



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

2017 Annual Meeting Review

Loggers Are Heroes!

By SCTPA President, Crad Jaynes

A tremendous attendance highlighted our 18th Annual Membership Meeting at DoubleTree by Hilton Resort Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, Myrtle Beach, February 10 – 12 for a successful meeting with over four hundred fifteen members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and friends attending to hear informative speakers, attend the SFI TOP Trained Update DVD module session, visit with exhibitors, conduct association business and enjoy the fellowship of industry peers.

2016 was a challenging year for our industry with market fluctuations, strange weather conditions and all the usual challenges loggers and wood suppliers face. But our *Loggers Are Heroes*, and continued to supply the wood to our wood receiving facilities. So it was great to see so many attend which is a great tribute to everyone and a great indication of the interests in our association and annual meeting for hearing the speakers, learning about the industry and discussing issues among peers.

THANKS to everyone for making our 18th Annual Meeting successful, in-



formative and pleasurable. Your support was absolutely tremendous.

Loggers Are Heroes was our theme which is appropriate for the wood supply chain link that makes the forest products industry so great. The wood moves from the harvesting sites to the wood receiving points because of the dedication, commitment and professionalism of professional loggers.

Thanks to our members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors and guests

for making this annual meeting a great experience.

Team Safe Trucking (TST) held a meeting on the Thursday afternoon prior to our annual meeting and was well attended by over fifty representatives. Great progress was made as TST moves forward developing a Truck

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Driver Training Module, improving the TST website and updating subcommittees and their work assignments. TST is moving forward and will be a great resource for trucking and driver safety, training and information.

The conference began with the Friday afternoon board meeting discussing annual meeting business, and hearing from Todd Martin, Executive Director and Jason Slatten, Chief Financial Officer of the Southern Loggers Cooperative (SLC) for the partnership of SCTPA and Southern Loggers Cooperative and the progress of the three SC fuel depots operating now in Georgetown, Allendale and Orangeburg. The 2016 association financials were reviewed and approved by the board. Others in attendance were Rick Quagliaroli, Swamp Fox Agency, LLC and Keith Biggs, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company.

Friday evening's Welcome Reception featured Mike Lockaby and the *No Holes Barred* band of Columbia playing a variety of music.

Saturday's General Session speakers were outstanding. Dr. Shawn Baker, Forisk Consulting, Athens, GA, led the morning off



Dr. Shawn Baker

presenting the results of the Compensation Indices Comparison project he completed funded by the Wood Supply Research Institute. This project analyzed and reported on how logging employees and log truck drivers compare with like industries of similar workers such as construction, agriculture and similar trucking industries in regions across the country. It was

determined that our industry compares pretty well with wage and benefit packages.

Next up was Wendy Farrand, WFarrand Consulting, Limerick, ME, nationally known writer and presenter, with her *Loggers Are Heroes* presentation about the people side of logging. She talked about how millennials are different these days and need



Wendy Farrand speaks

to be approached differently to get them engaged in wanting to be woods workers in our industry. She

related how our industry must act now positively in focusing in on the "younger generations" to get their interest tweaked in becoming our next generation of loggers and workers.

After a break so everyone could visit with the twenty-four exhibitors inside the conference center and enjoy mid-morning coffee and snacks, Pete

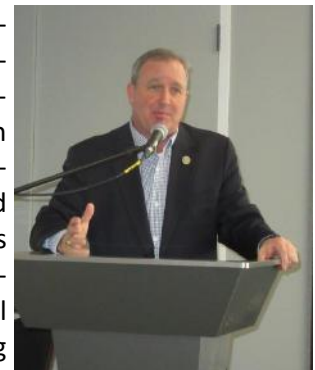


Pete Stewart and daughter Angelina

Stewart of Forest2Market, Charlotte, NC presented data on SC's forest resources, market conditions nationally and globally and where the forest products industry was standing economically now and for the future.

The Saturday luncheon featured our special guests, South Carolina Third District Congressman Jeff Duncan and former Florida Congressman and now Senior Vice President of Capitol Hill Consulting Group Steve Southerland. These two speakers were absolutely amazing.

Jeff talked about the "New Hill" in DC and that he was cautiously optimistic about the changes going on, but noted the attitudes had changed since the November elections. There is more work to be done. He stated he is committed to supporting our industry and the forest products industry and would support issues being presented by the American Loggers Council. His passion was clear as he is very supportive of maintaining and improving our nation's security, supporting regulatory changes for small businesses and helping make our national economy strong.



Congressman Jeff Duncan

Steve was

equally outstanding. He got everyone's attention when he commented, "I know what you go through. I've bought skidders, feller bunchers, loaders and trucks." He was a fifty percent partner in his brother's, Tim Southerland, logging business K & B Land & Timber when the business started. Brother Tim is a two time Florida Logger of the Year.

Steve was passionate about how the industry must

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Steve Southerland

work harder to get its message received on The Hill in order to get actions on legislation for the industry. He noted times have changed in DC, but much work is to be done to change things for an improved economy, regulatory changes for reducing the regulatory burdens on businesses and promoting a greater nation.

The Business Session opened with the 2016 financial report by CPA Larry Godwin of Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP. Members were provided the statement as he reviewed the association's financial status. He talked about the financial improvement of the association due to the dues received and the revenues from the Forestry Mutual Insurance Company endorsement and the Swamp Fox Agency, LLC insurance program assisting over the year. The association ended the year with a positive financial balance.

Larry asked the members to talk about the association's value and challenged everyone to seek new members and asked if you can, contribute a little more to keep the association moving forward for their best interests.

Secretary-Treasurer Robby Crowder reported no bylaws changes were on the table. Rickey Chapman, Chapman Timber, Inc., Newberry, Robby Crowder, Land & Timber, LLC, Greenwood and Bo Bo Seckinger, Seckinger Forest Products, Inc., Hampton were re-elected to the board for seats 1, 3 and 8 respectively.



Jason Wilks & Phillip Sligh

The luncheon awards session began with Philip Sligh of Forestry Mutual Insurance Company presenting their company's SC Logger of the Year award to Jason Wilks and Wilks Logging, Inc., Chester for their safety, operational performance and business practices

as a Forestry Mutual policy holder.

Greg Hutson, Swamp Fox Agency, Inc. presented their Timber Industry Leadership Award to Donnie Lambert, Leo Lambert Logging, Inc., Georgetown.



Greg Hutson & Donnie

SC State Forester Gene Kodama and Deputy State Forester Tom Patton presented the SC Forestry Commission's Challenge Coin for Excellence coins and plaques to SCTPA board member Danny McKittrick



(l-r) Tom Patton, Danny McKittrick, Crad Jaynes & Gene Kodama

for the association and to president Crad Jaynes individually in recognition for excellence in ensuring the accomplishment of the Forestry Commission's mission by making a significant and lasting contribution that is above and beyond the norm and to serve as a reminder of

this valuable service.

SCTPA President's awards were to be presented to SC Congressman Jeff Duncan and Steve Southerland. However, both gentlemen slipped out before the presentations could be made. The awards will be presented to them when SCTPA visits Washington, DC March 30th. Both gentlemen are great supporters of our professional timber harvesting, sustainable forestry and forest products industries.

Crad proudly presented the 2016 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award to William and Linda Wilkerson, Wilkerson Logging, Inc., Hickory Grove for their outstanding work in professional timber harvesting oper-



(l-r) Crad Jaynes, William & Linda Wilkerson

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ations, positive advocacy, community activities, professional business practices, association and industry leadership and positively representing the logging profession and sustainable forestry.



Wilkerson Logging, Inc.

Annual meeting sponsors were recognized and thanked for their tremendous financial support as well as the exhibitors for displaying their services and products. Twenty-four exhibitors were on hand with inside display tables.

Thanks to Delaine, Mary, and Brenda for their sales work for the Browning Rifle, Honda Pioneer 500 Utility Vehicle, Honda Generator and DoubleTree by Hilton stay drawings. Thanks to Nichols Store in Rock Hill for furnishing the Browning A-Bolt III 308-Caliber, Realtree Xtra Camo Rifle equipped with Buckmasters II 3-9x40 Matte BCD Riflescope and Browning Carrying Case and Ammo. The rifle was won by Greg Thompkins, Bay Area Forest Products, LLC of Georgetown. Thanks to everyone for buying those rifle tickets.

Our Silent Auction was successful again raising funds to assist the association's operating budget and SCTPA's Wood Supply Research Institute Logger segment commitment. There were 43 items on hand for the silent auction. Thanks to all the wonderful members, allied suppliers and friends for your donations.

Thanks to everyone for purchasing the Big Drawing



tickets for the Honda Pioneer 500 Utility Vehicle, the Honda EU2000i Quiet Portable Generator and the four days / three nights at DoubleTree by Hilton Resort Myrtle Beach Oceanfront. And what happened can only happen once in a lifetime. Jim Curry, Piedmont Pulp, Inc. in Laurens won all three big drawing items. No it wasn't rigged... Just the luck of the draws and Jim had all the luck this time. Thanks to everyone who participated for making this a successful fund raising event to support the association.

Saturday afternoon's SFI TOP Trained Update Class featured SC Forestry Commission's BMP Foresters Hol-



SFI TOP Session

ly Welch, Eric West, Michael Broom and BMP Chief Herb Nicholson leading the session. Loggers and foresters attended fulfilling their July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 SFI Trained status continuing education requirement.



Sunday Prayer Breakfast

Sunday's prayer breakfast was outstanding featuring the spirit filled southern gospel group Hi-Cotton. This talented group provided an inspirational message through song and testimonies to make this a blessed event. As they say, "We don't claim to be professional just a group of ordinary men that love Jesus and love

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to share His message with this world.” Thanks guys... y'all did a great job.

A big grateful hug and heartfelt thanks to my sister-in-law Delaine Peake, her cousin Mary Rawl and my wife Brenda for their tireless and tremendous efforts in making our annual meeting successful. Couldn't do it without y'all. Thanks... you are the best.

Thanks again to our sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors for your contributions and willingness to attend.

