressing the concerns the increase in unemployment insurance taxes on timber harvesting businesses has created during this very challenging economic time for our industry. Support for any plan to provide financial relief initiatives has been expressed to legislators.

*****Update as of May 13; UI Tax Relief Stalls in Senate*****

On May 11, the South Carolina Senate adopted two different measures to provide meaningful unemployment insurance (UI) tax relief for employers across the state.

The Senate gave second reading to the state budget, which provides \$100 million in state dollars to assist in paying down the \$933 million debt South Carolina owes to the federal government.

The Senate also gave second reading to H.3762, an unemployment insurance bill that provides other cost-saving measures including a reduction in state benefit weeks (from 26 to 20 weeks) and restriction of benefits for seasonal workers.

But on May 12, the Senate bogged down, and neither piece of legislation was given its third and final reading. The Senate, which worked just two days this week, is now entering its fourth week of debate on the state budget.



ALC MEETS WITH USDOT & FMCSA

On Friday morning, March 18th, as part of the ALC visit to D.C., a delegation of loggers and logger association directors, including SCTPA's Crad Jaynes, met with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Tony Furst, Director, Federal Highway Administration Office of Freight Management & Operations, Luke Loy, Vehicle & Roadside Operations and Gary Shoemaker, Assistant Program Manager CSA 2010 Program Office both with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regarding increasing trucking GVW on interstates.

USDOT seemed to have a different attitude than in past meetings. That may be a reflection of the new attitude over on The Hill.

Discussion centered on the ALC's position that has been presented for five years now to allow individual state legal Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) for unmanufactured forest products (UFP) trucking be allowed to access the interstate system within that state. Example is SC UFP trucking would be able to utilize the interstate system within SC and haul our legal UFP trucking GVW of 84,272 pounds rather than the federally restricted 80,000 pounds on interstates for a five axle tractor trailer unit.

The issues presented were simple: improved safety for motoring public and UFP drivers, improved trucking economics, improved logistical efficiencies, reducing the number of UFP trucks moving through small communities, school zones, etc. enhancing safety, reduced UFP truck traffic on rural and state roads reducing infrastructure maintenance stresses since interstates are constructed to handle more weight, and improvement in market access routes.

USDOT made it clear USDOT does not govern interstate weights. Only the U.S. Congress governs interstate weights. But USDOT and FMCSA can assist in supporting the issue with Congress with the right information.

The question was brought up about containers being able to obtain permits for higher GVW on interstates up to 100,000 pounds like in South Carolina out of the port of Charleston.

Tony explained containers are non-divisible loads loaded offshore and coming into the U.S as imports since many countries do have higher weights than the U.S. But this applies to containers loaded for export too. He indicated many containers "cube out" due to commodity hauled before

they "weigh out." Permits have been allowed for 25 years.

There was indication from Tony USDOT would not have an issue with a sixth axle with an 8-foot spread up to a GVW of 88,500 pounds on interstates. That would also comply with the interstate bridge formula.

He indicated based on USDOT numbers, in 2006 \$161 billion was expended for roads by state, federal, local governments. But only \$81 billion was spent on rehabilitation of existing roads and only 15% spent on capacity expansion. And capacity expansion was an issue the USDOT and Congress need to address. He mentioned the damage of overloaded axles on roads is exponential and not linear. A 1,000-pound weight increase actually causes a 4,000-pound damage impact to roads.

Luke and Gary expressed their views from the FMCSA side regarding safety of increased weights. Their concern was Out of Service violations would increase due to the increased weight particularly for braking capacity.

Tony described the Australia performance based system whereby trucking can negotiate with the government to haul increased weight on designated routes. Then the trucking entity has to comply with specific compliance regulations such as more inspections. This might be something to consider, but Congress would have to decide this.

From the FMCSA perspective, if the industry wants to haul more weight, need to give them and USDOT something back to help support the issue particularly regarding safety. Such as have more inspections, every quarter or sooner and have inspections reported to the state trucking enforcement agency, driver training for heavier loads, driver responsibility training and more truck owner and driver accountability.

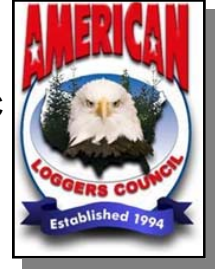
Luke and Gary discussed the CSA program and noted the new Safety Measurement System (SMS) is for rating fleets and not drivers for the seven measurement metrics.

They also noted when a truck is inspected and receives a "clean inspection" the driver and company needs to receive the inspection printout from the enforcement officer so the "passing inspection without violations" is entered into the computer system and is recorded for the fleet rating.

Overall the meeting was useful in understanding USDOT and FMCSA's positions for increased interstate truck weights. Hearing a more supportive attitude for the ALC position for interstate access within a state for the state legal GVW did indicate a change of attitude.

AMERICAN LOGGERS VISIT WASHINGTON

March 22, 2011 – Hemphill, Texas.



Fifty-six members of the American Loggers Council traveled to Washington, DC on March 18-19 to discuss with members of Congress the issues that are impacting the timber harvesting industry and to hold their Spring Board of Directors meeting. The members completed over 70 visits to Senate and House members on transportation, federal timber sales, renewable energy and EPA regulation issues.

In general, members of both the House and the Senate were receptive to the issues that the members carried, and overall got a much better perspective of the plight of the industry and the need to get things moving again. EPA air and water regulations, transportation issues, US Forest Service budgets and energy policies were just a few of the items that were discussed and how they were impacting the small businesses that are the backbone of the logging industry.

ALC members also visited with representatives from various agencies, including the US Forest Service, Department of Transportation, Department of Interior and US Department of Agriculture and made strategic visits with other organizations with similar issues.

Two group visits were completed on Friday morning. The first with representatives from the US Department of Transportation to discuss CSA and weight issues while the second group attended a joint briefing by the US Forest Service, US Department of Interior and the US Department of Agriculture.

Friday afternoon, John Deere hosted an informational meeting at the National Association of Manufacturers offices in DC that included Congressman Reid Ribble representing the 8th District in Wisconsin, J.B. Penn – Chief Economist with John Deere, William “Bill” Kovacs – Vice president of Environment and Regulatory Affairs with the US Chamber of Commerce, Bill Imbergamo – Senior Professional Staff with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and Jay Jensen – Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment for the US Department of Agriculture. Candid questions were entertained by all speakers and potential solutions to many issues were addressed.

John Deere also hosted a reception and dinner on Friday evening where many of the discussions continued with John Deere representatives Kevin Karlix, Nate Clark and Candace Schnoor.

Matt Jensen, the current President of the American Loggers Council was pleased with the turnout and the results of the visits and commented, “Our members are not up here looking for a hand-out. They are simply asking for the opportunity to work. Given all of the other organizations visiting Washington during these budget discussions looking to retain their “piece of the federal pie,” our visits should have been a breath of fresh air to our Congressmen and Senators.”

The ALC Board of Directors met on Saturday for regular business and passed two resolutions dealing with EPA’s Tailoring Rule regarding biomass utilization and greenhouse gas emissions, which if implemented, could hurt investments biomass energy markets which the industry needs.

The second resolution dealt with the need to overturn a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals interpretation of the Clean Water Act which would require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) permit for harvesting operations where water runoff from logging operations found its way to the ditches and culverts in a logging road, overturning a three-decade-plus understanding of the Clean Water Act by holding that harvesting timber is an “industrial activity” rather than a silvicultural activity which has been exempt from the permitting process. President Jensen and the entire ALC Board of Directors expressed their sincere thanks to John Deere for hosting and participating in the meetings, and the decision was made that the ALC Executive Committee will convene again in June to further discuss the strategic direction that the ALC is headed in and how best to continue to represent the logging industry.

INDUSTRY NEWS

GP's ALCOLU OSB FACILITY

The final construction phase has begun at Georgia Pacific's nearly complete Oriented Strand-board (OSB) facility in Alcolu, Clarendon County and near Sumter, SC.

The mill was acquired last May from Grant Forest Products and was a part of the three mills in the deal including the OSB plant now operating in the Allendale Fairfax area in Allendale County, SC and the operating plant in Englehart, Ontario.

GP's Mark Luetters, President, GP Wood Products, said, "We expect it will take most of this year to complete construction on the plant. We are currently planning to start the plant December 2011. Having now operated an identical plant at Allendale, we believe we will be able to quickly and efficiently begin producing OSB."

Luetters says GP will spend an additional \$30 million to complete the facility. The amount includes a construction crew of more than 100 people, plus the purchase and installation of the remaining equipment and infrastructure.

ROCKTENN TO PURCHASE SMURFIT-STONE CONTAINER

RockTenn is acquiring (or has acquired) Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation in a transaction valued at \$3.5 billion. Smurfit-Stone will become a wholly owned subsidiary of RockTenn.

The transaction will create a \$9 billion leader in the North American paperboard packaging market. RockTenn will maintain its headquarters in Norcross, GA. Closing of the deal is expected in the second quarter.

