



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

MARCH/APRIL 2018



LOGGERS WORKING FOR LOGGERS AT 2018 WASHINGTON DC FLY-IN

By Danny Dructor

The American Loggers Council held its annual Fly-In to Washington DC in March, connecting loggers to members of Congress and the Trump Administration. Our event would've had record participation if not for an early spring snowstorm. Fortunately, 60 members made it to our nation's capital, and together we made progress on several policy priorities to benefit loggers across the country.

As with past events, the Fly-In gave ALC members an opportunity to meet with their respective members of Congress. However this year, loggers enjoyed increased access to administration officials. ALC held a meeting with officials in President Trump's Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As the people who most commonly do the work on federal forests, we urged the Administration to change the way the U.S. Forest Service does business. We also had an audience with Interim Forest Service Chief Vicki Christensen and Deputy Director of Forest Management John Crockett.



A highlight of our Fly-In was passage of the bipartisan wildfire and forest management agreement in the omnibus appropriations bill. The forestry package includes a new fire suppression funding mechanism that will adjust funding caps to accommodate federal fire-fighting needs and end the need for regular fire borrowing from non-fire accounts at the Forest Service and Interior Department.

The package also provides land agencies with some new tools to reduce wildfire risks, including a new categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Wildfire Resiliency Projects, an amendment to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to allow creation of fuel-breaks and fire-breaks under that law, and reforms to vegetation management regulations around power lines. In addition, the package allows repair and reconstruction of forest roads on Good Neighbor Authority projects, and provides relief from the "Cottonwood" decision that



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has threatened federal timber production throughout the West.

For years ALC has worked with other forestry organizations to bring attention to the poor health of our federal forests and the social and economic devastation caused by the decline in federal timber harvests. Unfortunately the agreement excludes many of the reforms in the House-passed Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. Even with the positive provisions in the omnibus agreement, it's clear that more needs to be done to significantly expand the amount of work that's needed on our federal forests.

The spending agreement also offered loggers a partial victory on the issue of wood-based biomass, a byproduct of logging operations that can serve as a source of renewable energy for industries and communities. The utilization of biomass has been hampered by low costs of fossil fuels and federal energy policies. The spending agreement extended the government's policy of biomass' "carbon neutrality" through September 2018.

We've also made progress in our effort to promote uniform truck weight limits for log truck drivers. For many years ALC has sought to create a more predictable system across state lines on federal interstate highways, especially as individual states have received various exemptions from the limits. We've have proposed creating an additional exemption for agricultural (including forest) commodity loads that meet state-legal requirements and tolerances.

As we've written in the past, our efforts to establish more predictable weight limits have been met with fierce resistance from lobbyists in the railroad industry. During the Fly-In several members of Congress pledged to introduce legislation to provide relief from this patchwork system. Moving forward ALC will invest in researching solutions and developing policy that can pass Congress and be signed by the president.

We're also continuing the advocate for ALC's Future Logging Careers Act to give 16- and 17-year-olds in family logging companies more hands-on experienced mechanized logging. Since it passed the House last year as part of the larger Resilient Federal Forests Act, the bill has languished in the Senate and is unlikely to move forward this session. Nonetheless, our bill's supporters on Capitol Hill have pledged to continue

searching for a legislative pathway in current and future sessions.

At this time it's unclear what additional actions this Congress will take on forest-related issues. The prospects for a 2018 Farm Bill as an additional vehicle for reforms is murky due to partisanship in the Capital. That's why we are increasingly focusing on working with the Trump Administration to advance our priorities. Thank you to the members who participated in the 2018 Fly-In, including those who were stopped by the weather. We are loggers working for loggers, and we are making progress.

Danny Dructor is the Executive Vice President for the American Loggers Council with offices 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.



Luke Loy, FMCSA addresses ALC meeting



ALC Board meeting



SCTPA reps at ALC board meeting

SCTPA Charges “The Hill” in Washington, DC

By Crad Jaynes, SCTPA President

SCTPA board members Tommy Barnes, Ideal Logging, Inc., Danny McKittrick, McKittrick Timber, LLC, Josh Key, Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc. and president Crad Jaynes made our trip to our nation’s capital on March 21st for our attendance at the American Loggers Council 2018 DC Fly-In, meeting with our South Carolina U.S. House of Representatives and Senate members and ALC board of directors meeting.