And THANKS again to everyone for attending and making our 18th Annual Meeting GREAT!



(l-r) SCFA's Cam Crawford & Steve Southerland



Hi Cotton



Jeff Duncan answers questions



The Wilkerson Logging Clan



Wendy Farrand & Shawn Baker

(l-r) Steve
Southerland,
Crad Jaynes
& Jeff Duncan



Gallery



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American Loggers Council Outlines Priorities for New President, Congress



Note: The following is from a press release sent on Jan. 16

The American Loggers Council (ALC) outlined key priorities for the 115th United States Congress and the Trump Administration's first two years. As the national organization representing America's professional timber harvesters, ALC believes the new Congress and President should take advantage of an historic opportunity to protect and create family-wage jobs.

"Voters sent a clear message that it's time to put Americans back to work, and strengthening the forest products industry is one way to accomplish that goal in communities across the country," said Daniel Dructor, ALC Executive Vice President. "Professional timber harvesters provide the raw materials that supports manufacturing jobs in many sectors, from lumber to renewable energy. Many logging companies are small, family-owned businesses. To keep American loggers working in the woods, President Trump and Congress should pursue reforms in federal regulations and land management, as well as labor, transportation and energy policies."

ALC's top priorities include:

Regulatory Accountability Act: The American Loggers Council joins the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in supporting swift action on Regulatory Accountability Act that has already been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 5). The legislation builds on established principles of fair regulatory process and review that have been embodied in bipartisan executive orders dating to at least the Clinton administration. The Act would make the regulatory process more transparent, agencies more accountable for their decisions, and regulations better-tailored to achieve their purpose without unnecessary burdens on stakeholders.

Federal Forest Management Reform: Much of America's forest land is controlled by the federal government. While a large portion of federally-owned forests are non-reserved and suitable for sustainable timber production, harvest levels on federal lands remain low. With up to 80 million acres of federal forest land vulnerable to wildfire, insects and disease, and in need of treatment, ALC supports reforms to increase the pace and scale of forest projects. ALC supports sensible reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act, and supports giving the U.S. Forest Service adequate resources to prepare and implement forest projects.

Future Careers in Logging: Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products from the forest to receiving mills is passed down from one generation to the next. Timber harvesting operations are very similar to family farms with sophisticated and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn how to run the business, including equipment operation and maintenance, prior to obtaining the age of eighteen. Currently, there are no on-the-ground programs in place to facilitate that training and ensure the sustainability of the timber harvesting industry's next generation of family members who choose to enter the profession. ALC supports extending the agricultural exemption now enjoyed by family farmers and ranchers to train their sixteen- and seventeen-year-old sons and daughters to carry on the family business to mechanical timber harvesters.

Carbon Neutrality of Biomass: Congress must pass legislation formally recognizing the renewability and carbon benefits of biomass energy derived from wood and plant material, putting biomass in the same category as wind, solar, and other renewables. Often derived from bark, sawdust, treetops, and low-quality wood unsuitable for home building or furniture, biomass can be used instead of fossil fuels to produce heat and electricity, resulting in significantly fewer emissions than conventional energy sources. Science recognizes biomass is a well-established way to reduce green-

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house gas pollution. As the federal government mandates the production and use of renewable energies, recognizing the carbon neutrality of biomass would provide certainty and increase investments in biomass facilities.

Predictable and Uniform State-Federal Transportation Standards: Across state lines, loggers and truck drivers often encounter patchwork and inconsistent transportation laws and regulations. ALC supports more predictable weight limit standards for hauling forest products, and other measures to improve efficiency and safety.



Urge Congress to Support the Future Careers in Logging Act

American Loggers Council is preparing once again to push for action on the Future Careers in Logging Act. ALC Executive Vice President Danny Dructor recently visited Washington DC to lay the groundwork for the introduction of bipartisan legislation in the 215th United States Congress that convenes in January. You can support ALC's efforts by writing your Congressman and Senators to support the bills.

ALC's goal is to ensure the health of the industry and in so doing support entrance of youth into this important economic sector of our country, opening up opportunity that is already afforded to farmers and ranchers to professional timber harvesters. Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products from the forest to receiving mills is passed down from one generation to the next.

Timber harvesting operations are labor intensive, highly mechanized and technical careers that require on-the-ground training to promote efficiencies and expertise in performing those operations. Today's current mechanical logging machines are enclosed with safety cages that protect the occupant from many of the hazards previously experienced in conventional chain saw harvesting operations. The workman's comp. claims history bears this out – logging in today's enclosed machines is as safe as many other professions where sixteen to eighteen year olds are allowed to work.

In many respects, timber harvesting operations are very similar to family farms with sophisticated

and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn how to run the business, including equipment operation and maintenance, prior to obtaining the age of eighteen. Currently, there are no on-the-ground programs in place to facilitate that training and ensure the sustainability of the timber harvesting industry's next generation of family members who choose to enter the profession.

Other agricultural businesses, including farmers and ranchers, enjoy exemptions to existing child labor laws that permit family members between the ages of sixteen and seventeen to participate in and learn the operations of the family businesses under the direction and supervision of their parents. However, young men and women under the age of eighteen who are members of families that own and operate timber harvesting companies are denied the opportunity to work and learn the family business because of current child labor laws.

The American Loggers Council (ALC) supports extending the agricultural exemption now enjoyed by family farmers and ranchers to train their sixteen and seventeen year old sons and daughters to carry on the family business to mechanical timber harvesters. The exemption would ensure that the next generation of mechanical timber harvesters can gain the needed on-the-ground training and experience under the close supervision of their parents who have a vested interest in their children's safety and in passing down the profession to the next generation of timber harvesters. You can help get this much-needed legislation to President Trump's desk in 2017.

Reform Measure

The U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 11 passed Small Business Committee Chairman Steve Chabot's measure to force federal regulators to craft smarter, less burdensome regulations that take into consideration their direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect economic effects, especially on small businesses.

Chabot's bill, introduced as the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2017, passed the House as Title III of H.R. 5, the Regulatory Accountability Act.

"Small businesses are found in every congressional district and every industry," Chairman Chabot (R-Ohio) said. "They provide livelihoods for millions of workers and their families. Small businesses employ nearly half of the private sector workforce and generate two out of every three new private sector jobs."

"The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act eliminates loopholes that agencies, like the Internal Revenue Service, have used to avoid compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)," Chabot explained. "It also forces agencies to analyze not only direct, but also indirect effects of rules on small businesses – just as agencies are required to do when promulgating major rules affecting the environment."

See more about what regulatory reform means for America's 28 million small businesses here.
Biomass and the US EPA Under Trump

Note: This article was written by Bob Cleaves of the Biomass Power Association

Since Election Day, the media and Washington insiders have been placing their bets on what the coming Trump administration will look like, and the policies it will implement, along with the Republican-controlled House and Senate. While much about the coming administration remains unknown, Trump's nominee for the U.S. EPA, Scott Pruitt, may shed light on where federal biomass policy is headed.



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Pruitt, currently serving as the attorney general for Oklahoma, is a vocal opponent of federal regulatory power. A climate change skeptic, he joined a lawsuit by Republican state attorneys general to overturn the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and joined a separate lawsuit to overturn EPA regulations to limit methane from the oil and gas sector. After taking office in 2010, Pruitt established a Federalism Unit to "more effectively combat unwarranted regulation and systematic overreach by federal agencies, boards and offices."

Based on his past actions and stated preference for stronger state power, it seems likely that Pruitt, if confirmed by the Senate as EPA administrator, will weaken the agency's federal authority by strengthening state authority to regulate on environmental issues.

So how would that affect biomass? Interestingly, despite plenty of media and expert analysis lamenting the new direction that Pruitt will likely take in environmental regulation, a federalist approach to biomass doesn't diverge too far from the agency's current approach.

While the Clean Power Plan is unlikely to move forward, the plan very much left up to the states, including whether and how to include biomass in state implementation plans to reduce carbon emissions. The agency just released in December a final version of the draft model rule, which would have gone into effect for states that did not submit an implementation plan. The model rule again—and, somewhat confusingly—reiterated that the incorporation of biomass would be left up to the states.

Given a likely growing state authority on environmental regulation, we are cautiously optimistic for stronger support for biomass power. On the state and local levels, the nonpower benefits of biomass power become even more pronounced than they

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often are by looking at the full national power supply. Because of the current state of the power market, with fossil fuels like natural gas costing a fraction of wood fuels, we are seeing what happens when a state faces a potential reduction of power from biomass.

In 2016, California and Maine both passed measures to keep biomass power facilities online. California's tree mortality crisis—with 100 million dead trees on federal, private and state lands—caused many in the state, including some unexpected biomass supporters, to acknowledge the crucial role of biomass in taking on hazardous fuels. In Maine, legislators realized the importance in the wood product supply chain of biomass, which accounts for as much as a third of the livelihood of some loggers.

Many other states have implemented highly-supportive biomass power policies. Oregon has declared biomass carbon neutral. Every state with a renewable portfolio standard—some 37 states plus Washington, D.C.—recognizes the role of biomass. Minnesota, South Carolina and New Hampshire were all leaders in building models for the inclusion of biomass in their state implementation plans for the Clean Power Plan.

A decentralized EPA may be a change for some, but the biomass industry is well prepared to face these changes. As an Oklahoma state senator, EPA Administrator nominee Scott Pruitt sponsored a successful resolution supporting the development and promotion of "alternative energy" sources, including biomass. If the Senate confirms his nomination, we expect that his EPA won't have any problems with continued state support for biomass.



BEST LAWYER / INSURANCE STORY OF THE YEAR, DECADE, AND POSSIBLY THE CENTURY

This actually took place in Charlotte, North Carolina.

A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires.'



The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued and WON!

(Stay with me.)

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART...