Smurfit-Stone is one of the industry's leading integrated containerboard and corrugated packaging producers and one of the world's largest paper recyclers.

Smurfit-Stone has manufacturing mill capacity of 7 million tons, and when combined, RockTenn will have 9.4 million tons of total production capacity, including 7.5 million tons of mill production in the containerboard market.

The newly combined RockTenn and Smurfit-Stone will become the number two producer of North American containerboard and coated recycled board, with a balanced fiber input mix of 55% virgin fiber and 45% recycled fiber.



Timber Talk

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Contact Crad Jaynes at
1-800-371-2240 or bcjpaw@windstream.net



A Resolution to Overturn a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Interpretation of the Clean Water Act

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2010 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision in the case of *Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) v. Brown* that could require the forest products industry to change long established forest management practices and seek permits for the discharge of stormwater runoff associated with the harvest of timber for the first time in the history of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and

WHEREAS, the panel decision overturns a three-decade-plus understanding of the CWA by holding that harvesting timber is an “industrial activity” requiring a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) for any stormwater runoff that reaches jurisdictional waters by means of culverts, ditches or similar conveyance structures, and

WHEREAS, by defining stormwater runoff as a “point source” of pollution, the panel decision will create an overwhelming number of permit requests for millions of miles of forest roads and literally hundreds of thousands of culverts, leading to tremendous and burdensome permitting delays, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has no program in place to process the unprecedented number of permits this decision will require, causing devastating delays and costs to forest landowners, loggers and other owners and operators of forest roads throughout the nation, and

WHEREAS, none of this is necessary as stormwater runoff from forest lands and forest roads has been addressed nationwide under the CWA for decades as non-point pollution, minimized through thoughtfully developed and tested “best management practices” (BMPs) at the state level with EPA oversight, and

WHEREAS, the panel decision voids a time-tested system in favor of a wholly unworkable point-by-point federal regulation and undermines three decades of effort invested by forest landowners and operators in an effective non-point source program.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Loggers Council (ALC) go on record in support of overturning the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal’s decision in *NEDC v. Brown* either through the petition for rehearing or rehearing *en banc* filed by the Defendant-Appellees which has been supported with briefs filed by forest industry organizations from throughout the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the Ninth Circuit fails to overturn the panel’s decision, the ALC go on record in support of a Supreme Court review of the circuit court’s interpretation of the CWA and, if necessary, support a legislative remedy by clarifying and codifying the three decades old interpretation of the law that stormwater runoff from forest roads is a “non-point” source of pollution.

Adopted this 19th day of March 2011 during the Spring Board of Directors Meeting of the American Loggers Council.

Matt Jensen, President

Brian Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer



Resolution to Overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's Tailoring Rule Regarding Biomass Utilization And Greenhouse Gas Emissions

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule (Tailoring Rule) regarding the utilization of woody biomass for renewable energy has been delayed for three years for further study, and

WHEREAS, the stated intent of the Tailoring Rule is to **reduce** the number of facilities required to obtain New Source Review and Title V operating permits under the Clean Air Act based on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule treats carbon emissions from wood biomass combustion identically to fossil fuels emissions, thereby expanding the rule's reach to include fuel sources previously considered for decades to not emit net carbon and ignoring the long held acceptance of biomass utilization for electrical generation as a carbon neutral process, and

WHEREAS, the EPA's proposed rule will impose huge economic obstacles before entities considering investments in biomass based renewable energy by increasing the costs of obtaining permits, increasing capital costs for facility investments due to delays in the permitting process and dramatically increasing the costs of technological requirements such as Best Available Control Technology (BACT), and

WHEREAS, contrary to its stated intent, the proposed rule will jeopardize over 130 renewable energy projects, prevent the creation of between 11,000 and 26,000 green jobs, eliminate some \$18 billion in capital investment across the country and could prevent as many as 30 states from meeting national renewable energy targets according to the National Association of Forest Owners.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Loggers Council go on record supporting the withdrawal of the EPA's proposed Tailoring Rule as it applies to biomass utilization for renewable energy and to restore the clear and time-tested distinction between the carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels and the carbon neutral benefits of biomass utilization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALC endorse the promotion of biomass utilization for renewable energy production to complement, support and expand the industry's integrated infrastructure including facilities that produce lumber, plywood and other panels and pulp and paper products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALC endorse the promotion of biomass utilization for renewable energy production to create new markets for forest landowners and green job opportunities supporting the economic revitalization of timber dependent rural communities.

Adopted this 19th day of March 2011, during the Spring Board of Directors Meeting of the American Loggers Council.

Matt Jensen, President

Brian Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer



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560, C5000, Q70 & Q80

HYDROAX

411B2, 611B2, 411E, 511E, 611E,
411EX, 511EX, 611EX, 711EX & 570

JOHN DEERE

440B, 540B, 548B, 648B, 648G, 648GII,
648GIII, 748GII, 748GIII, 643, 643D,
643G, 843G, 843H, 653E, 753 & 848

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210C, 210D, 210E, 310E, 325, 384,
410C, 410D, 410E & 410EX

TIGERCAT

230, 240, 718, 720, 720B, 720C, 720D,
726, 726B, 620, 630B, 845 & 845B

TIMBERJACK

240, 380A, 380B, 450B, 450C, 460,
460D, 608, 608S, 618, 735, & 850

TREEFARMER

C6D & C7F



AS I SEE IT ...

AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL

PRESIDENT MIKE WIEDEMAN, ENTERPRISE, OREGON



April 2011

CHALLENGING TIMES

As many of you are aware, several states across the country have been debating and working on how to balance their budgets. The entire country has seen what was going on in Wisconsin. Governor Scott Walker and the state legislature there were trying to make up a 3.6 billion dollar deficit.

One of the solutions the Governor had proposed was for all state workers, including teachers, to pay a portion of their retirement and insurance benefits. The other controversial issue was restricting collective bargaining privileges except on wages for all public employees. Wisconsin is not the only state dealing with these issues. Indiana, Ohio, and New Jersey are taking the same approach as Wisconsin to try to lower their deficits.

There was a firestorm of opposition coming from several labor unions and the teachers union. President Obama was visiting Wisconsin at the time the protests were just beginning and did an interview with a local television station. He said in the interview that he didn't know much about the situation in Wisconsin and that he had not been following it. It was interesting that at the same time of the interview, the President's own website was calling for people to organize against Governor Walker's agenda.

To my knowledge, Wisconsin was the only state in the



U.S. that was controlled by Democrat majorities and a Democratic Governor only to be replaced by Republican majorities in both the assembly and the senate, along with a new Republican Governor in the last election. It was pretty obvious that Wisconsin voters wanted something different in their government.

I have a growing concern of why the President of the United States keeps imposing his views on state governments. This isn't the first time, remember, Arizona is currently being sued by the federal government because of the new immigration laws that was recently passed. What is even more alarming is that when a federal court judge ruled a law unconstitutional like "Obama Care", the administration ignores the ruling and keeps implementing the law. The oil drilling moratorium that the administration placed on Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico was denied by a federal court and yet it is still being enforced, although recently some drilling permits have been granted, possibly due to political pressure.

Now that the Wisconsin legislature has a Republican majority, they are trying to implement their agenda. When the budget repair bill was taken up the Democrats knew that they didn't have the votes to stop the bill. In an unprecedented move, fourteen Wisconsin Democratic Senators fled to Illinois to protest the vote. In order to have a quorum in the Wisconsin Senate there must be at least one member from the minority party in the

chamber at the time of the vote on budgetary issues.

Whatever side of this issue you are on, this move is troubling. After the Wisconsin Democrats left the state, Indiana Democrats did the exact same thing on basically the same issue. What kind of precedent is this setting? So now when one political party disagrees with the other they will hold Democracy hostage until their demands are met?

The restriction of collective bargaining for public employees was the main issue that caused the Democrats to flee Wisconsin. This would, in all truth severely limit the power of the unions. I question whether the Democratic Senators so fiercely support the public employees or their union dues that are automatically collected to fund their political way of life. Government employee unions, in light of all the information reported on this issue, appears to be a large conflict of interest. I assume that is why federal employees don't have collective bargaining privileges. I can sympathize with public employees and their fear of losing security in their workplace.

In many cases I could see a positive result from this change. Under normal circumstances, the competence of a good employee would take priority over seniority. The quality and proven performance should dictate their compensation. I believe that great teachers, forest-

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ers, transportation and utility workers, etc., should be paid considerably higher than poor performers in their field. In the end, I think we would have greatly improved schools and public services.

The reality is that state governments cannot continue to operate in the red. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article, the problems in Wisconsin will be resolved. Across the U.S. we saw many states elect Republican congressmen and governors in 2010. We are all seeing that elections have consequences and Americans appear to want to see a change in how their government is operating.