Despite a spring snow storm, we were able to make our Drive-In trip to DC through snow and some inclement road conditions, but made the trip without incidence. Actually, it was a nice drive because the interstates were very passable and safe as most folks had been allowed the day off so the traffic was not the usual heavy particularly on the stretch from Richmond, VA to DC.

On Thursday, March 22nd, our delegation made our visits to our SC U.S. House and Senate members’ offices to promote the American Loggers Council issues as well as issues impacting South Carolina. On Wednesday March 21st, we were scheduled to have supper with SC Third District Congressman, and our buddy, Jeff Duncan, but due to the activities still taking place at the Capitol for the voting and debates on the Omnibus Budget Bill, Congressman Duncan was unable to meet us to dine.

Our meetings on Thursday were a little different than past meetings. We actually felt like the meetings were productive for the issues presented. We did get to speak with SC District 1 Congressman Mark Sanford, SC District 5 Congressman Ralph Norman and had a lengthy meeting with SC Congressman Jeff Duncan. Otherwise we met with staffers in the House and Senate members’ office. Some of the staffers had changed since of last visit, which is usual in DC, but those newbies were familiar with our issues as SCTPA had in-



(L-R) Staffer Elise Krekorian, Charles Johns of Southeastern Wood Producers Assoc., Danny McKittrick, SC Congressman Jeff Duncan & Josh Key.

formed them prior to the meetings. The carry-over staffers were very much on board with our issues and pledged to take the information provided to their bosses.

The ALC participation in DC was great despite many folks not being able to reach DC due to weather related flight delays and travel problems. But in all, it was a great display by America’s professional loggers to take our issues to those representing us.

Let me say this, this was Josh Key’s first visit to DC. Tommy, Danny and I have been making the journey for years. With Billy McKinney’s retirement, Josh was asked to accompany us as SCTPA Vice-Chairman. It was a pleasure to have Josh with us and I think Josh got a good indoctrination into how the DC system works. It was a little overwhelming for Josh at first, moving from meeting appointment to appointment in a set time frame cause you only have a limited amount of time to see the staffers and/or Congressional members. But I will say, he fell right in and was a great asset with his comments and insights into the issues we were promoting. And we did have some spare time, so we took him on a short sightseeing tour of DC to the basic memorials.

The ALC board meeting was professional as always. Reports from those attending were provided regarding their visits to The Hill and visits to various agencies and administration officials. One of the main issues discussed was the continuing efforts to allow state legal truck weights to move agricultural commodities, including forest products, on the federal interstate highway system within the state. One change to the ALC position on this from the past really made a difference.

The American Loggers Council position on this changed to state in the position paper, allow the use of the federal interstate highway system within a 150-mile radius. This change sparked increased interest from Congressional members and staffers. Why so? Well, in the past over many, many years of promoting this issue, the railroads have been against this as they are with anything that has to do with trucking size and weight changes. Plus, the railroads would go to Congressional members and let them know, if they support truck size and weight

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changes, then the contributions to their campaigns may not be available. With this change, it appeared the interest was spurred to a higher level for support to make this change happen and allow state legal weights for agricultural products and unmanufactured forest products to be trucked on the federal interstate system within the state.

Frankly, this just makes so much sense to remove as many of our wood trucks from small towns, rural roads, stop and go traffic, school zones, etc. And the main point is... it increases the safety for our drivers and the motoring public. But in DC... it's all about politics. Enough said.

SCTPA has remained in contact with our Congressional offices trying to promote the talking points and issues presented during our visits. The DC process operates slowly sometimes, no most times. But through the American Loggers Council efforts of all its members and our association, progress is being made. One thing is for sure, with elections coming up this year for the U.S. House and Senate, don't expect Congress to move on any legislation that is controversial and not agreeable to both sides of the aisle. But again... as I mentioned ... it's politics in DC.



Josh Key and Danny Ductor at US Supreme Court



Talking with Congressman Duncan



Meeting with Senator Lindsey Graham's staffer



Danny & Josh with Congressman Mark Sanford's staffer Cameron Marabito



Congressman Trey Gowdy's chief staffer Anna Raymond Bartlett



Congressman Joe Wilson's staffer Matt Blackwell with Danny McKittrick, Charles Johns & Josh Key



Senator Tim Scott's chief staffer Charles Cogar with Danny & Josh



(L-R) Tommy Barnes, Danny McKittrick, Josh Key & Texas Loggers Council Dave Duren at John F. Kennedy's grave in Arlington National Cemetery



Changing the guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery



SCTPA provided our South Carolina U.S. House of Representatives and Senate members a folder containing this cover letter addressed to each member along with the American Loggers Council Position Papers during our Congressional visits on March 22nd.