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

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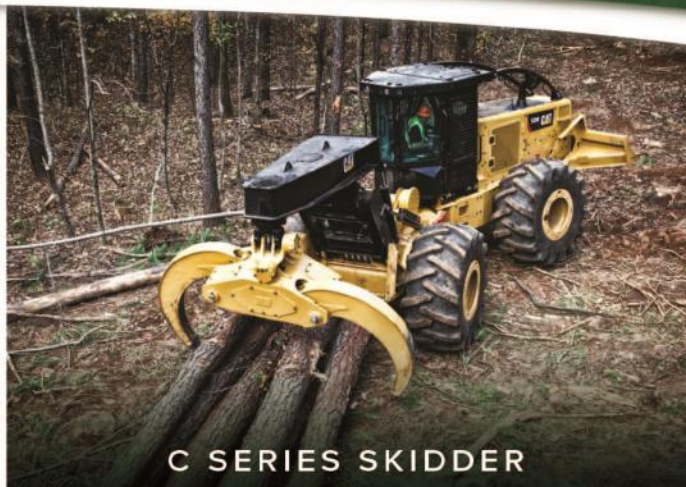


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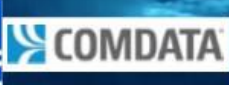
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Teamwork Matters



By Danny Dructor – American Loggers Council

I recently wrote an article for the New Hampshire Timberland Owners and the New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Council entitled “Teamwork Matters.”

Before I finished writing the article, I had already decided that the topic was important enough that I should try and convey the message to all of you who are on the front lines of the timber harvesting industry and who take the time and opportunity to come out of the woods and be proactive on the issues that are impacting the industry.

At the ALC Board of Directors meetings, we have managed to cuss and discuss many issues over the past 23 years, including master logger certification, H2b visas, woody biomass, the Canadian Softwood lumber tariffs, truck weights, the US Forest Service Timber Sale program, trucking regulations, safety regulations, IRS rules for heavy use vehicles, and a whole host of things that are of importance to the well-being of the timber harvesting industry. We are currently taking an active role in the industry TEAM Safe Trucking issue, hoping that we can assist in improving driver safety and assuring that there are qualified, insurable drivers in the industry.

Because of the ability for the Board members from the 32 states that the ALC now represents to be able to sit down and work out policy and position statements that are beneficial to all is indicative of the teamwork that takes place in order for us to maintain our status as “The National Voice for Loggers.”

We have all managed to educate ourselves and each other on the issues that are seemingly regional in character but actually national in scope, and we all speak with one voice on the issues that we are concerned with. Our dialects vary from region to region, but the hearts and minds of those participating in the discussions are one and the same.

We try and monitor legislation at the federal level that would have an impact on logging businesses, and more oftentimes than not now, have members of Congress reaching out to us asking, “What do the loggers think?” We also monitor some state level legislation when it becomes apparent that there might be a trend in the works from state to state making something more of a national issue.

This would not be possible without the dedication of the volunteers who make the yearly trek to Washington, DC and have formed relationships with members and staff on the Hill and that oftentimes look forward to their visits. Members of the American Loggers Council continue to make that yearly trek, and represent the industry very well.

Later this month, March 29-30 to be exact, those men and women from the logging profession will once again travel to Washington, DC representing you and your profession. Be sure and thank them for their dedication and time promoting this industry that we all have in common. You might even ask them how their trip went and what discussions did they have with members of Congress.

While there are other organizations that do a great job at representing other sectors of the forest products industry at the local, State and Federal level, the fact remains that many of the issues that are important to the logging industry are not on the radar of the other associations. Our focus is and will remain representing professional timber harvesters at the national level. The American Loggers Council and the State and Regional logging associations; loggers working for loggers. That’s what we do. Teamwork!

Danny Dructor is the Executive Vice President for the American Loggers Council with headquarters in Hemphill, Texas.

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Electronic Logging Device (ELD) Mandate: Are Some Log Haulers Exempt?

By Rick Meyer | FRA Appalachian & Southwide Regions Manager

By December 18, 2017, most commercial vehicle operators who are required to keep Hours-of-Service (HOS) Records of Duty Status (RODS) will also be required to use Electronic Logging Devices (ELD). FRA Staff are aware that there seems to be some uncertainty or confusion over which truck drivers in the forest products industry will need to comply with this ELD mandate. Here is a brief synopsis of the rule and major exemptions from the mandate, based on our examination of the FMCSA website and informal conversations with a few key FRA trucking members as well as the American Trucking Associations: The ELD mandate applies to all drivers of a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV), beginning December 18, 2017.

If the company is using another (“grandfathered”) automatic onboard HOS recording device prior to that date, they have until December 16, 2019 to comply with all ELD rules.

The HOS rules do not change with the use of an ELD.

There are several exemptions to the ELD mandate, including the following:

- If a driver qualifies for the 100 air-mile radius (short haul) general exemption or 150 air-mile ag exemption from HOS, they are not required to have an ELD. This includes Interstate transport (e.g., a log

(Continued on page 23)



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(Continued from page 22)

trucker who meets the 100 air-mile exemption from HOS will not be required to use an ELD, even if hauling across state lines.)

- If the driver is required to use a Record of Duty Status (Paper Log) not more than 8 days in a 30 day period, they are not required to use an ELD.
- If the vehicle driven is a model year before 2000, the driver is exempt from an ELD. (But as soon as a driver switches to operating a model year 2000 or newer, he/she is then required to have an ELD.)
- Drivers who conduct drive-away-tow-away operations, in which the vehicle being driven is the commodity being delivered.



SAFETY FIRST



I recently stumbled across an article posted in the North Kentucky Tribune titled, "Logging by far deadliest job in U.S.; fishing, pilots/flight engineers next, says U.S. Labor Dept." When your mission states "To enhance the logging profession, provide a unified voice on logging issues; and cooperate with public, industrial and private timberland owners to further sustainable forestry practices," I hardly believe that this is what we had in mind.

Seeing how I thought that we were doing a better job promoting safety which, in my mind, is a part of the professionalism we are supposed to be "enhancing," I went to the Department of Labor's web site, or more importantly the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to see if I could determine just where the problems are. As it turns out, I discovered that we are lumped into this category that includes Farming, Fishing and Forestry, so I had to dig a little deeper. What I did find out is that there was actually a decrease in the number of fatalities in the Forestry and Logging category from 2014 to 2015, but unfortunately, there were fewer of us doing those jobs due to downsizing, mechanization and attrition, so the number of fatalities per 100,000 employed actually rose during 2015.

This is not the direction we want to be headed for several reasons.

First, the loss of life due to an accident that could have been prevented is not acceptable, and as we all know, most accidents are preventable.

Second, when we are trying to attract new employees to this industry, this is not the track record that needs to be advertised.

Third, when workers comp rates go up, this is the reason. No matter how safe your job site is, there are others in the industry who are not performing as safely as they could be and you are helping to pay the bills for them.

During our Summer Board of Director's meeting last July, we were discussing some of the issues that we should be focusing on over the next several years, and Dave Cupp with Walsh Timber in Zwolle, Louisiana and representing our Individual Logger Members made the statement that we should also focus on losing our status as being the most dangerous occupation in the nation and at the very least get out of the top three. Visiting again with Dave this week he stated, "I feel very strongly that we can change this culture and not accept this as a part of our business."

The American Loggers Council will be addressing this issue in 2017 and beyond, and by doing so will be helping to create a safe work environment where we can attract and retain the best and brightest young men and women in the country to sustainably harvest our Nation's forests.

You can help us. Don't ignore safety issues on your job. Discuss near misses at tailgate safety sessions, recognize safe practices and offer incentives for achieving safety goals, and by all means, make it your responsibility that everyone has the opportunity to return home each and every evening to their families. Let's make this a safe, productive and prosperous 2017.

Danny Dructor is the Executive Vice President for the American Loggers Council, residing near Hemphill, Texas.

The American Loggers Council is a 501 (c)(6) not for profit trade organization representing professional timber harvesters in 32 states across the United States. If you would like to learn more about the ALC, please visit their web site at www.amloggers.com, or contact their office at 409-625-0206.



SC Timber Producers Association

P.O. Box 811
Lexington, SC 29071

March 1, 2017

Senate Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee
Senator Nikki G. Setzler
Chairman
Columbia, SC

Dear Chairman Setzler and Committee Members,

On behalf of the association dedicated to representing and servicing South Carolina's professional timber harvesters, timber suppliers and timber truckers, we want to express our position of support for the South Carolina Forestry Commission's budget requests for 2017 – 2018.

The Forestry Commission is an integral partner with our professional loggers and wood dealers/suppliers. Their expertise to assist our state's professional loggers and wood suppliers and forestry industry is vital to the economic well being of every stage of the wood supply chain.

South Carolina's forest products industry is our state's Number One manufacturing industry with an annual economic impact of \$18.6 billion and is the largest manufacturing sector for jobs, (over 90,000 jobs) and \$4.5 billion in wages. Timber is our state's Number One cash crop. Forest products are the Number One exported commodity from the Port of Charleston. Eighty-eight percent of SC's forestlands are owned by over 200,000 private landowners that produces ninety-six percent of the industry's wood supply. These private landowners managing, growing and having their timber harvested and reforested is needed for the production of products that enhance our daily lives.

The Forestry Commission provides direction for economic development in the forest industry and provides the front line defense to protect forests, lives and properties from wildfires. Yet just as important is the Commission's capacity to assist in growing and sustaining our healthy forests for forest industry employment as well as our forests providing wildlife habitat, clean water and aesthetic values.

The Forestry Commission leads our Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices (BMP) Program working with professional timber harvesters, foresters and landowners to sustain and enhance our water resources. The Forest Inventory Assessment (FIA) Program provides valuable statewide forest resource inventory data which is used in making decisions for forest landowners, timber suppliers, forest products companies and attracting new forest industries. These two programs need to receive state funding as the federal funding requires a state match of 25% for FIA and 40% for BMP's.

State funding needs to be restored and/or increased to allow the Commission to increase needed forester personnel to work with forest landowners and wood producers, and provide needed services for forest landowner assistance. Funding is vital and must continue to allow for the acquisition and upgrade of firefighting equipment units for improved operator safety and an opportunity to employ more operator personnel to protect our healthy forests, property and the public.