To all of us in the logging industry, change and uncertainty are part of our everyday lives. We are subject to volatile fuel and wood prices which, for the most part are out of our control. Large capital investments for equipment to remain competitive and efficient are the norm. All this being said we are in our industry by choice. We willingly accept the premise that our ambition and business sense will determine our success or failure. There are often some very challenging days, but most of us wouldn't have it any other way.

May 2011

The American Loggers Council Washington DC fly-in and spring Board of Directors meeting has come and gone for 2011. The trip to our nation's capital was very well attended by many active, dedicated loggers and state association executives from across the country. Our ALC members had a full schedule of congressional

visits.

With a large new crop of freshman Congressman and Senators this year, there seemed to be a different tone in Washington. The federal budget cuts impasse between the Democrats and the Republicans was taking place at the time of our visits. Ironically, the issues ALC brought to the hill and the timing of our appointments seemed to be well received. I think the Congressmen, Senators, and their staffers welcomed the conversation about something other than the budget battle.

One of the highlights of my Wisconsin congressional visits was our meeting with freshman Congressman Reid Ribble and his Legislative Director Paul Bleiberg. Mr. Ribble brings much needed experience in Congress from the private business sector along with a long history of involvement in his community. Knowing what it takes to make a payroll and a profit is more important than ever when it comes to pro-business policy making in Washington.

Speaking with the Congressman about federal forest timber sales was of great interest to him because of the amount of federal land and timber related jobs in his district. He told us that he has had some meetings with U.S. Forest personnel and suggested that someone from ALC testify at a hearing when federal timber issues are discussed. He felt it was more important Congress hear from actual people affected by their policy.

On the Friday afternoon session of our DC trip, John Deere hosted a great meeting at the National Association of Manufacturers Offices. Congressman Ribble addressed

ALC members and others. He spoke about national forest issues, the out of control federal budget, and the EPA's over-reaching regulations on American business.

Each of the ALC members in attendance were able to introduce themselves and express their comments and questions. Some of the finest loggers in the country made an impression on the Congressman that he won't soon forget, expressing their concerns collectively about the federal timber program, the development of biomass related jobs, transportation issues and the EPA's ability to regulate almost anyone out of business. ALC members conveyed to the Congressman they weren't looking for a handout, just the ability to run their businesses in a profitable manner.

The power of the EPA's regulatory policy without approval from Congress has created and will continue to create great uncertainty for all industry in the U.S. There were many other great speakers at our meeting, but the other speaker that caught all of our attention was the presentation by Bill Kovacs, Vice President of Environment and Regulatory Affairs with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He shared statistics of the number of business and energy projects being litigated by environmental organizations and the impact that was having on the U.S. economy. It didn't seem to matter whether the ventures were "green projects" or not, they were all subject to litigation. Mr. Kovacs also informed us how environmental groups had a 50,000 plus page playbook of laws, regulations, and personal findings to litigate against almost any project or

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timber sale.

One of the most alarming details Mr. Kovacs shared was to find out these environmental groups and their attorneys are recovering their costs of litigation whether they win or lose at basically an unlimited budget from the federal government. This astounding policy is allowing these groups to make a very nice living with no "skin in the game" at the cost to the American taxpayer and businesses. This policy must change.

In my opinion, with the great job the people at John Deere did putting together a very interesting and informative Friday session along with our Hill visits, this was one of my best D.C. meetings to date.

To all of you at John Deere, your rock solid support and commitment to us at the American Loggers Council is immeasurable. All I can say is thank you, and thank you to all of our ALC members who took time away from their businesses and families to try and make a difference in the logging industry.

It is the American Loggers Council's ongoing challenge to continue to bring value to our industry, our members and supporting partners like John Deere. It is truly an honor to be a part of this organization.

June 2011

In today's business climate, U.S. companies are not strangers to environmental regulation. ALC's visit to Washington DC in March proved to be an eye opening visit, especially as it related to what was learned about the Environmental Protection Agency. The regulatory process in our country has steadily be-

come the largest hurdle for growth and competitiveness for any business.

William Kovacs' presentation on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce deserves to be revisited. Findings from Mr. Kovacs' presentation stated that in 2009, gross tax collections in the U.S. were 2.33 trillion dollars and the cost of regulation was at a staggering 1.75 trillion dollars. That translates to a cost of about \$8,086 dollars per employee and \$10,585 dollars per small business in the U.S. per year.

With the expansion of environmental law the number of pages of federal regulation is now more than double the amount of pages in our nation's tax code. In the early seventies the tax code had about 5,000 pages compared to 1,000 in environmental law. Today, the tax code has reached nearly 15,000 pages while environmental regulations have exploded to nearly 30,000 pages.

One of the largest targets from environmental groups is energy development, from nuclear to natural gas and even renewable energy projects. Last year, 351 projects were denied approval. The oil industry has been under attack for years with most of U.S. shores under drilling moratoriums or delayed drilling permits. The United States has the natural resources along with the technology of some of the best companies in the world to satisfy much of our energy demand.

At a time when our economy can ill afford higher fuel prices, our federal government is giving Mexico and Brazil billions of dollars for oil exploration projects, and lately, it seems that when the U.S. economy is starting to improve, some type of unrest in the Middle East causes a relapse in our positive growth.

We should not continue to adopt energy policies that weaken our economy and more importantly our national security. To do so seems just plain un-American!

The lack of science-based forest management on our federal timber lands is obviously an increasing concern to our industry. Currently, over 93 million acres, or about 60 percent of national forest lands are closed to timber harvesting. Between 1985 and 2005 there were 949 federal lawsuits filed against the U.S. Forest Service. The timber that we are able to perform harvests on is with increasing state and local regulations.

In my home state of Wisconsin, areas that have a large oak component for example, have a seasonal restriction on harvesting in the summer months until usually after September because of oak wilt. The spread of Gypsy Moth and the Emerald Ash Borer have caused transportation restrictions. Some aspen sales have a winter only harvest and other sales because of invasive species.

Logging contractors are required by some to pressure wash their equipment before moving to another job to prevent the spread of those invasive species. The only problem with that precautionary measure is that foresters traveling from timber sale to timber sale along with people riding through the forest on ATV's are defeating the purpose of the logging contractor being required to wash their equipment and then pass an inspection. I always wonder why the logger has to adhere to certain requirements and other groups like the recreation folks do not.

Annosum Root Rot in conifer trees is the next big thing to hit Wisconsin's logging com-

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munity. Our state's DNR is taking the lead on the issue and has begun to require stump treatment at the time the tree is cut.

To my knowledge, Wisconsin is one of the only states implementing this procedure. Loggers are now required to become a certified pesticide applicator by taking an exam administered by the state. They must purchase a 250 page training manual, pay a yearly commercial applicator license fee and recertify every five years.

As it stands today, if the individual harvester operator does not pass this difficult exam, they are out of business until they do. I believe that most of us in the logging community want to do the right thing, but this seems a bit excessive for the application of a chemical you could actually drink.

The current training manual of 250 pages contains one paragraph in the entire book that even remotely refers to stump treatment. The most prominent pesticide law is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) which is overseen by the EPA. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) administers the primary regulations concerning pesticide use in our state. Currently a landowner can perform the stump treatment without any certification requirements because they are considered a "not for hire" applicator.

I believe there could be a quick legislative "fix" to this issue by the Wisconsin State legislature that would allow "exemptions" or "special permits" for the application of the non-toxic chemical used to treat root rot disease, and the problem would be fixed and treatments would be effective, but the problem needs to be brought to the attention of someone who understands the issue and is not just "good" at writing regulations and tests. I would be willing to bet if every forester, landowner, or administrator that is inspecting the stump treatment for approval had to take the exam, the law or provision would get changed promptly because they probably wouldn't pass the exam the first time.

There has also been talk of a possible cost share for landowners to help pay for the chemical and the cost of the stump treatment. I assure you that this will become a new revenue stream for the landowner and possibly a marketing tool for foresters to just require stump treatment at the logger's expense in their timber sale contracts and the landowner keep the cost share dollars.

I don't want to seem so negative on the subject, but you all know what happened with the BCAP program. I have yet to hear of a cost share for loggers to help pay for the spraying equipment that would have to be added on to their harvesters. The cost estimates for the spray applicators ranges from \$7,000 to \$14,000 depending on the make of the equipment. Many county, state and federal timber sales already have the stump treatment requirements, all at the responsibility of the logger.

A suggestion for this specific mandate may be that data on the average cost of the spraying systems could be gathered from our forestry equipment manufacturers and the State of Wisconsin to allow the logging contractor a rebate after proof of purchase and installation.

Once again, I want to stress that most of us in the professional logging community want to do the right thing when it comes to proper forest management. Shouldn't the focus be on making sure all of our loggers are being trained and out in the field performing the application as soon as possible?

As you can see, regulations that come down from the EPA affect individuals and small businesses in many ways. It seems quite easy for our agencies to write regulations without considering their effectiveness or the cost to our economy.