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Joe Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
1436 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman Wilson,

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

South Carolina's forest products industry ranks as the Number One manufacturing segment of our state's economy with an economic impact of \$21 billion annually. Timber is our state's Number One cash crop. Forest products exports are \$1 billion annually from the Charleston port.

Our overall forest industry ranks first in employment including our professional timber harvesting, supplying and trucking businesses with an overall payroll over \$2 billion and over 90,000 employed workers.

Our nation and state's forest products industries compete in the global marketplace. Our economies of scale within our own segment of professional timber harvesting, supplying and trucking have witnessed changes in our markets. The economic upturn has been helpful to timber harvesting businesses and our rural communities supported by the forestry industry.

Yet there are challenges threatening our timber harvesting segment such as the availability of auto liability insurance for unmanufactured forest products trucks and the extremely high costs for this coverage even for good operators with favorable accident histories and safe drivers. Coupled with the insurance crisis is the shortage of safe, qualified drivers to operate timber hauling units.

As our pulp and paper and even solid wood products industries continue to improve, the forest products industry, timber harvesters and timber suppliers face challenges to meet the demand for timber to manufac-

ture products.

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

Alternative markets for the utilization of wood and woody biomass for the production of renewable energy, wood pellets and bio-fuels and other bio-related products has increased. These markets are needed and would improve availability of wood markets.

These alternative markets not only help the timber supply and timber harvesting segments, but also helps forest landowners and rural communities for economic enhancements via jobs, local boost to their economy and overall contributions to our state and nation's economy.

As our nation attempts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil resources, we see an opportunity for our industry to continue to have markets for harvested timber as well as woody biomass from harvesting residuals and even non-merchantable roundwood. We have the available resources from our sustainable and renewable forests. But additional support from Washington, DC is needed to help spur these markets.

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

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

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

- Support the **State Legal Loads On the Interstate System**, introduced in the 113th Congress the "Right to Haul Act of 2014, H.R. 5201" to allow State Legal Gross Vehicle Weights for Agricultural Commodity Loads including Unmanufactured Forest Products to be trucked on the Interstate Systems **within** each state to improve highway safety, transportation logistics, reduce costs, improve motorists and truckers safety and reduce truck loads on rural and state highways by amending the United States Code, Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1,

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Section 127(a) by adding the following paragraph:

“Notwithstanding subsection (a), individual State weight limitations for an agricultural commodity that are applicable to State highways shall be applicable to the Interstate System within the State’s borders for vehicles carrying an agricultural commodity.”

American Loggers Council Position Paper Included.

- Support Federal Regulatory Reform via the **Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017, H.R. 5**. This Act directs the executive branch to fulfill its statutory goals in the least costly fashion and look for more public input to find the most efficient regulatory solutions possible by amending the Administrative Procedures Act. The key to the Regulatory Reform Act is that it does not dismantle the regulatory state. Rather, the legislation divides it between general restrictions that are needed to keep society functioning and the high-impact or transformative regulations that cost billions of dollars each year impacting jobs and the economy.

American Loggers Council Position Paper Included.

- Support **Forest Management in a Wildfire Funding Fix**, to reform and stop the practice of fire-borrowing” where the U.S. Forest Service “borrows” from one line item in their budget to meet the need of escalating fire suppression activities. This practice often times takes critical dollars from forest management projects such as fuels treatment, stewardship contracting and the federal timber sale programs that could help to prevent catastrophic fire events. Even more importantly generate funds to do more work in fuels treatment projects, stewardship contracting and forest timber sale programs that would make our nation’s forests more fire resilient, healthier and create jobs in the rural communities that are depending on a stable source of wood fiber for their economic vitality. In November 2017, the House acted on this principle in a bipartisan manner when it passed H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forest Act. This bill provides a bipartisan path forward, and should be a framework for any potential forest management and fire borrowing fix legislation. This legislation is now pending in the Senate.

American Loggers Council Position Paper Included.