The SC Forestry Commission is a vital partner in our state's wood supply chain. The Commission must have the financial resources to perform its mission for the benefits of South Carolina.

Again, on behalf of our association and its wood supply chain members, we urge the Senate Natural Resources Committee to support the SC Forestry Commission's budget requests.

Kindest regards,

Crad

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO

House panel clears path for roads bill

February 10, 2017

The House Ways and Means Committee passed a roads bill Thursday that includes a long-term funding program fueled by an increase in the gas tax.

The measure (H. 3516) will be added to the House legislative calendar next week for debate, according to a news release from House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville.

The bill's provisions include:

- Creating an Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund
- Increasing the motor fuel user fee by 10 cents per gallon over a five-year period
- Hiking the biennial motor vehicle registration fee by \$16
- Raising the sales tax cap on vehicle purchases to \$500
- Capitalizing on out-of-state registered vehicles
- Creating biennial registration fees for all hybrid and electric vehicles
- Creating a motor carrier road user fee for out-of-state truckers
- Reforming governance of the S.C. Department of Transportation Highway Commission

"A gradual increase to the state's motor fuel user fee is the most responsible option to generate a long-term, sustainable funding stream for road repair," Lucas said in a statement. "I will not support using general fund revenue for road appropriation again. ... As the House roads bill moves to the floor for debate, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage as fixing our roads is my No. 1 priority."

Bill Ross, president of the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads, labeled the bill a "positive step."

"There is no doubt that the issue of fixing and improving our roads is one of the greatest issues facing our state," Ross said. "SCFOR will continue to work with the public and legislature on passing comprehensive infrastructure funding legislation. South Carolina can't afford to wait another year."



NOW, IT'S UP TO SENATE TO DECIDE FATE OF ROADS BILL

March 2, 2017

A bill aimed at fixing South Carolina's crumbling roads and bridges – a top priority of the state's business leaders – won overwhelming support Wednesday in the S.C. House of

Representatives and now heads to the Senate where similar measures have crashed into a filibuster.

"Fixing South Carolina's dangerous roads and bridges should be the greatest priority for this legislative session. Refusing to compromise will not solve our roads problem, but simply places politics above

responsible public policy," House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said in a statement. "A delayed resolution continues to threaten the safety of South Carolina drivers and increases costs for repair and resurfacing of decaying roads and bridges."

Titled the "SC Infrastructure and Economic Development Reform Act," the bill (H. 3516) received bipartisan support, clearing the House 97-18. The measure received a third reading today in the House and was sent to the Senate, where it was referred to the Finance Committee chaired by Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman.

"As this bill makes its way to the Senate, it is my hope that the reform and funding components included in this legislation will be seriously considered

(Continued from page 26)

and a long-term, sustainable solution is quickly agreed upon,” Lucas said.

Bill Ross, president of the SC Alliance to Fix Our Roads, noted that similar measures have passed the House only to die in the Senate. During the last two years, state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, has successfully filibustered and blocked Senate votes on any road bills.

Additionally, former Gov. Nikki Haley’s threat to veto any legislation that did not include a significant cut in the state personal income tax rate, throttled previous roads bill.

Her successor, Gov. Henry McMaster, regards an increase in the gas tax to be a last resort.

“We implore the Senate to take up this legislation and approve a solution to the state’s transportation infrastructure crisis this year,” Ross said. “South Carolina drivers cannot wait another year for a plan to fix our crumbling roads.”

Meanwhile, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce CEO Ted Pitts praised the House’s vote on an issue that the business community has championed for a decade.

“We commend the leadership of the 97 House members that supported this solution, now the Senate needs to get to work and finish the job on the roads,” Pitts said.

S.C. Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said the measure will help improve the efficiency and safety of South Carolina’s roads and bridges.

“SCDOT’s goal is to bring us closer to providing a highway system that’s in good condition and will accommodate our current demands and those that we will face in the future as South Carolina continues to grow,” Hall said in a statement.

Earlier this year, Hall reported to the General Assembly that the state’s highway system is in “crisis” after suffering from decades of deferred maintenance due to a lack of funding. Deferred maintenance has resulted in 54% of the state’s 42,000 miles of highways now rated in “poor condition.” The overall cost of repairing the poor roads has climbed to \$8 billion.

Additionally, Hall said the state’s poor roads have contributed to a surge in fatalities. “South Carolina leads the entire nation in the number of highway deaths,” she said. “An increase in funding can lead to proper maintenance and the beginning of a targeted

safety improvement program on rural highways where a majority of deaths occur,” Hall added.

Provisions in the bill include:

- Creation of an Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund.
- Reforming governance of the SCDOT Highway Commission to support regional representation with appointments made by the governor and approval by the General Assembly.
- Increasing motor fuel user fee 10 cents per gallon over a 5-year period.
- Hiking the biennial motor vehicle registration fee by \$16.
- Raising the auto sales tax cap to \$500 per vehicle from \$300.
- Capitalizing on out-of-state registered vehicles.
- Creating biennial registration fees for all hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Creating a motor carrier road user fee for out-to-state truckers.

The state fuels tax is currently set at 16.75 cents per gallon, which is the second lowest rate in the United States and has not been raised in 30 years.

SCDOT Commission Chairman Woodrow Willard said that the agency has adopted several reform efforts recognized by House members. “We have complied with 75% of the recommendations (in a Legislative Audit Report) and the process continues to provide as much transparency and accountability of the taxpayers’ dollars.”



GENE COLLINS LOGGER ACTIVIST AWARD



Fifty years and still going strong. The 2016 *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* is proudly presented to William and Linda Wilkerson and Wilkerson Logging, Inc. for their sincere commitment to professional timber harvesting, supporting this association, participating in community and industry activities, practicing sustainable timber harvesting, promoting education and positive promotion of professional business practices.

Wilkerson Logging is a conscientious professional business understanding the value of relationships with customers, employees and their industry, environmental stewardship and promotion of a positive image as a professional logger.

In May 2016, Wilkerson Logging celebrated fifty years of operations starting from humble beginnings in the shortwood business and gradually advancing to fully mechanized timber harvesting.

Wilkerson Logging operates two mechanized tree length crews primarily focusing on thinning and logging private landowner tracts around their area producing 30 to 40 loads per week per crew. Pine and hardwood are harvested and delivered to markets in the mid-upstate such as Resolute Forest Products, Boise Cascade Wood Products, W. M. Deal Sawmill, Associated Hardwoods, International Paper and United Forest Products. Wilkerson Logging harvest timber for local landowners. One local landowner owns a 3,000 acre farm and only allows Wilkerson Logging to harvest the timber because of the company's stewardship and the professional job on the owner's forest lands.

Wilkerson Logging purchases all of their own timber and will occasionally harvest on tracts provided by Boise Cascade and Hancock Forest Management. Their jobs are professionally performed so they do their own operator select thinning.

Operating a lean, efficient business works very well

Wilkerson Logging, Inc.

HICKORY GROVE, SC



for Wilkerson Logging. The two three-man crews' equipment spread consist of two John Deere feller bunchers, an 843 and 643, John Deere grapple skidders, a 648 and 748, and two John Deere 437D trailer mounted knuckleboom loaders equipped with slasher saws. Two John Deere 648G grapple skidders are available as spares. Road, deck and BMP work is done with a CAT D5 bulldozer.

Their trucking fleet consist of three Macks; one for the lowboy, one spare and one for company timber trucking. The company utilizes C. Belton Trucking as their full time contract trucker.

William says' "I love logging. I wouldn't change a thing for my entire career. The industry has evolved and Linda and I have enjoyed seeing this and being active in our industry."

Linda and William have been married for forty-nine years. Linda said, "After we had been married for a while, I asked William if he ever got tired of logging. He said, No, because every day was different."

Both said their sons love the business just as much as they do. Sons Tommy, Robbie and Billy operate the crews and have learned the business from their father. Just as William loves logging and walking in the woods, so do their sons.

William and Linda's philosophy is simple... "Do the best job for every customer you serve, treat their timber and the forest owner right, be stewards of their lands and be professional, and you can sleep well at night."

Wilkerson Logging has been an active SCTPA logger member since the association's inception in 1999 and attends district meetings in Richburg. SCTPA's Brenda and Crad Jaynes attended the 50th anniversary event on May 25, 2016. SCTPA presented William and Linda a Special Recognition plaque honoring their fifty years in the professional timber harvesting business. The plaque read...

(Continued on page 29)

(Continued from page 28)



*With Grateful Appreciation
To
William Wilkerson
Wilkerson Logging, Inc.
From the SC Timber Producers Association
For Your Leadership and Services
To the Logging Profession in South Carolina
On the Occasion of Celebrating
Your 50th Year
In the Timber Harvesting Industry*



William's family company Triple W Farms is a Certified Tree Farmer in the American Tree Farm system with over 500 acres planted in pine and 200 acres in pine and hardwood stands. All harvested stands are reforested.

William and Linda and Wilkerson Logging, Inc. strive to educate the public about our sustainable forestry and professional timber harvesting industry. They recognize there is a greater need for the critical public to understand our industry is dedicated to environmental stewardship and maintaining our sustainable, renewable and healthy forest resources for the many products made of wood, wildlife and wildlife habitat, clean water and aesthetic values.

The company emphasizes sustainable harvesting practices, safety, professionalism, SC Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices and works conscientiously to meet landowner expectations through exceptional envi-

ronmental, harvesting and business practice standards.

Understanding the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must work with landowners, wood suppliers and wood receiving companies in cooperative, mutually beneficial partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry, educating the critical public regarding professional timber harvesting, demonstrating a stewardship attitude about our sustainable and renewable forest resources



and our environment are all important issues to the company's business and operational standards.

Both William and Linda say, "We appreciate the SC Timber Producers Association and the American Loggers Council for being the professional loggers' representatives. We need their presence for legislative and regulatory issues, to enhance the logging industry and to provide education and guidance for better understanding of what we do as professional loggers as we harvest our sustainable, renewable forests to provide the wood to manufacture products enhancing our daily lives. And to enhance the industry's image of professionalism and let the public know we truly care about our environment and healthy forests. SCTPA has done a great job for us, we appreciate the association's work and to keep up the good work."