Matt Jensen is the President of the American Loggers Council, which represents over 50,000 logging professionals in 30 states. Matt's operation, Whitetail Logging, is headquartered in Crandon, Wisconsin. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or e-mail at americanlogger@aol.com.



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LETTER TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S U.S. CONGRESSMEN & SENATORS

DURING THE SCTPA VISITS TO OUR U.S. CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS AND THEIR STAFFERS A FOLDER CONTAINING DISCUSSION TOPICS WAS PRESENTED ALONG WITH THIS COVER LETTER ADDRESSED TO EACH LEGISLATOR.

March 17, 2011

The Honorable (Name)
U.S. House of Representatives (or U.S. Senate)
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman (or Senator) Name,

On behalf of the professionals harvesting, producing and transporting South Carolina's sustainable and renewable forest resources, we appreciate your service to the Palmetto State in Washington, DC.

South Carolina's forest products industry ranks as the Number One manufacturing segment of our state's economy with an economic impact of \$17.5 billion annually. Timber is our state's Number One cash crop at \$870 million annually. Forest products exports are \$1 billion annually.

Our forest industry ranks first in employment including our professional timber harvesting, supplying and trucking businesses with a payroll over \$2 billion and over 40,000 employed workers.

Our nation and state's forest products industries compete in the global marketplace. Our economies of scale within our own segment of professional timber harvesting, supplying and trucking have witnessed changes in our markets. The economic downturn over the past two years has taken its toll on timber harvesting businesses and our rural communities supported by the forestry industry.

As our pulp and paper and even solid wood products industries continue to endure these economic hard times, the forest products industry, timber harvesters and timber suppliers face major challenges to merely survive.

As our industry faces the current economic woes caused by solid wood products markets reducing wood consumption due to decreased building and housing starts, the financial crisis, as well as the downturn in the pulp and paper markets, this has created tighter wood markets and an economic crunch not seen by our segment in a long time.

This economic crisis has many of our professional loggers, wood suppliers and timber truckers on the brink of closing. Never before has this industry witnessed such an economic strangle hold as we see right now.

The challenges faced now not only impact the timber harvesting and supply segments, but also impact solid wood products, pulp and paper products manufacturing and timberland owners.

An emerging alternative market is the utilization of woody biomass for the production of renewable energy, bio-fuels and other bio-related products such as ethanol. As our nation attempts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil resources, we see an opportunity for our industry to continue to have markets for harvested timber as well as woody biomass from harvesting residuals and even non-merchantable roundwood. We have the available resources from our sustainable and renewable forests.

Technology is becoming available to utilize woody biomass for the processes to convert woody material to various products. These processes are environmentally safe, efficient, "green in nature," improve our air and climate, sequester carbon, create jobs and are good for the utilization of our sustainable and renewable forest resources.

However, much is needed via support for increased funding from Washington to increase the incentives for current and potential users of woody biomass to create these alternative markets in South Carolina.

Likewise it is "imperative" the United States Congress pass Renewable Energy Policies that include wood and woody biomass within the definition of Renewable Biomass. Without wood and woody biomass being included, there is little to no incentive for any woody biomass markets to develop in South Carolina.

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Issues to be addressed and supported for sustaining the timber harvesting and forest products industry in South Carolina as well as nationally are;

- Support the Definition of Renewable Biomass to include woody biomass from private and public land ownerships for the production of renewable energy, bio-fuels and other bio-products; improving air quality; sequestering carbon; improving economic vitality of rural communities through increased employment; providing incentives for new woody biomass utilizing markets; reducing our dependence on foreign oil resources; and promoting sustainable economic growth. *Position Paper Included.*
 - Support legislation that provides incentives for research, development, installation, implementation and expansion of woody biomass markets for the production of renewable energy and woody biomass based products.
 - Support legislation to allow State Legal Gross Vehicle Weights to be trucked on the Interstate Systems **within** each state to improve highway safety, transportation logistics, reduce costs, improve motorists and truckers safety and reduce truck loads on rural and state highways by amending the United States Code, Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter I, Section 127(a) by adding the following paragraph: *“Individual State weight limitations and tolerances for agricultural (including forest) commodities that are applicable to State highways other than the Interstate System, shall be applicable in lieu of the requirements of this subsection.”* *Position Paper Included.*
 - Support USDA Forest Service Appropriations to continue full funding for the USDA Forest Service Timber Products line item in the 2011 Budget to increase the saw log volume harvested from U.S. Forest Service lands to 4 billion feet by 2013 to address our national forests health crisis, produce saw log material for existing forest industries supporting rural communities, increase employment opportunities thus improving local economies and improve the utilization of woody biomass for renewable energy generation. *Position Paper Included.*
 - Oppose legislation attempting to limit woody biomass utilization by competing markets so as to encourage an open market system for all woody products harvested from our renewable and sustainable forests.
 - Support legislation to reduce the amount of over burdensome regulatory authority exerted on businesses from the EPA and other federal agencies that discourage economic recovery and growth for the nation. The court and EPA’s Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology (Boiler MACT) Ruling is a prime example of such regulation that will cost tens of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs across our nation at a time when we can least afford it. EPA must not discourage the use of renewable biomass including woody biomass as a sustainable, renewable energy resource.
 - Support legislation providing financial incentives for professional timber harvesters to invest in woody biomass harvesting and processing equipment.
- Support legislation to reduce the tax burdens placed on small businesses to help stimulate economic recovery and growth.

On behalf of South Carolina’s professional loggers, timber producers and unmanufactured forest products truckers, please support legislation to sustain our healthy forests, provide new alternative markets for wood and woody biomass and sustain our entire forest products industry so it does not follow the course taken by the textile industry that moved off shore and has virtually faded away.

Our wood supply chain consisting of landowners, loggers and wood consumers need a viable industry to sustain and create jobs, improve economies, create emerging industries, compete in the global marketplace and sustain our healthy, sustainable and renewable forest resources.

Again, thank you for your service and support of our state and nation’s professional timber harvesting and forest products industries.

Sincerely,
Crad Jaynes
President & CEO
SC Timber Producers Association

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PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE
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SC businesses weather the gas price hikes

Timber, agriculture industries watching pump anxiously

By Jamie Self, *The Rock Hill Herald*, March 7, 2011

"How would you like to wake up in the morning knowing you need 8,000 gallons of fuel and have to pay for it in 10 days?"

That's the question Tommy Barnes, owner of Ideal Logging in Edgemoor, asks about once a week, now with increasing uncertainty as rising fuel costs have returned.

For businesses in the agricultural and logging industries, tightening their belts and scaling back operations are ways to weather fuel prices that experts say will only continue to rise.



Photo by Andy Burriss - Kenny Johnson with Ideal Logging secures a load of pine trees on U.S. 321 near McConnells.

While some local businesses are confident they'll survive the hikes, the balancing act for others is reaching a tipping point.

Already struggling against shrinking demand for solid woods for construction, loggers are now facing rapid increases in fuel costs.

Almost every piece of equipment needed to clear timber requires fuel: equipment for felling and bunching, cutting, removing limbs, debarking, and chipping all run on gas or diesel.

Then there are the trucks that transport the product to the mills. Not only fuel, but petroleum-derived engine oil and tires also drive up maintenance costs.

Some mills are paying loggers a little extra to help compensate for higher fuel costs, but usually those adjustments are "slow to react," kicking in after the logger has already absorbed the bulk of added cost, said Crad Jaynes, president of the state's Timber Producers Association.

And mills sometimes don't adjust what they'll pay because they've signed a contract for the price, leaving loggers with few ways to recoup costs.

Before the recession, more than 40,000 people were employed in jobs related to forestry, including loggers, mill workers, truckers, contractors, tree planters, and others, said Tim Adams, director of resource development for the

South Carolina Forestry Commission. About 4,200 of those jobs were in logging and trucking. They contributed to a \$17.4 billion industry, Adams said.

A more recent report isn't available, but Jaynes believes logging contractors have dropped by a third in more than a decade. "I'm afraid we're going to see more of our logging force go by the wayside."

Farms fare better

When Chester farmer Rusty Darby harvests what he expects to be 300 to 400 acres of wheat in coming months, he, too, will have no control of how much the flour mill will pay.

Fortunately, agriculture hasn't been hit as hard as other markets, he said. "There's been a world of demand for agricultural products, so we've seen a rise in our prices," he said. But it will surely cost more to drive truckloads of wheat more than 100 miles to the flour mill. At 6 miles to the gallon, the costs add up.

Darby also runs a wholesale fuel business as a way to decrease costs for his farming operation. In just three days, Darby's cost for fuel increased by 30 cents a gallon.

'Bouncing' costs

At the Farmers Exchange on Cherry Road, owner Bynum Poe is confident his family business of 70 years will get through the crunch. "We just have to tough it out. Hopefully, you're not in a position where you're overextended," Poe said.