- **Support Forest Management by Reforming the National Environmental Policy Act.** This well-intended federal environmental law was originally intended to give the American public a voice in public land management decision making. But after more than four decades of implementation, NEPA has provided professional “No Management” groups with a powerful tool to bring responsible, science-based, active management to a halt. The results have been devastating: less healthy forests, more taxpayer dollars spent on endless paperwork, expensive lawsuits and rural communities that cannot provide good paying jobs or essential services like law enforcement. Action is needed because it’s taking the Forest Service longer to complete NEPA paperwork. With 100 million acres of Forest Service land at some risk of catastrophic wildfire, we need the agency to manage our public lands. Reforming NEPA would enable the Forest Service to implement better forest projects more quickly. This will not only improve the health of our federal forests, it will support America’s small family-owned logging companies who will do a majority of the work.

- Support actions and legislation to recognize **Wood for Energy Generation** as a Renewable Biomass, as a carbon beneficial fuel for utilizing the forests’ energy and climate benefits to displace traditional fossil fuels, promote economic growth and act as a stimulus to rural economies and biomass utilization reduces greenhouse gases and improve forests. Congress should take actions to have the EPA recognize biomass as carbon beneficial throughout federal agencies to create regulatory stability, change existing tax law to allow biomass to receive the same tax benefits as wind for example and create a National Renewable Fuels Portfolio treating biomass equally amongst all renewables and provide sustainability.

American Loggers Council Position Paper Included.

- Support increased funding for road and bridge improvements to better serve our wood supply chain and businesses nationwide. Our infrastructure is in dire need of improvements to allow for more efficiencies in transportation logistics.
- Support legislation to reduce the tax burdens placed on small businesses to help stimulate economic recovery and growth.

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On behalf of South Carolina's professional loggers, timber producers and unmanufactured forest products truckers, please support legislation to sustain our healthy forests and businesses to continue to provide the benefits of our sustainable and renewal forests.

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

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

Sincerely,

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO

Tommy Barnes
Ideal Logging, Inc.
Edgemoor, SC

Danny McKittrick
McKittrick Timber, LLC
Heath Springs, SC

Josh Key
Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc.
Jackson, SC



Canfor Southern Pine Upgrading Camden Sawmill

Staff Report
Columbia Regional Business Report



Integrated forest products company Canfor Southern Pine will invest \$40 million in an upgrade to its Camden sawmill.

The manufacturer of Southern yellow pine lumber operates 14 locations and employs approximately 650 in the southern United States. It has operations in Conway, Darlington and Marion and corporate offices in Myrtle Beach.

The upgrade will begin this year and is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The Camden facility, which manufactures dimension lumber, has been open since 1983. Canfor will install a new planer mill and updated equipment throughout the sawmill to expand production capacity by 50%, making it the company's highest-producing facility in the southern U.S., according to a news release.

"The Camden facility has always been one of our top-performing mills," Keith McGregor, Canfor vice president of U.S. Operations (East), said. "With this major investment, the Camden plant will continue to be a stable and significant employer in this region, paying good wages and benefits to our valuable employees."

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U.S. Guitar Makers Hit Hard by New International Logging Regulations on Prized Rosewood

Article originally published by *USA Today* and reprinted from the May 2018 edition of *The Northern Logger & Timber Processor* magazine, published by The Northeastern Loggers Association, Inc.

An international crackdown on illegal logging in tropical forests has ensnared the makers of some guitars and other musical instruments, whose top-end products require small amounts of rosewood, a material prized for its rich, multi-colored grain and resonant sound.

Since new trade rules took effect in 2017, guitar makers have complained about long delays in getting permits to import rosewood and export finished instruments that contain it. Warehouses have filled with finished instruments, and a bagpipe maker in New Hampshire went so far as to ask the governor to intervene after a permit application was lost.

"I'm so annoyed. I'm so distraught by this," said Chris Martin, chairman and CEO of C. F. Martin and Co., which uses rosewood in 200 models of acoustic guitar, some played by Eric Clapton, Ed Sheeran, Sting, and other stars. The company's logistics staff estimates it spends 40% of its time dealing with the new regulations.

Fearful that Africa and Asia were losing rosewood forests, governments adopted the rules to stem the flow of smuggled rosewood to China's luxury furniture manufacturers. But the restrictions have also hurt companies that use relatively tiny amounts of the wood in guitars, clarinets and oboes.