As an industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud *Wilkerson Logging, Inc.* is our 2016 *Gene Collins Logger Activist Award* recipient.

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association's Logger Activist Award recognizes a logger member who has demonstrated an exceptional desire to promote and represent the profession by actively participating in association state and district activities, promoting and participating in educational efforts, community action projects

(Continued on page 30)

and association projects to positively promote timber harvesting's image, conducting business activities in the best interests of the timber harvesting profession to engender the public's trust by meeting and exceeding the American Loggers Council Loggers Code of Practices and has displayed a professional commitment to sustainable forestry practices.

SCTPA's Logger Activist Award was named in honor of Gene Collins of Gene Collins Logging, Inc, Georgetown, because of Gene's dedication to his profession, his unselfish endeavors to promote the integrity of the logging industry within his community, his volunteer work educating children, his use of business practices that engendered the public's trust and his support for professional timber harvesting and sustainable forestry.

William Wilkerson and Wilkerson Logging's History

This Wilkerson Logging history was read by grandson Thomas to those in attendance at the fifty year anniversary celebration.

William Wilkerson is a hard-working and outstanding man. He set goals at an early age and ventured into an area of life that has blessed him in many ways. After graduating from Hickory Grove High School in 1966, William completed six months of basic training in the National Guard and then remained active for six years. Upon returning to Hickory Grove after basic training, he started his own logging business. He was introduced to the logging field by his father, Tom Wilkerson, who was a timber buyer with Sharon Woodyard which purchased for Canal Wood. William saw the potential of taking his father's interest in the timber business and making a living himself and future generations in logging.

Wilkerson Logging began with three employees who became very committed to William and his new venture. Their first piece of equipment was a Case tractor with a front-end loader, which was soon joined by two Poulan saws and two trucks – a 1958 Ford short axle and a 1954 International single-axle. As time went on, the equipment changed for efficiency and safety, but William's leadership remained the same. Since his beginnings, William has added loaders, cutters and skidders to his company, along with tractor trailers and log trailers.

The three Wilkerson sons, Billy, Robbie and Tommy, have all joined the family business and work full-time for their father. In addition, the oldest grandson, Thomas works for him during school vacations. The youngest grandson, Will, is beginning to learn the trade so that when he becomes of age he too can help in the business. From Tom Wilkerson's work as a timber buyer, the

fourth generation is now partaking in the family business.

Wilkerson Logging began hauling to small woodyards in Sharon and later, Hickory Grove. Over time, the business grew and he acquired his own dealership in order to haul directly to Bowater, Bosie Cascade, International Paper and Deal's Sawmill. What began as a young man's dream, has now become the life-force of the Wilkerson family. For fifty years, logging provided for William, his wife Linda, three sons and their families, which include seven grandchildren. Wilkerson Logging has cut for over 1,000 landowners, with his first customer being Mr. John Carter, whom he still cuts for today. Through the company's fifty year history, they have never had to file workers compensation – which is a testament to the leadership of William and his focus on safety on the logging worksite. During the fifty years of Wilkerson Logging, they have employed only twenty-one men, which is a testament to William's positive leadership. In addition, the business has grown from one crew to two three-man crews.

Over the years, William has had an interest in introducing others to logging and the timber industry. For a few years, he held the Loggers and Woodcutters Jamboree at the Hopewell School in Hickory Grove where there were opportunities for log rolling and crosscut sawing, among other contests. Twice the past ten years, William has hosted a John Deere Day where visitors can come and see a wide variety of John Deere tractors and equipment.

In 1980, William and Linda opened a store in Hickory Grove to better serve loggers and farmers in the area. Along with feed and seed, they sold Poulan and Pioneer saws and Toro mowers and tillers. They serviced the saws and small engines. Their store grew to include boots, food, oil and gas/diesel. In keeping the business in the family, William's dad had an office in the back where he continued to be a sub-dealer for Canal Wood.

In the 1990's, William participated in the first class of the TOP Logger Program sponsored by the SC Forestry Association. He continues to take classes and maintain his certification in this area, as well as requiring his sons to do the same. William is a member of the SC Timber Producers Association, SC Forestry Association, the South Carolina Tree Farm and the Palmetto Timber Fund.

In addition to running his own business, William is very active in his community. He served on a committee that organized the first ever Hickory Grove Parade, which is now eagerly looked forward to by many in Western York County as the first event to bring in the Christmas season. William has served on numerous committees at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church in Hickory Grove, where he has been a member for over fifty years. He has been involved in the Jaycees, Log A Load For Kids and Relay For Life. William is an active member of the Hickory Grove Fire Department, where

he once fought fires and now helps with traffic control and wherever needed. He is always eager to be a sponsor for sports teams and other events in the community. His commitment to youth and sports was recognized by the YCHS Athletic Department in 2014 when he and his wife Linda received the Cougar Fans of the Year Award. For the past ten years, William holds an annual hay ride each November to provide an opportunity for people to see the country and all that nature has to offer.

During some down time, William was asked about the logging business and how he felt on certain topics. He mentioned that the best equipment would be John Deere and the farthest he has traveled to cut would be forty miles away. When asked what he considered to be the best thing about owning his own logging business, William listed three things – It provided a good living for him and his wife, it provided employment options for his sons, and it has given him flexibility for other things. Hardships related to logging include wood quota, bad weather, breakdowns and unexpected expenses. Finally, advice for those interested in starting their own logging business would be to plan for hard work, long hours and to be ready for challenges.

A 50th Anniversary Message from a Dear Friend, Margaret Pridmore

A man whose success as a hard working logger was evident to those of us who knew him as a high school student. He would stop by school with a trailer filled waiting for the end of the school day to get to the pulpwood yard to unload and go home and get a load ready for the next day.

After high school, William continued his hard work; and, as he moved forward other things were on his mind. He and his high school sweetheart were making plans for a wedding. This proved to be a true partnership. William was not only successful as a logger, he was active in his church and community, serving in various roles and responsibilities.

William, with Linda, built a wonderful business, Wilkerson Logging, Inc. They have three great sons who have joined the business. As their dad did, the sons also “married well” with wives who are supporting and very service oriented, active in church and community. There are seven grandchildren, young men and young women who are carrying on the values they have learned from William and Linda.

Congratulations to William as he celebrates his 50th year in the logging business, and is recognized as the great logger and person that he is.

Wilkerson Logging, Inc.



PAYING ATTENTION TO LOG TRUCKING SAFETY

By Forest Resources Association

"Only five companies nationally are still willing to write log truck vehicle insurance." This recent statement from forest industry insurance agents point to the underlying reasons for the formation of TEAM Safe Trucking ("TST") --a coalition of forest products industry insurance companies, wood suppliers, wood consumers, associations, and others. TEAM's goal is "to reduce accidents through effective fleet management, increasing the number of safe, qualified drivers in order to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain."

FRA's Rick Meyer participated in the February 9 TEAM Safe Trucking Meeting in South Carolina and has posted his "top notes" from that meeting: For more information on TST, see www.teamsafetrucking.com or visit TEAM Safe Trucking on Facebook.

TEAM Safe Trucking expects to complete the development of log truck driver safety training/education materials during 2017, as part of a comprehensive initiative to improve the loss/claims record of log trucking.

Virginia Tech (Dr. Scott Barrett) is currently gathering and researching log truck crash data to provide guidance on where to focus log trucking safety training efforts. (Not surprisingly, preliminary data from one past year

show almost no log truck fatal crashes on Interstates—the safest roadways. Truck weight laws that permit log trucks to haul on Interstates with their states' GVW variances makes sense!)

The large trucking operations (more than 10 trucks in the fleet) generally had stronger safety performance, often employing a safety officer, having a formal safety program, handling the myriad of regulations better, etc.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen and MI Forest Insurance Center have achieved great success with their Log Trucking Safety continuing education program, reducing their insurance loss ratio dramatically over time.

Beaufort Community College (Washington, NC) is beginning a CDL driver training program specifically to train log truck drivers. The school is able to use some of Weyerhaeuser's company roads, log deck sites, etc. for training.

An insurance company that is willing to accept the risk of insuring a newly-trained, inexperienced log truck driver who graduates from such a program will probably require the trucking operation to have a mentor program for the driver, will charge a higher rate to start with, and will require a clean MVR before even considering coverage on the new driver.

Loggers who had their own trucks as a general rule performed better, claims-wise, than their contract/subcontract haulers.



TEAM

SAFE TRUCKING

"Driving Forestry Transportation to a Higher Level of Professionalism"

TEAM Safe Trucking Effort Moves Forward

TEAM Safe Trucking, a volunteer alliance committed to elevating the safety, performance, and professional level of the forest industry's transportation sector, is moving forward with its ambitious program. The group consists of key integral facets of the forest products industry: production (logging), consumption, insurance, associations and other advocates.

TST's revamped web site — teamsafetrucking.com was launched in early March.

Ultimately, it will be loaded with tools to help advance the strength and standing of log/chip trucking. Resources will include tips for recruiting and retaining drivers; items to help owners move from reactive to proactive fleet management; suggestions for improving trucking efficiency; and ideas for enhancing the sector's public image.

The final draft of TST's comprehensive driver training module is nearing completion and soon will be available on the web site. According to TST officials, the intent is for this module to be used at the state level, as it can easily be modified to incorporate state-specific criteria.

The group now has restructured and refocused key committees, has new leadership, and its 501(c)3 non-profit status has been approved by the IRS, meaning that financial donations are tax deductible.

"More and more organizations are participating in TST and are 'buying in' to what TST is committed to achieve," says Jeremiah O'Donovan, the group's new president. "We're on track to make important strides this year and invite additional participation."

Donations to TEAM Safe Trucking, Inc. are welcomed and should be mailed to TST treasurer Joanne Reese at P.O. Box 785, Henderson, NC 27536.