The Farmers Exchange sells a lot of fertilizer, corn-based animal feed, and seeds and materials for growing vegetable gardens.

In a way, the business has benefited from a growing interest in backyard vegetable gardening brought on by groceries being more expensive now that fuel costs are higher.

But increasing fuel surcharges are being tacked onto orders, combining with already high costs for fertilizer and corn products. Those costs eventually reach the consumer.

The rising cost, he said, "winds up getting bounced eventually" from seller to customer, he said. "We try not to pass on more than we have to."

Steve Goorer, a Rock Hill-based landscaper, buys fertilizer from Poe. He said "local businesses are surviving because (they) take care of each other."

But for loggers such as Barnes, relief must come soon. The future of timber may lie in using wood for fuel, an idea environmentalists have criticized, he said.

"There have been times the past few weeks we're operating at a dead loss every day," Barnes said. "It's just to keep our supply going and to keep consistent with the mill and to keep our people working."

"You can only absorb so much and we're pretty saturated."

Press Release 3/22/11

Foresthauling.org Launches as the One-Stop Trucking Website for Loggers

Forest product haulers now have a one-stop website for both federal and state information. The site is www.foresthauling.org and is formatted as an easy to use dashboard that is easy to navigate. Links are to established sites for current information on regulatory compliance, safety record access, truck registrations, latest rulemaking, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) answers, state transportation laws, posted roads and bridges, special hauling permits and much much more. A key feature is the ability to work at the Federal information dashboard and then navigate to individual states. Haulers will be able to download information on their own state as well as states they cross into. An example would be understanding the special hauling permit requirements of an adjacent state. Other features are access to a trucking cost calculator under a "Cost of Doing Business" section and also a "Fuel Central" button that gives you up to date fuel pricing for your region. Safety resource material is also provided and a popular link back to www.loggingsafety.com that holds a multitude of trucking safety materials for logging businesses.

The individual state sites are organized in the following subjects or linked websites: state enforcement agencies, state transportation regulations, state trucking handbooks, special hauling permits, state truck registrations, general highway maps, primary truck routes, restricted roads, posted bridges, and escort certifications. Each state site also contains contact buttons for logging associations, forestry associations and trucking associations for additional resources as needed.

This site is expanding and if additional areas of information are needed you can reach the webmaster@foresthauling.org for requests. You can also request to be added to a special email distribution list of timely transportation issues impacting forest product haulers. The website was developed by the NC Association of Professional Loggers (NCAPL) through funding from the Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation (THAT'S). The NCAPL is the current custodian of the site and will be maintaining and improving www.foresthauling.org into the future.

Doug Duncan
Executive Director
NC Association of Professional Loggers, Inc.
contact@ncloggers.com
www.ncloggers.com



FOREST OWNERS TELL U.S. HOUSE: REASONABLE REGULATIONS CONSERVE FORESTS

Existing regulations for forestry protect water quality: keep forests economical

In a hearing before the U.S. House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Agriculture, David P. Tenny, President and CEO of the National Alliance of Forest Owners urged the Committees to rely on long standing EPA regulations to maintain water quality benefits from working forests.

Tenny provided his comments to the joint committee hearing to consider reducing the regulatory burdens posed by the court decision in the National Cotton Council v. EPA case. The decision requires a Clean Water Act permit for pesticide application in agriculture and forestry applications.

He told the Committees that existing laws, regulations and policies, developed and successfully implemented over several decades, protect water quality, promote forest retention and maintain public benefits.

Tenny said, "Private forests in the U.S. provide over 2.5 million jobs and \$87 billion in wages to American families. They are also recognized as the most sustainable forests in the world, in large part because of the effective relationship between markets that support long-term economics of forest ownership and a carefully tailored legal and policy framework adapted to local environmental conditions and needs. Layering on duplicative and unnecessary national regulations introduces significant costs and threaten the economic viability of forest ownership placing at risk rural jobs and the environmental and public benefits private forests provide. Pushed too hard, excessive regulation can force forestland into other land uses that prove to be more economically valuable."

He stressed that water quality is protected and enhanced under existing laws, "Best Management Practices (BMP's) and existing federal laws and regulations have a proven track record of improving water quality. The EPA should support existing policies to avoid unnecessary regulatory costs with no corresponding marginal environmental benefit."

To help conserve working forests and the jobs they support, Tenny urged Congress to, "reaffirm once and for all its 1972 intent that forest management is a non-point source and that pesticides are to be regulated under the rigorous procedures of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act."

HOUSING STARTS RISE 7.2 PERCENT IN MARCH

Nationwide housing starts rose 7.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 549,000 units in March from an upwardly revised number in the previous months, the U.S. Commerce Department reported. Coming on the heels of disappointing declines in February, this gain was represented in both single-family and multi-family sectors, and was mirrored by substantial improvements in building permit issuance for the same period.

"While the overall rate of new home production remains quite low and is still being weighted down by significant uncertainties among both home builders and buyers, this latest report is encouraging," said Bob Nielsen, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a home builder from Reno, Nevada. "It means some builders are cautiously beginning to restock their extremely thin inventories of new homes in anticipation of gradual improvement in consumer demand as the economy slowly inches toward recovery."

"The modest improvement in new home production and permitting in March is in line with our forecasts for incremental gains through the spring buying season," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "While our builder members continue to experience a great number of challenges with regard to competition from foreclosed and short-sale properties, low appraisal values and tight credit conditions, they have noted slight improvements in interest among qualified buyers, and they need to be ready to meet the demand as it materializes."

Gains in new home production were seen across the board in March, with upward movement registered in both the single-family and multi-family sectors as well as three out of four regions.

On the single-family side, a 7.7 percent gain to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 422,000 units partially offset a big decline in the previous month. Multi-family starts also gained back a portion of the ground they lost earlier, with a 5.8 percent increase to 127,000 units.

Regionally, housing starts posted double-digit gains of 32.3 percent in the Midwest, and 27.6 percent in the West, as well as a 5.4 percent gain in the Northeast. The South was the only region to post a decline in housing starts in March of 3.3 percent.

Meanwhile, issuance of building permits which can be an indicator of future building activity, rose by an impressive 11.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 594,000 units, more than offsetting the previous month's decline. Single-family permits rose 5.7 percent to 405,000 units, while multi-family permits rose 25.2 percent to 189,000 units.

The Northeast was the only region to not post a gain in building permits this March, remaining unchanged from the previous month. Meanwhile, the Midwest posted a 6.9 percent gain, the South a 6.3 percent gain, and the West a 37.1 percent gain.

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Power generator in upper Dorchester to keep tree limbs, right-of-way clearings out of landfill

By Warren Wise, The Post and Courier, Charleston

The cement district in upper Dorchester County is bracing for a jolt of alternative energy. An Alabama-based company will invest \$50 million to build a new wood waste-burning renewable power plant next year north of Harleyville, state and county officials announced Thursday, May 5th.

Southeast Renewable Energy said last September it would build the facility in 2012 in the county and generate 20 jobs over the next five years.

Biomass fuel plant

Southeast Renewable Energy will build a \$50 million wood waste-burning plant in 2012 and employ 20 people.



The new plant will be built near Interstate 26 and S.C. Highway 453 on an eight-acre tract on Seven Mile Road beside a Santee Cooper power substation, said Raine Cotton, president and chief executive officer.

Three cement-making plants sit close by on Highway 453.

The 15-megawatt biomass energy plant will use virgin wood residues such as tree limbs and right-of-way clearings as part of its fuel source. It will sell its generated power to state-owned electric and water utility Santee Cooper over the next 30 years.

It's a "win-win opportunity," Cotton said. "Utilizing the county's wood residue is not only sustainable, but it will also save them money and create local jobs."

The agreement with the county to use its virgin wood residue for fuel is expected to save Dorchester County about \$300,000 each year.

The company will collect brush and limbs now brought to the county's waste collection centers and keep it out of the landfill, County Council Chairman Larry Hargett said.

"Not only is SRE creating jobs and investing in Dorchester County, but our partnership will save the county money as well," he said.

Southeast Renewable Energy plans to build three \$50 million, 15-megawatt plants around the state, and Santee Cooper will buy power from them.

The other plants will be constructed in Kershaw and Allendale counties, also by the end of 2012, Cotton said.

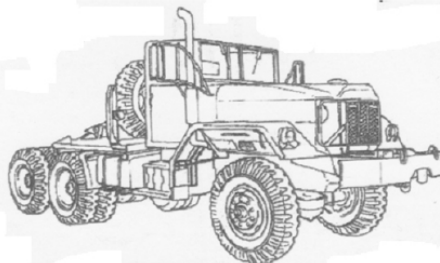
The new plants are expected to create many indirect jobs in the logging, trucking and forest product industries, he added.

Southeast Renewable Energy started in the ethanol business in 2000 but switched to biomass fuels three years ago.

The company will begin requesting applications for the new positions early next year, Cotton said.

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Safety Alert

SAFETY WHILE WORKING ON STORM DAMAGED TIMBER

Recent tornadoes across the southern states produced extremely hazardous conditions for loggers and clean-up personnel. The preferred way to remove this damaged wood under tension from the twisting winds is by mechanical means such as shovels, saw-head feller bunchers, etc.

However, if storm damaged timber must be harvested by employees using chainsaws, safety becomes a key concern as the danger presents a life-threatening risk. If you arrive at a site shortly after a storm, there may still be some “settling” going on.



Remember the wood is under severe tension and tensioned wood can explode forcefully when cut. Other dangers present include lodged trees, broken tops, difficult ground conditions due to up-rooted trees, debris from houses or jack-strawed limbs.

All these conditions are particularly hazardous, and even more so if you are carrying a chain saw. Be aware of all the hazards in a storm-damaged area.

OVER-HEAD HAZARDS

Catastrophic injury and death can result with this ever-present risk. Be aware and LOOK UP!!

- Proper head PPE is mandatory on the logging job.
- Look Up and Out! Identify possible risk from above.
- Don't place your body under anything that could fall, this includes equipment.
- Maintain at least two tree lengths from any felling operation.
- Be visible!!! **Wear high visible clothing.** Use proper felling techniques.

MAINTAIN PROPER WORKING DISTANCES

Ground personnel and moving logging equipment can create extreme risk.

- Awareness is the key for avoiding a “too close” incident.
- Proper PPE is to be worn at all times.

- High visibility clothing is essential.
- Maintain at least **two tree lengths** from any felling operation.
- Maintain proper distance from skidding activities. Toppers should use shield trees when possible.
- Machine operators should never enter a “safe zone” provided for ground personnel.
- All employees must be aware of “blind spots” on the logging equipment.
- Be especially cautious in and around the deck area, it's a busy place!

SLIPS/TRIPS/FALLS

Serious injuries occur often around a logging operation and risk is intensified with storm damage timber.

- Be alert and aware. Be focused! Keep your mind on the business at hand!
- Always use the **3-points of contact** technique while mounting and dismounting equipment.
- Keep platforms, steps and handles free from grease, oil and other foreign material.
- Maintain a firm grip while entering or exiting a machine.
- Proper footwear with good ankle support is mandatory. (No sneakers)
- Avoid climbing or walking on felled trees or limbs.
- Stay on the “uphill” side of felled timber and limbs.
- When not cutting, make sure the chain brake is engaged.

Never put ground personnel at risk when the mechanical option is available.

- Fully enclosed equipment and rotational felling heads greatly reduce risk levels.
- Pull-through or stroke delimbers, and other mechanical equipment increase safety by keeping personnel off the ground and out of the hazards of storm-damaged timber.

Thanks to J. J. Lemire, Director of Loss Control, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company for this Safety Alert.

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- **Members (with current paid dues) can use the pricing for SCTPA and will receive \$5 or more off normal pricing from their website.**
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- **The order forms for fax or email orders are available by contacting SCTPA. Members should have received the email forwarded with the information and order forms. (Provided SCTPA had correct email information in database)**
- **If you want more information for the other products found on their website, just contact Justin Partridge and you will receive special pricing on that as well.**
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Sale \$ 85-\$115-\$150



\$85



\$115



\$150

1.5 gal & 2.5 gal Extinguisher
 2.5 gal also available in red stainless
 MSRP \$200 (Ships Empty Cold Fire Agent Separate)
 HD Brackets are \$40.00 additional

Sale \$125 - \$130



\$125

\$130

HD Bracket \$40



**An open letter from the Conservation Chamber
of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Board
April 7, 2011**

As members of the Conservation Chamber of SFI's Board of Directors, we take strong exception to ForestEthics' current campaign against SFI.

It is precisely the power of SFI to sustain fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality and, ecosystem functions (including mitigating and adapting to climate change) on 180 million acres of forest throughout North America that motivates us to serve on SFI's board. By serving, we help SFI continue to improve an already strong mechanism to conserve forests and their environmental values.

Groups that spread misinformation about SFI could well be harming the forest environment. SFI provides a tremendous amount of on-the-ground conservation value - a value North Americans care deeply about. We believe SFI and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) are both excellent mechanisms that improve the environmental (and social and economic) values provided by forests. There is room and need for both programs.

The six of us who serve on the Environmental Chamber of the SFI Board have dedicated our lives to conservation. We would not be on the SFI Board if we did not believe it is a credible forest certification program, which we are able to advise and guide through our combined and diverse conservation expertise.

Sincerely,

George H. Finney, President, Bird Studies Canada

Thomas M. Franklin, Senior Director of Science and Policy, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

John M. Hagan, Ph.D., President, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

Roger Sedjo, Senior Fellow, Resources for the Future

Lawrence A. Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund

Mike Zagata, PhD President and CEO, Ruffed Grouse Society



SCDOT PUTS POSTED BRIDGES ON WEBSITE

SC Department of Transportation has completed its work to establish a site to show Weight Restricted Bridges. This has been an ongoing effort first requested by SCTPA when the additional 5 percent GVW tolerance for Unmanufactured Forest Products trucking was enacted which led to many more H-10 classified bridges being weight restricted across the state.

As a result of the 20 x 15 Infrastructure Task Force and SCTPA's efforts, the one goal that SCDOT committed to was to better communicate posted bridge information to foresters, loggers and trucking companies. This endeavor has finally been completed and is on the SCDOT Internet site.

Once you select and submit the county of interest, this feature displays a map with the posted bridge locations.

Clicking on the icon of the posted bridge will display specific information about that particular bridge posting.

A summary table is also displayed below the map listing all of the posted structures for your query.

The link to the site: <http://www.scdot.org/getting/bridgeloading.shtml>

Our thanks to David B. Cook, State Maintenance Engineer, SCDOT for his dedication to seeing this project through to completion.

SCTPA Comments: Using the quick link above, the site comes up and is very easy to use showing the bridges with weight restrictions and the weight information displayed per bridge. This tool should assist in routing trucks from harvesting sites to markets. Our thanks to SCDOT for getting this project completed.

SUMMER TEMPS CAN CREATE HEAT RELATED ILLNESSES

Protect yourself and other workers by learning the signs and symptoms of heat stress and how to treat it. Heat stress occurs in a hot environment when a worker's body cannot cool quickly enough.

The main environmental factors include: air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun, conductive heat sources such as the ground, air movement and workload severity and duration.

The three major forms of heat stress are heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat exhaustion is a serious problem, and heat stroke can kill you.

Ensure that a sufficient quantity of drinking water is readily accessible (as much as two gallons per person when exposed to temperature at or exceeding 89 degrees F.) to employees at all times; and that all employees have the opportunity to drink at least one quart of drinking water per hour.

<u>HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS</u>	<u>SIGNS & SYMPTOMS</u>	<u>FIRST AID</u>
Heat Cramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Muscle cramps or spasms - Grasping the affected area - Abnormal body posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drink water or sport drinks - Rest, cool down - Massage affected muscle - Get medical evaluation if cramps persist if cramps persist
Heat Exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High pulse rate - Extreme sweating - Pale face - Insecure gait - Headache - Clammy and moist skin - Weakness - Fatigue - Dizziness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Move to shade or air conditioned and loosen clothing; do not leave victim alone - Initiate rapid cooling. Fan person, spray cool water, or apply a wet cloth to a persons skin; but if worker begins to shiver, stop cooling - Lay flat & elevate feet - Monitor recovery - Drink small amounts of water - Evaluate mental status; ask who? Where? when? questions - If no improvement, call 911
Heat Stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any of the above, but more severe - Hot, dry skin (25-50% of cases) - Altered mental status with confusion or agitation - Can progress to loss of consciousness and seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call 911 - Move victim to cool shaded area; <u>do not leave victim alone</u> - If shaded area not available, blanket can be used to block sunlight - Start rapid cooling - Cool rapidly using whatever means you can. Fan person, spray with cool water, or wipe with a wet cloth or cover with a wet sheet - immerse in a tub of cool water, place in a cool shower. - Place icepacks under armpits and in the groin area - Lay flat & elevate feet - If conscious give sips of water - Monitor airway & breathing - Administer CP"R if needed - Can be fatal

How do you protect yourself from excessive heat stress?

- **Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate** – Before, during and after work. Drink plenty of water or electrolyte drinks, even when not thirsty. Up to 1 quart per hour during workday.

(Continued on page 34)

(Continued from page 33)

- Try to do the heaviest work during the cooler parts of the day.
- Adapt the pace of work to the heat. Take more breaks. Go slower when possible.
- Build up a tolerance to the heat and your work slowly.
- Wear light-weight, loose fitting, light colored, breathable (e.g. cotton) clothing.
- If possible, take regular breaks in the shade.
- Generally there will be sufficient rest/break time between turns or when fueling up your saw, equipment, etc. or during lunch. Additional breaks should be provided as necessary.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks (coffee, sodas) and heavy meals before or during work.
- If you or a coworker start feeling ill, stop, takes steps to cool down and immediately tell your supervisor.