US House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
Press Release - March 9, 2017

Reps. Labrador, Poliquin Reintroduce the Future Logging Careers Act

Washington, D.C. — Rep. Raúl Labrador (ID-01), member of the House Natural Resources Committee, today announced the reintroduction of the Future Logging Careers Act, with original cosponsor Bruce Poliquin (ME-02). The Future Logging Careers Act would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 so that 16 and 17 year olds would be allowed to work in mechanized logging operations under parental supervision.

"Idaho's family owned and operated timber companies are a vital part of our economy and an important part of our history. This bill will allow parents to train the next generation of loggers and business owners," said Rep. Labrador. "This bill solves a problem that is plaguing an entire industry across the whole country. I look forward to working with Rep. Poliquin and Chairwoman Foxx to advance this legislation to support family businesses and expand opportunities for young people to secure good-paying jobs in Idaho."

"Major advances have been made in Maine's logging industry in recent years that have drastically improved worker safety,"

said Rep. Poliquin. "Unfortunately, outdated regulations from Washington haven't kept up, preventing young Mainers from pursuing careers in the trade in Maine, which largely consists of family-run businesses that have operated for generations in our State. I'm proud to join Congressman Labrador in pushing forward this important legislation to give young Mainers the opportunities to pursue a career path in logging, while also helping to maintain jobs in the industry in Maine for many more generations to come."

"We strive to operate safely and want to be able to pass along this generation's skills in professional harvesting to our next generation," said Shawn Keough, executive director of the Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho. "This bill will allow us to train those who wish to follow in their family's proud tradition. We applaud Congressman Labrador for his leadership."

Background: Timber harvesting operations are similar to family farms with sophisticated and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn the intricacies of

the business prior to the age of 18. However, young men and women in families who own and operate timber harvesting companies are denied the opportunity to work and learn the family trade until they reach adulthood. It is supported by over 30 logging industry groups and companies, including the American Loggers Council (ALC), a non-profit organization representing timber harvesters in 30 states.



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Skilled Professionals Workforce Development Outreach Initiative

Be Pro Be Proud SC

*A State-Funded, Private-Sector
Supported and Driven Skilled Trades
Promotion & Development Initiative*

STATEMENT

Currently, tens of thousands of “blue collar” workers are needed in the skilled trades and supply chain-related industries in South Carolina. But the state lacks a collaborative initiative targeting this workforce. Currently the state’s resources are focused almost exclusively on job facilitation in STEM (advanced manufacturing, automotive, aeronautics, etc.) careers. But citizens – young and old - who are “at-risk” and/or not college-bound can also be encouraged to find a path to rewarding, prideful professional careers. Parents, as well as adults seeking better work opportunities, need to be convinced there is a relatively quick, low-cost path to good jobs and rewarding careers.

PURPOSE

To fund, build and deploy a mobile skilled professional jobs promotion workshop and create a movement that changes the perception of the skilled trades. To create a “movement,” while utilizing gamification strategies targeting our younger students to attract these potential workers to enter these trades. To redefine what “higher education” and “professional careers” mean. This would focus on building interest in Middle School students, and directing High School students, at-risk students, and adults into skilled trades training provided by the state. It would also focus on creating an alternate mindset/removing the stigma...that “going to college” is *not* the *only* path to success. Such an initiative would encourage accelerated collaboration and support from the private sectors



that need these workers.

SECTORS

Construction; Agribusiness; Forestry; Technology Services; Trucking, Transportation Distribution & Logistics, Heavy Equipment. These are sectors who are made up of primarily small family-owned businesses who lack the resources and long-term vision to mount a campaign to promote and attract these potential workers.

TARGETED SKILLED TRADES (*may further refine*)

CDL Driver; HVACR Technician; Plumber; Electrician; Carpenter; Diesel Technician; Machinist; Welder; Heavy Equipment Operator.

SAMPLE STATISTICS

- **Construction – Home Building:** In a recent National Association of Home Builders industry survey, builders identified access to labor as the biggest challenge they anticipate for 2017 and beyond. The concern has grown exponentially since 2011. While the housing recovery begins to take shape the cost and availability of labor stands as a major impediment to future recovery and workforce housing and the issue has significantly grown in importance since 2011. That year, 13% of builders rated labor as a significant problem, followed by 30% in 2012, 53% in 2013, 61% in 2014, 71% in 2015 and now 78% in 2016. Since 2006, SC has lost 26.8% of all residential construction jobs, which totals almost 17,000 jobs which were predominantly self-employed. The need is great and growing. The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce estimates an additional 24,000 new construction workers are needed to meet the state’s current building needs.
- **Construction - Commercial:** The commercial construction industry lost hundreds of thousands of jobs when the nationwide recession hit in 2008. With the economic recovery, the industry is at a crisis point, as the industry is rebounding, but

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skilled labor isn't. The result is higher prices and delays in project delivery. This sector is hiring, not laying off employees, but is struggling to find skilled workers to replace the ones who were forced to take jobs in other industries during the recession. To quantify, seventy-four percent (74%) of contracting firms are reporting they are having hard time finding skilled workers. In addition to the lack of skilled workers, 3.7 million construction workers, nationwide, will be approaching retirement within the next 10 years."

- **Commercial Truck Driver** – Pursuant to Proviso 25.7 (TEC: Study of Employment of Entry-Level CDL Drivers by State and Local Agencies) of the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Bill, a study committee found and confirmed a chronic and worsening truck driver shortage – a high-demand occupation. Of 130,159 SC CDL holders, those between 18-21 years of age are 0.5%, while those over 52 years of age are 45%, of the total. Yet, 80% of South Carolina's communities depend exclusively on trucking services for the freight and service needs, as do practically every industry, sector, and consumer. It is common in some commercial trucking sectors for driver turnover rates to average 100%, so fleets do not have the incentive, nor the financial or long-term vision or capacity to mount or fund campaigns to promote careers in commercial trucking operations. Public agencies don't actively recruit entry-level drivers and the private sector's liability hinders applicants' opportunities to gain experience. We need look no further for examples than the situation currently faced by SC DOT with capacity constraints, particularly with the shortage of dump truck drivers needed to accomplish various aspects related to road work.

These facts point to an ominous qualified workforce shortage. This will become acute without immediate government intervention and execution through a public-private collaboration/initiative which more directly engages the public, students, parents, potential workers, and professionals in industry. The work-

force demands of a growing state, particularly in the supply chain-related sectors, call for action. This situation, left to its own devices, will ultimately slow services and economic growth.

INITIATIVE NAME

Be Pro Be Proud SC

(Modeled after Arkansas' "*Be Pro Be Proud*" www.beprobeproud.org)

BUDGET

Arkansas' model – *Be Pro Be Proud* – is comprehensive, turn-key, exceptionally well-done, of very high quality and possesses the "wow-factor" that is critical to effectiveness. It could be operational within 120 days. Campaign Start-Up plus first year operating budget would be approximately \$1.5 million. (Initial - \$669,500; Annual Operating - \$829,000. It is significant to note that there is a \$500,000 efficiency (savings) for the state of South Carolina versus the beta test in Arkansas.) The initiative would be "driven" by private sector leadership, working in conjunction with the State's education and workforce agencies. Private sector contributions could be channeled through the non-profit Foundation "Associated Industries of South Carolina," directly to support this program, CATE Centers, Technical Colleges and other support, services and materials. There would need to be a 5-year commitment. Sustainable funding could be secured through appropriations, donations, and sponsorships. If not fully-funded by the state, the primary sectors involved would be willing to support, dedicated nominal increases in licensing fees approved by the legislature.

PROGRAM/GRANT FUNDS

State funding would be awarded to the lead state agency, and passed-through to the not-for-profit (501-C-3) Foundation - the *Associated Industries of South Carolina*. Collaboration would be required between the SC State Technical College System, Departments of Education, Employment & Workforce, and Commerce, along with the Foundation and its various workforce-sector leadership.

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PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Working through the non-profit *The Associated Industries of South Carolina*: Homebuilders Association of SC; SC Trucking Association; Carolina's Associated General Contractors, Forestry Association of SC, SC Petroleum Marketers Association; SC Timber Producers Association; Palmetto Agribusiness Council; SC Motor Coach Association; Carolinas Ready-Mix Association; SC Propane Gas Association, SC Beverage Association, SC Retail Federation, etc.

***Note Regarding current SC Future Makers/STEM Premiere Initiative** – This is an excellent program, but focused almost exclusively (effectively) on advanced manufacturing and related sectors. The skilled workers/targeted market this initiative would focus on may be less inclined to utilize the STEM Premiere service/technology, and the employers would be less able to afford the relatively

high subscription/service payments required to participate. "STEM" is Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. Those potential worker skill-sets/attributes are not necessarily the same as those this campaign is targeting. Therefore, it should be a separate initiative.

(S.C. Technical College System: Skills Trades Workforce Promotion & Outreach Initiative) The SC Technical College System is to direct \$1.5 million of the funds appropriated to it to The Associated Industries of South Carolina, a non-profit, broad-based, statewide private-sector collaborative, in order to study, produce, and implement an ongoing program which would utilize direct public engagement to build career interest within Middle School students, and direct High School students, at-risk students, and adults into skilled trades training programs in the state.

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The Ethics of Forest Land Management and Consumerism

Note: This article originally appeared in *A New Century of Forest Planning* as a guest post by Dick Powell.

I've long harped about the American's disconnect between the management and use of natural resources. This disconnect leads to a question of ethics, a question I've raised a number of times on this blog but no one seems interested in addressing that question (certainly not our elected officials or members of the environmental community!).

I recently came across a book, *The Irresponsible Pursuit of Paradise*, by Jim L. Bowyer, Professor Emeritus (Univ. of Minnesota), where this question of ethics is raised.

Bowyer quotes from a speech given by Douglas MacCleery, then Assistant Director of Forest Management of the USDA-Forest Service, at the "Building on Leopold's Legacy" conference in Madison, WI on October 4, 1999.

Though lengthy, what follows is part of what Bowyer quoted from MacCleery's presentation. lands, particularly federal lands, in the United States. That shift has been to a substantially increased emphasis on managing these lands for biodiversity protection and amenity values, with a corresponding reduction in commodity outputs. Over the last decade, timber harvest on National Forest lands has dropped by 70 percent, oil and gas leasing by about 40 percent, and livestock grazing by at least 10 percent. [Keep in mind, this was presented in 1999.]

Many have attributed the move to ecosystem management or ecological sustainability to a belated recognition and adoption of Aldo Leopold's "land ethic" – the idea that management of land has, or should have, an ethical content.

While a mission shift on U.S. public lands is occurring in response to changing public preferences, that same public is making no corresponding shift in its commodity consumption habits. The "dirty little secret" about the shift to ecological sustainability on U.S. public lands is that, in the face of stable or increasing per capita consumption in the U.S., the effect has been to shift the burden and impacts of that consumption to ecosystems somewhere else. For example, to private lands in the U.S. or to lands of other countries."

MacCleery goes on to tell about how, between

1987 and 1997, annual federal timber harvests dropped from about 13 billion to 4 billion board feet. With high consumption, the effect was to simply transfer harvest to private U.S. lands and to Canada. Those Canadian imports rose from 12 to 18 billion board feet and from 27 to 36 percent of U.S. softwood lumber consumption – much of those imports came from native old-growth boreal forests. [That we strive to "save" our old-growth forests but then blindly consume Canada's less productive old-growth boreal forests should, all by itself, raise a question of ethics!]

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, average American family size dropped by 16 percent while the average family home increased 48 percent.

MacCleery continues: "The U.S. conservation community and the media have given scant attention to the "ecological transfer effects" of the mission shift on U.S. public lands. Any ethical or moral foundation for ecological sustainability is weak indeed unless there is a corresponding focus on the consumption side of the natural resource equation. Without such a connection, ecological sustainability on public lands is subject to challenge as just a sophisticated form of NIMBYism ("not in my back yard"), rather than a true paradigm shift.

A cynic might assert that one of the reasons for the belated adoption of Aldo Leopold's land ethic is that it has become relatively easy and painless for most of us to do so ... because it imposes the primary burden "to act" on someone else.

The disjunct between people as consumers and the land is reflected in rising discord and alienation between producers and consumers. Loggers, ranchers, fishermen, miners, and other resource producers have all at times felt themselves subject to scorn and ridicule by the very society that benefits from the products they produce. What is absent from much environmental discourse in the U.S. today is a recognition that urbanized society is no less dependent upon the products of forest and field than were the subsistence farmers of America's past. This is clearly reflected in the language used in such discourse.

Rural communities traditionally engaged in producing timber and other natural resources for urban consumers are commonly referred to as natural resource "dependent" communities. Seldom are the truly resource dependent communities like Boulder, Denver, Detroit, or Boston ever referred to as such." MacCleery then quotes Aldo Leopold (1928): "The

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American public for many years has been abusing the wasteful lumberman. A public which lives in wooden houses should be careful about throwing stones at lumbermen ... until it has learned how its own arbitrary demands as to kinds and qualities of lumber, help cause the waste which it decries ... "The long and the short of the matter is that forest conservation depends in part on intelligent consumption, as well as intelligent production of lumber."

Bowyer goes on to quote MacCleery: "To take off on that theme, ... the evidence that no personal consumption ethic exists today is that a suburban dweller with a small family who lives in a 4000 square-foot home, owns three or four cars, commutes to work alone in a gas guzzling sport utility vehicle (even though public transportation is available), and otherwise leads a highly resource consumptive lifestyle is still (if otherwise decent) a respected member of society. Indeed, her/his social status in the community may even be enhanced by virtue of that consumption."

Bowyer concludes quoting from MacCleery: "Ecosystem management or ecological sustainability on public lands will have weak or non-existent ethical credentials and certainly will never be a truly holistic approach to resource management until the consumption side of the equation becomes an integral part of the solution, rather than an afterthought, as it is today. Belated adoption of Leopold's land ethic was relatively easy. The true test as to whether a paradigm shift has really occurred in the U.S. will be whether society begins to see personal consumption choices as having an ethical and environmental content as well – and then acts upon them as such."

I've long understood that a very large part of American society does not like what I do for a living. If they want to put me out of business, the only thing they have to do is to quit buying wood – a very simple matter of economics. However, a forest landowner's accountant/tax advisor would probably say that, if no one wants to buy wood, the landowner would have no reason to plant or otherwise take care of the forest and they'd be ahead to convert that land to some other use. Further, the consumer would have to depend much more heavily on alternative raw materials – petroleum, concrete, mining, etc. – all things that have far greater environmental cost both here and abroad.

Forest management and wood consumption are so inter-connected that one cannot be looked without looking at the other. To do so creates an ethical question.

LOOK UP!

Bryan Wagner

Overhead hazards are a clear and present danger in our forest industry. Our industry on a daily basis deals with height, weight and gravity issues. When something goes wrong, these properties are proven killers to our woods workers. Catastrophic injury and death are the results of overhead hazards. We must fight the risk from above by being alert and aware. Safety briefings by management can help keep awareness at a good level. Overhead hazards are a "team" battle. Our logging crews or teams can reduce the risk of overhead hazards by working together. Overhead hazards must first be spotted or identified. When a hazard is found, proper decisions and actions can defuse the risk. The process starts by **LOOKING UP!**



- Proper, well maintained head protection (hard hats) are required and mandatory on a logging job. This includes anyone on the ground, outside the protection of equipment that is equipped with ROPS and FOPS. Equipment operators are encouraged to wear head protection even while in the safety of an enclosed cab. Hard hats can prevent injury in the case of machine roll over, or from sudden, unplanned stops.
- Look Up and Out! Scan your ground travel path at least 50 ahead of you. Scan at least 100 feet ahead for overhead hazards.
- Don't place yourself under anything that can move due to gravity or the loss of hydraulic pressure.
- Maintain at least two tree lengths from any felling area. The industry standard for the two-tree length rule is 300 feet, or 100 yards. This distance can be highlighted in safety meetings, one hundred yards is a common rifle sight-in range. One hundred yards is the length of a football field.
- Be Visible! Be Seen! Make yourself visible by wearing high contrast clothing and high visibility safety colors.
- Never walk into a work area with running and moving equipment. Equipment must be stopped, engine cut-off, and all hydraulic implements grounded.
- Use proper felling techniques. Directional felling techniques reduce the risk of "struck-by" accidents. Proper notching and adequate hinge wood insures a timber cutter's safety.

Take the time to review the risk of overhead hazards with your employees, or team. Heightened awareness reduces the risk of injury or death to our woods workers and loved ones. Remember, **Look Up and Live!**



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Westerman, Bipartisan Congressmen Launch Working Forests Caucus for 115th Congress

Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04) joined a bipartisan group of congressmen Thursday, February 2 for the launch of the Working Forests Caucus in the 115th Congress. The launch featured a roundtable discussion of tax policy and its impact on the future of working forests. Speakers included caucus member Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05), chair of the House Republican Conference; caucus co-chairs Westerman, Reps. Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03), Sanford Bishop (GA-02), and Collin Peterson (MN-07); and forestry experts from across the country.

The caucus was formed during the 114th Congress to advocate for working forests across the United States. These include highlighting the economic, environmental, and social benefits of private working forests, and supporting policies to promote this renewable resource. According to the American Forest and Paper Association, the forest products industry accounts for four percent of U.S. manufacturing GDP annually, manufacturing more than \$200 billion in products and employing 900,000 people each year.

Updates to the tax code, as well as changes in how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) treats forest biomass and declaring it carbon neutral, are goals of the caucus.

A total of 68 bipartisan Members of Congress from all over the United States are members of the Working Forests Caucus.

"As a professional forester in a district more than 80 percent forested, I know how important working forests are to the economy of Arkansas," Westerman, a Yale-educated forester, said. "Working forests are our nation's number one renewable re-

source. Healthy working forests promote clean air and water. There is no downside to a healthy forest. Through my work in the Working Forests Caucus, I will be a voice for the Fourth District of Arkansas and the thousands employed in the forest products industry."

"Our communities in Southwest Washington rely on responsible timber management, made possible by the magnificent forests that surround us," Beutler said. "Today we launched the bipartisan Working Forests Caucus in order to bring science-based management to our forests that will sustain this wonderful resource as well as good, family-wage jobs for generations to come."

"I am proud to join my colleagues in re-forming the Working Forests Caucus for the 115th Congress," Bishop said. "This caucus is an invaluable forum for the wood products industry, including forest owners, tree farmers, loggers, and lumber mill operators, to present their unique challenges to Congress and an invaluable forum for Members of Congress to hear these concerns directly from constituents and stakeholders. Georgia has the largest amount of privately-owned forest land in the nation and I look forward to working with the Working Forests Caucus to help preserve this natural and economic resource for generations to come."

"Minnesota forest owners and loggers provide a healthy respect for forests while producing some of the finest products in the world," Peterson said. "The forest industry supports more than 30,000 hardworking people in Minnesota and grows three times as much as is harvested. I am looking forward to the Working Forests Caucus and promoting the benefits of private timberlands for our nation's rural economy."



BISHOP PLANS ACTION ON REGULATIONS AND RESOURCE LAWS



There is an overflowing list of possible actions the House Natural Resources Committee could launch in 2017 after six years of sometimes rancorous stalemate on many of them between Congress and the Obama administration.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chairman of the committee, spoke Jan. 30 to Bloomberg BNA about many of the prospects. His remarks suggested a unifying thread: clarification of legal mandates governing federal agency activities.

Legislation, as described by Bishop, especially would be intended to reassert legislative control over policy and to require more cooperation with state and local governments. Federal agencies have been getting away with defying laws that mandate coordination with state and local governments, in Bishop's view.