You have a higher risk of heat stress if:

- You are not physically fit, not acclimated to the heat and/or overweight.
- You have a chronic illness like heart disease or diabetes.
- You drink alcohol or coffee or use medications that affect your body's water retention.
- You are dehydrated.
- You wear heavy or tight clothing. PPE like leg protection should be removed during rest breaks.

Summer's high temperatures and high humidity can create heat related illnesses in relatively short periods of time. Take the necessary precautions to prevent or reduce heat stress related problems.

SCTPA recommends this Safety Alert be used for a safety meeting with your crew.



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We've Become a Nation of Takers, Not Makers

More Americans work for the government than in manufacturing, farming, fishing, forestry, mining and utilities combined.

By Stephen Moore, April 1, 2011, The Wall Street Journal

If you want to understand better why so many states—from New York to Wisconsin to California—are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, consider this depressing statistic: Today in America there are nearly twice as many people working for the government (22.5 million) than in all of manufacturing (11.5 million). This is an almost exact reversal of the situation in 1960, when there were 15 million workers in manufacturing and 8.7 million collecting a paycheck from the government.

It gets worse. More Americans work for the government than work in construction, farming, fishing, forestry, manufacturing, mining and utilities combined. We have moved decisively from a nation of makers to a nation of takers. Nearly half of the \$2.2 trillion cost of state and local governments is the \$1 trillion-a-year tab for pay and benefits of state and local employees. Is it any wonder that so many states and cities cannot pay their bills?

Every state in America today except for two—Indiana and Wisconsin—has more government workers on the payroll than people manufacturing industrial goods. Consider California, which has the highest budget deficit in the history of the states. The not-so Golden State now has an incredible 2.4 million government employees—twice as many as people at work in manufacturing. New Jersey has just under two-and-a-half as many government employees as manufacturers. Florida's ratio is more than 3 to 1. So is New York's.

Even Michigan, at one time the auto capital of the world, and Pennsylvania, once the steel capital, have more government bureaucrats than people making things. The leaders in government hiring are Wyoming and New Mexico, which have hired more than six government workers for every manufacturing worker.

Now it is certainly true that many states have not typically been home to traditional manufacturing operations. Iowa and Nebraska are farm states, for example. But in those states, there are at least five times more government workers than farmers. West Virginia is the mining capital of the world, yet it has at least three times more government workers than miners. New York is the financial capital of the world—at least for now. That sector employs roughly 670,000 New Yorkers. That's less than half of the state's 1.48 million government employees.

Don't expect a reversal of this trend anytime soon. Surveys of college graduates are finding that more and more of our top minds want to work for the government. Why? Because in recent years only government agencies have been hiring, and because the offer of near lifetime security is highly valued in these times of economic turbulence. When 23-year-olds aren't willing to take career risks, we have a real problem on our hands. Sadly, we could end up with a generation of Americans who want to work at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The employment trends described here are explained in part by hugely beneficial productivity improvements in such traditional industries as farming, manufacturing, financial services and telecommunications. These produce far more output per worker than in the past. The typical farmer, for example, is today at least three times more productive than in 1950.

Where are the productivity gains in government? Consider a core function of state and local governments: schools. Over the period 1970-2005, school spending per pupil, adjusted for inflation, doubled, while standardized achievement test scores were flat. Over roughly that same time period, public-school employment doubled per student, according to a study by researchers at the University of Washington. That is what economists call negative productivity.

But education is an industry where we measure performance backwards: We gauge school performance not by outputs, but by inputs. If quality falls, we say we didn't pay teachers enough or we need smaller class sizes or newer schools. If education had undergone the same productivity revolution that manufacturing has, we would have half as many educators, smaller school budgets, and higher graduation rates and test scores.

The same is true of almost all other government services. Mass transit spends more and more every year and yet a much smaller share of Americans use trains and buses today than in past decades. One way that private companies spur productivity is by firing underperforming employees and rewarding excellence. In government employment, tenure for teachers and near lifetime employment for other civil servants shields workers from this basic system of reward and punishment. It is a system that breeds mediocrity, which is what we've gotten.

Most reasonable steps to restrain public-sector employment costs are smothered by the unions. Study after study has shown that states and cities could shave 20% to 40% off the cost of many services—fire fighting, public transportation, garbage collection, administrative functions, even prison operations—through competitive contracting to private providers. But unions have blocked many of those efforts. Public employees maintain that they are underpaid relative to equally qualified private-sector workers, yet they are deathly afraid of competitive bidding for government services.

President Obama says we have to retool our economy to "win the future." The only way to do that is to grow the economy that makes things, not the sector that takes things.

Mr. Moore is senior economics writer for The Wall Street Journal editorial page.



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What to Do When ForestEthics Comes Knocking?

By Kathy Abusow, President, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

April 8, 2011

Companies large and small have made great strides in relying on forest certification standards for sourcing wood and paper products. Unfortunately, a group called ForestEthics is engaged in a campaign to pressure companies to choose only one standard, the Forest Stewardship Council, to the exclusion of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which I run, and all the others. FSC is certainly a strong option, and both of our programs have grown stronger because the other exists.

However, this campaign is undermining not just SFI, but all of the valued forest certification programs. And it could have unintended consequences for forests and communities across North America.

Recently, ForestEthics announced that several Fortune 500 companies had stopped using SFI. We checked with most those companies and found that many were caught in the unfortunate position of managing ForestEthics pressure tactics and had no desire to take such a public stance.

These companies, as we currently understand it, have not stopped using products from SFI certified companies, but most have been pressured to drop the use of the SFI label on products as a mechanism to appease ForestEthics.

Why is it acceptable to ForestEthics that companies still source from SFI forests, provided they don't label it? Could it be that ForestEthics only cares about appearances? Does ForestEthics understand that FSC-labeled products can include a substantial amount of SFI-certified content thanks to complex supply chains? Why is it acceptable to ForestEthics that the FSC label be put on products containing SFI content and yet it is unacceptable for the SFI label to be put on products containing SFI content?

We hope those supporting ForestEthics will take a closer look at its contribution to responsible forestry, and also take a closer look at SFI's contribution. We hope they will recognize that 37 SFI implementation committees have trained or recognized training for more than 100,000 loggers. We hope they will come to realize SFI's contribution to landowner outreach and education, and the training and awareness that is provided for adherence to best management practices for water quality. For example, our program participants have invested more than \$1 billion in forest research to help drive continual improvement.

The truth is, independent experts and respected organizations around the world, including the United Nations and Society of American Foresters, have recognized multiple certifications and report that there is a growing convergence among them. According to the National Association of State Foresters, SFI, FSC and other standards used in North America "include the fundamental elements of credibility and make positive contributions to forest sustainability."

We are puzzled that a program that invests in conservation and community grants to solve local, national and international forestry issues should be the subject of a misinformation campaign. We know that the market, science-based conservation groups and our partners are tiring of this. Moreover, they know that shunning domestic products from forests managed to high standards hurts forest communities and costs jobs.

So, what's a responsible procurement professional to do? First and foremost, get the facts. Don't fall prey to pressure tactics. Be informed, check facts directly with forest certification programs and make informed decisions that align with your organization's values. Look for inclusive policies that open the door to all credible tools that advance sustainability agendas. When buying forest-based products (such as office paper or packaging or building products), look for

(Continued on page 44)

To The South Carolina General Assembly



A thriving economy and the future health and prosperity of South Carolina depend on our commitment to our water and air, our natural areas, our farms and forests, our wildlife and our scenic vistas. These assets are important to all South Carolinians and are intended to be passed along to future generations in as good and hopefully better shape than we found them. Whether it is hunting for white-tailed deer or turkey, fishing for spot-tail bass, or hiking one of the many trails that crisscross our state, outdoor pursuits are a deep tradition in our state.

Forestry, farming, outdoor recreation and tourism are the largest sectors of South Carolina's economy, contributing \$54 billion annually and accounting for about 463,000 jobs. This means that land and water resources are responsible for nearly a third of our state's economy and roughly one in four jobs.

Five agencies are charged with the stewardship of these public resources: **S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) • S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT) • S.C. Forestry Commission • S.C. Conservation Bank • S.C. Department of Agriculture.** In recent years, these agencies have seen their budgets drastically slashed, threatening their core operations.

Economic Facts on Nature-Based Agencies

- These five agencies manage and protect our state's most valuable public resources on **less than 1 percent** of the total state budget.
- The combined contribution of agriculture, forestry, tourism, and outdoor pursuits to the state's economy is about **than \$54 billion per year** or about **1/3 of the state's economy**.
- These natural resource-based sectors sustain more than **463,000** jobs in South Carolina, which amounts to about 25% of all jobs in South Carolina.
- Agribusiness, which includes agriculture and forestry, along with tourism are the No. 1 and No. 2 industries in the state.
- Our quality of life and these natural assets are now a significant draw for new industry and business.
- Recent studies also project that investments in these agencies will create jobs and increase revenues by millions of dollars. For example, an April 2010 study by the University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business on the SCDA Certified South Carolina Grown program reports that *"\$23 million in additional revenue for the state (not counting local) government would potentially be generated from a \$2 million appropriation."* The same report projects just over 10,000 additional South Carolina jobs from greater local purchasing of Certified SC Grown products.