There will be several legislative vehicles for advancing federal-state coordination. Bishop wants to see action by his committee to:

- reestablish and expand onshore and offshore energy leasing,
- streamline the permitting of pipelines and power transmission lines crossing federal land, especially as part of a bill to stimulate infrastructure development,
- increase water storage,
- manage federal forests and
- consider changes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Antiquities Act.

Facing Wildfires (and Senators)

It would be a busy schedule even if there were not a strong likelihood of opposition. The need to win 60 votes in the Senate for passage of most legislation means basic changes may be difficult, especially with the Republican ma-

jority reduced to 52 from 54 by the 2016 elections.

"I don't think the Senate is going to be more cooperative in the next few years than they were in the last two years," Bishop said. "In some cases it may be worse, because it's tighter now."

But some of the issues are essential to both parties, such as forest management to prevent wildfires and water storage in the dry West, he said.

"If we're dealing with wildfires burning up property, Democrat senators get that," he said. Litigation over timber harvesting and other forest management issues has been the second largest expense for the U.S. Forest Service after wildfire fighting, and Bishop said he thought senators will see the need to change that. That could involve reintroducing the Resilient Federal Forests Act, a 2015 bill to streamline permitting for timber harvesting with the idea of reducing wildfire potential and lawsuit potential at the same time.

"There's also a chance of doing something maybe even bigger and better," Bishop said without elaborating.

Grounds for Hope Seen

Bishop became involved in negotiations in 2016 over legislation originally pulled together by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) as an uncontroversial package of energy policy ideas, such as electric grid security. In the House it acquired a much greater mix of energy, water, forest and other natural resource subjects.

It got farther than some people may have expected.

"That's one of the things that gives me hope, because I thought I had some very pleasant conversations with Murkowski as well as Cantwell," Bishop said.

"As negotiations were going on, the resource portion of that bill actually

was very close to reaching an agreement. I mean really close," he said. "So I think we can build on that in the future."

Much may depend on the new Senate minority leader, Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.). "I don't know how Schumer is, or what his propensity will be to try and move things forward," Bishop said.

More Water Storage Sought

House Republicans and Senate Democrats also compromised on water legislation in 2016. The Senate expanded its Water Resources Development Act into a much broader water supply and water utility assistance bill. That drew Bishop and two other House committee chairmen into negotiations that produced the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, passed in December.

The water supply portion of the bill was dominated by drought response provisions to assist California. "We did a good start with the California process in the last session. We need to build on that," Bishop said. "We have to have increased capacity to store the water when we get it for the next drought, which will be soon."

'Coordination' Definition Wanted

Federal cooperation with states over environmental regulation is mandated by several federal laws that are important to industries and state and local governments. State officials and congressional Republicans often insist the obligation for cooperation is being flouted.

"Everyone thought they knew what coordination means," Bishop said. "It needs to be vigorously defined so that coordination does take place, because it's not happening right now."

Bishop described the Dec. 20 stream protection rule from the Interior Department as a model example of federal

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regulators ignoring their legal mandate. Two days after Bishop's remarks, the House voted to repeal the rule through use of the Congressional Review Act, and the Senate planned to vote on disapproving it Feb. 2.

Thirteen states sued Interior Jan. 17 over the stream protection rule (RIN:1029-AC63). They said Interior illegally issued the rule "without providing for meaningful participation by the states."

Similar objections have been raised over amended land-use regulations issued in 2015 by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to protect the greater sage grouse. State and local governments sued, saying the agencies ignored the obligations written into the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act to coordinate regulations with states.

Unbanning Offshore Leasing

President Barack Obama used a Dec. 20 memo to put almost all federal waters in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas off limits to oil and gas leasing for

"indefinite" time periods, excepting only rights under existing leases. Another Obama memo put 26 Atlantic underwater canyon areas off limits.

Bishop said the bans could be rescinded by President Donald Trump only to be re-imposed by the next president. It would be better for Congress to address the subject, reducing the degree of uncertainty, he said.

He made it clear that he wants to eliminate any idea that one president's offshore leasing bans cannot limit a subsequent president's options. That could mean amending the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. That also could provide an occasion for Bishop's intention to reinvigorate energy leasing.

NEPA, Antiquities Act Reviews

The National Environmental Policy Act is another candidate for review and change, in Bishop's eyes. It requires consideration of public comments, including the comments of state and local officials. It also has a declaration of policy that calls for cooperation with state and local governments.

NEPA was enacted in 1970 and has not been amended since 1982. "Anything that old needs to be reviewed," Bishop said.

The Antiquities Act, a 1906 law, also troubles the committee chairman, as well as some state and local governments and industries. Obama used it Dec. 28 to declare the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah, angering Bishop and many other Utah residents concerned about the economic impact of such a decision.

Congress needs to define what is an antiquity and the meaning of "smallest footprint," Bishop said. He was referring to the law's requirement for designations to be limited to "the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

Other proposals have been to require congressional approval of national monuments or require approvals from state legislatures. Environmental advocates say such strategies might create insurmountable barriers to more national monument designations.



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Mark Your Calendar

March 2017

- 16 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, Columbia, SC, 10 a.m.

April 2017

- 1 American Loggers Council Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
 5 Log A Load For Kids Sporting Clays Shoot, Broxton Bridge Plantation, Ehrhardt, 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. Contact Janet Steele, Forestry Association of South Carolina, 803-798-4170, scforestry.org
 8 Log A Load For Kids Sporting Clays Shoot, Hermitage Farm Shooting Sports, Camden, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact Janet Steele, Forestry Association of South Carolina, Columbia, 803-798-4170, scforestry.org
 12 SFI TOP Update DVD Classes, Presented by SC Forestry Commission BMP Foresters. Locations – SCFC Headquarters, Columbia; Sandhills State Forest Office, Patrick; SCFC Office Orangeburg. Contact Herb Nicholson for Registration & Details – 803-667-0815
 13 Walterboro SCTPA District Meeting, Ole House Café, Walterboro, 7 p.m.
 18 Richburg SCTPA District Meeting, Front Porch Restaurant, Richburg, 7 p.m.
 19 & 20 SFI TOP Trained 2-Day Classes, Saluda Shoals Park, Columbia. Contact Guy Sabin, Forestry Association of South Carolina, Columbia for Registration, 803-798-4170, scforestry.org
 25 Newberry SCTPA District Meeting, Farm Bureau Office, Wilson Blvd, Newberry, 7 p.m.
 27 Clinton/Laurens SCTPA District Meeting, Blue Ocean Restaurant, Clinton, 7 p.m.
 29 Log A Load For Kids Sporting Clays Shoot,

May 2017

- 1 Wood Supply Research Institute 2017 Annual Meeting, Frances Marion Hotel, Charleston. Register Online at Forest Resources Association – forestresources.org
 2 – 4 Forest Resources Association 2017 Annual Meeting, Frances Marion Hotel, Charleston. Register Online at forestresources.org
 8 Union SCTPA District Meeting, Midway BBQ, Buffalo, 7 p.m.
 11 Easley SCTPA District Meeting, Fatz, Easley, 7 p.m.
 15 Lugoff SCTPA District Meeting, Hall's Restaurant, Lugoff, 7 p.m.
 16 Georgetown SCTPA District Meeting, Bill's Low Country BBQ, Georgetown, 7 p.m.
 18 Jackson SCTPA District Meeting, Location To Be Determined
 23 Newberry SCTPA District Meeting, Farm Bureau Office, Wilson Blvd, Newberry, 7 p.m.
 25 Edgefield SCTPA District Meeting, Pleasant Land Baptist Church, Edgefield, 7 p.m.
 29 Log A Load For Kids Sporting Clays Shoot, Backwoods Quail Club, Georgetown, 8:30 a.m. – Noon. Contact Amy McFadden, 843-372-4161, amy@whiteoakforestry.com

District meeting dates may be changed. Meeting notices will be mailed prior to scheduled meeting. Meeting dates will be posted on SCTPA website ... www.scloggers.com.

Members & Non-Members are encouraged to attend our district meetings to know what the issues are affecting the industry.

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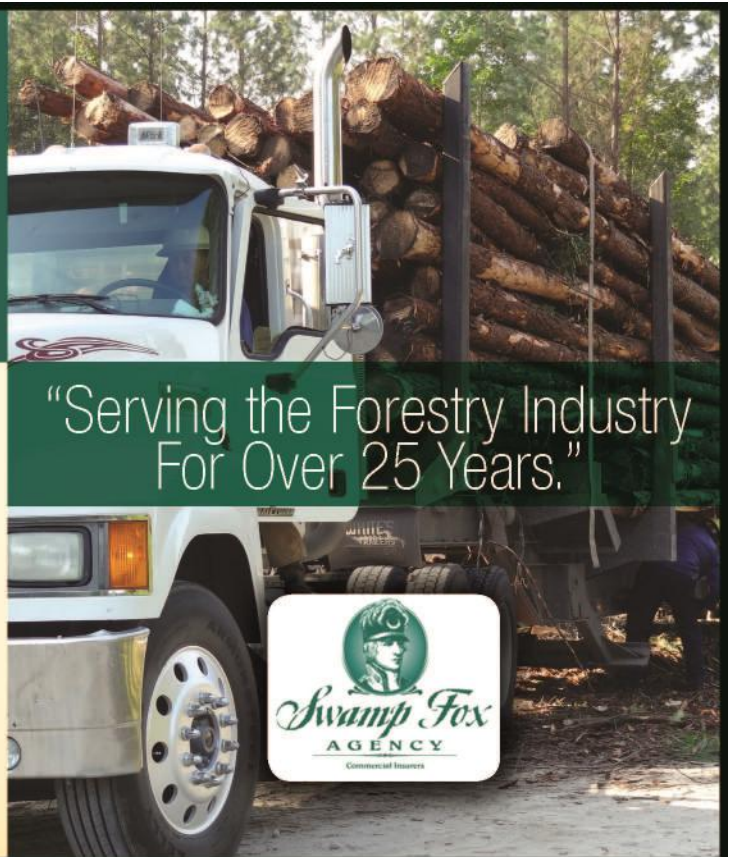
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Our Mission

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 statewide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.