Despite the combined economic contribution of these agencies and the major role they play in preserving our quality of life, budget cuts threaten core operations in the following ways:

- DNR incurred a 28% cut in Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010 from the previous year and then endured an additional 22% cut in Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011. Throughout the state, 93 conservation officer positions have been cut. In fact, Marion County is without a resident DNR officer while Dillon, Union and Hampton Counties only have one each.
- The SC Department of Agriculture's budget has been reduced by over a third in recent budget cycles, and these cuts have impacted the agency's operations to ensure the safety and security of our state's food and agricultural products. Significant reductions in the number of inspectors, now 20, and reduced funds for laboratories affects a wide range of services that the SCDA provides the state, including fuel inspections and testing foods and seeds.
- The Forestry Commission's budget has been reduced 46% from \$18.1 million to \$9.8 million during the last two fiscal years, FY 2009 and FY 2010, and the current fiscal year, FY 2011. Approximately 100 vacancies, many being frontline firefighters, means that South Carolinians' property and lives continue to be placed in jeopardy in the event of wildfires. Equipment replacement funds have been negligible for 15 years putting firefighters and the public at great risk due to unreliable dozers, trucks, and pumpers. Also, funds are critically needed to fulfill the Commission's mission of economic development and the growth of forest industry jobs.

(Continued on page 43)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2011

POTOMAC FORUM BRINGS TOGETHER EXPERTS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL LOGGING

WASHINGTON, DC – Participants at an international forum on illegal logging heard how actions such as government regulations, market demand, and increased knowledge are helping to combat illegal logging – but that the issue demands further vigilance and effort.

The 4th Potomac Forum on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, hosted by Forest Trends on May 4 with support from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] Inc. (SFI[®]), the World Bank, and others, explored changes that are having a positive impact, including government regulations such as the Lacey Act in the United States and the European Union (EU) Timber Regulation, increased market demand for legal products, and growing expertise among conservation groups and the private sector. Participants discussed the growing recognition that legality is a shared responsibility of consumer, processor, and producer countries, and that third-party forest certification offers a valuable tool to address legality.

The one-day forum brought together more than 100 experts, many of them specialists in development and trade from U.S. and foreign government agencies, the forest industry and nongovernmental organizations. In addition to SFI Inc. and the World Bank, sponsors included the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), PROFOR, the U.S. Forest Service and Forest Legality Alliance. Illegal logging is a major international issue that can undermine good forest governance, leading to the loss of wildlife habitat and reducing the potential for forests to provide stable supplies of products and support local communities.

“This kind of gathering shows how we can reduce the social, environmental and economic damage caused by illegal logging if we work together to increase knowledge and look for practical solutions,” said Forest Trends President Michael Jenkins. “Market choices are having a direct impact, and this in turn helps to improve forest conservation and the livelihoods of people.” Forest Trends is an international non-profit organization that works to expand the value of forests to society by promoting sustainable forest management and conservation.

In his closing remarks to the Forum, World Bank Forests Adviser Gerhard Dieterle emphasized the importance of linking on-going forest governance work with the wider development agenda in developing countries, and praised the role of multistakeholder partnerships in promoting forest legality. The Bank has been a strong supporter of forest law enforcement and governance work in different regions over the last decade. “The work being done by the EU, as well as by the United States and partner country governments with the private sector and the civil society, is very complementary,” he said. He congratulated the EU and the Government of Indonesia for the successful conclusion of the VPA negotiations.

(Continued on page 41)

- more -



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SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow said the Potomac Forum received funding through the SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program because it is building capacity in promoting responsible procurement of forest products globally. “Forest certification can help meet demands for forest products from legal sources,” she said. “SFI chain of custody and fiber sourcing requirements address the reality of global markets, and make sure program participants perform risk assessments to avoid offshore fiber from controversial sources such as illegal harvesting operations.”

-30-

About Forest Trends

Forest Trends (www.forest-trends.org), a Washington D.C.-based international non-profit organization, was created in 1999 by leaders from conservation organizations, forest products firms, research groups, multilateral development banks, private investment funds and philanthropic foundations. Its mission is to expand the value of forests to society; to promote sustainable forest management and conservation by creating and capturing market values for ecosystem services; to support innovative projects and companies that are developing these markets; and to enhance the livelihoods of local communities living in and around those forests.

About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Across North America, more than 180 million acres are certified to the SFI forest management standard, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and/or post-consumer recycled content. The SFI program’s unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers’ lands. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

About the World Bank

The World Bank (www.worldbank.org) is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. Its mission is to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity, and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors. Forest resources are crucial to this effort because of their contribution to the livelihoods of the poor, the potential they offer for sustainable economic development, and the essential global environmental services they provide.

Contacts:

Nadine Block
Senior Director, Gov’t Outreach
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Nadine.Block@sfiprogram.org
202 596-3456

Kerstin Canby
Director, Forest Trade & Finance
Forest Trends
kcanby@forest-trends.org
202 298-3015

Tuukka Castrén,
Senior Forestry Specialist
World Bank
tcastrén@worldbank.org
202 458-5422



Matt Carter, Congressman Mick Mulvaney's staff



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(Continued from page 39)

- SC PRT's budget has been reduced by 52% over the past 3 fiscal years and 122 jobs are vacant, which totals about 25% of the workforce. SCPRT has been forced to close the SC Welcome Centers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and it struggling to maintain State Park Operations without disruption to the general public.

The board members, directors, and staff at each of these agencies are dedicated to the best interest of South Carolina and are gravely concerned about the negative consequences - to both state jobs and natural resource management - from further reduced budgets. We have worked with these fellow citizens and know the sincerity and validity of these concerns.

For the future prosperity of South Carolina, we collectively ask the members of the General Assembly to protect these agencies from any further significant cuts. Instead, we hope that you will invest in our state's future by supporting the programs that fuel our economy, protect our quality of life, and enable South Carolina to capitalize on our best assets and traditions in our natural resources.

(Continued from page 37)

products that carry the SFI, PEFC or FSC label. Only 10 percent of the world's forests are certified, so seeking these products helps create demand for certifying the remaining 90 percent.

We aim to work constructively with organizations throughout the supply chain to ensure that these campaigns don't cause procurement professionals to throw up their hands and decide that responsible forestry is more trouble than it's worth.

In the end, we can all have preferences, but it is healthier and more sustainable if these preferences are a product of informed decision-making and not the result of pressure tactics. Guilt, pressure and misinformation are not the ingredients that drive sustainability.

Kathy Abusow is the President and CEO of Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. and works with landowners, forest product producers, buyers, government organizations and conservation groups to promote forest certification throughout the supply chain.



Timber Talk

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

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Mark Your Calendar

May 2011

- 24 SC Forestry Commission Seminar, *Seeing the Forest for the Trees: A Seminar on Growing Wood Exports*, Newberry Firehouse Conference Center, 8:30 am – 5 pm. Newberry. Contact Anita Patel, apatel@findnewmarkets.com, 803-777-1177.
- 24 Newberry District 2 & Saluda District 1 Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 p.m.

June 2011

- 8 SC Society of American Foresters Summer Meeting, Saluda Shoals Park & Conference Center, Columbia. Biomass will be the featured topic.
- 21 - 24 SC Teachers Tour, Pee Dee Area Forestry Tour, Florence
- 30 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SCFC Headquarters, Columbia, 10 a.m.

July 2011

- 30 American Loggers Council Summer Board Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio

August 2011

- 3 TOP Safety Management for Professional Loggers Class, Georgetown
- 4 TOP Harvest Planning Class, Georgetown
- 25 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SCFC Headquarters, Columbia, 10 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

Event & meeting dates may change. Notices are mailed prior to SCTPA events. SCTPA events & meetings qualify for SFI Trained Continuing Education Credits.

Need Training & SFI Trained Credits?

SCTPA can provide training programs for members for SFI Trained Continuing Education Credits. Programs offered for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

Truck Driver Training Workshops will be scheduled. Watch the Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter for dates. Notices for SCTPA workshops & events will be forwarded.

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Our Mission

The **Mission** of the *South Carolina Timber Producers Association* is to serve as the voice for timber harvesting and allied timber businesses to advance the ability of its members to professionally, ethically, efficiently, safely, environmentally and profitably harvest, produce and transport timber to meet the timber supply demands of our state by providing continuing educational and training opportunities, distributing timber harvesting, hauling, manufacturing and selling information, representing our members in national and state-wide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.