Months after the regulations were adopted, acoustic guitar exports from the U.S. fell by about 28%, and electric guitar exports declined 23%, according to the *Music Trades* magazine, an industry publication. Music retailers reported losing \$60 million.

The cost and hassle of the new regulations have caused some guitar makers to shift away from rosewood. Martin stopped using it on most guitars produced in Mexico and the models made in the U.S. that cost less than \$3,000. Taylor has rolled out several models without rosewood for overseas customers.

"There are other woods that work," Martin said. But guitar builders and players know there is "something very special" about rosewood's depth and richness of sound. "No one has found ... a wood that works better."



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Timber Talk *Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting*

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American Loggers Council Position Paper

FEDERAL REGULATORY REFORM



The American Loggers Council supports sensible laws and regulations that are necessary to protect the public. Our members are committed to the wise and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Professional timber harvesters in the United States are subject to the most rigorous environmental laws in the world. Though well-intentioned, many laws affecting our industry have become misapplied and misinterpreted through administrative rule-making and litigation. Today's federal regulatory structure has become counter-productive and costly to our small, predominately family-owned businesses. It no longer serves the needs of our forests, natural resources, communities and national economy.

That's why the American Loggers Council has joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and an additional 614 other organizations in all 50 states in supporting swift action on the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (RRA), H.R. 5, that directs the executive branch to fulfill its statutory goals in the least costly fashion and look for more public input to find the most efficient regulatory solutions possible.

The RAA is the first attempt to substantively amend the Administrative Procedure Act, the guidebook of the federal regulatory state, since its enactment in 1946. The key to the RAA is that it does not dismantle the regulatory state. Rather, the legislation divides it between general regulations that are needed to keep society functioning and high-impact or transformative regulations that cost billions of dollars each year and that have a nationwide impact on jobs and the economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's analysis of the regulatory state found that of the approximately 4,000 regulations published annually only a few—under 25 regulations—would be deemed transformative. By focusing only on high-impact, transformative regulations, Congress can control overreaching regulations while allowing the day-to-day operations of agencies to function. Under the RAA, the public would get an earlier opportunity to participate in shaping the most costly and transformative regulations.

When an agency first decides to write a high-impact rule, it would be required explain to the public why the regulation is necessary, how it will affect business, jobs and the economy, and why the rule is the best available alternative. After evaluating the impacts of the proposed rule, agencies should select the least costly regulatory alternative that achieves congressional intent. Independent federal agencies would be held to the same standards of transparency and accountability as executive agencies.

The RAA would also allow the American people the right to verify that high-impact proposed rules are feasible, cost-effective, and well-supported by good scientific and economic data. Finally, before awarding deference to agency decisions, a court must find that the agency addressed all standards mandated on the agency by Congress.

It is time for the Senate to follow the House's lead in passing and presenting a regulatory package to the president that restores its ability to place limits on agency rulemaking. If regulatory reform cannot happen when Congress and the president are of the same party, it is unlikely to ever happen and the ability of Congress to control agency overreach will continue to diminish. It is time for impactful regulatory reform, which the American Loggers Council supports and that the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017, H.R. 5, can deliver.



CHANGING OUR IMAGE WITH PERFORMANCE BASED CERTIFICATION

By Ted Wright, Executive Director
The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands

Loggers are a proud group of hardworking individuals, and nothing makes a careful and conscientious logger cringe more than seeing sloppy work, hearing stories of landowners being cheated or being treated with skepticism by people inside and outside the industry. Those loggers know that this damages their reputation just as much as it does the reputation of the logger that is responsible.

Logging is not the only profession that has good caring professionals along with bad apples that can ruin the bushel. Physicians, attorneys, electricians, mechanics, plumbers and many others all have ways to distinguish the good from the bad.

There was a time when physicians could simply go to medical school and then go into practice. There was no performance assessment for the specialty they chose to practice. Bad physicians were getting into practice and were making people sick or making critical mistakes that made people fear seeking the help of a physician. In the early 1900's the majority of physicians knew they needed a profession-led certification to move forward and crack down on those within the profession that were not holding up their end of the bargain. Through the creation of board certification, they were able to remove the bad actors but also improve their image.

This was not done through training programs. It was done by board certification. It was undertaken for many reasons, but improving image, distinguishing excellent practices and driving continuous improvement were all part of it.

The analogy of physicians can be directly related to the logging profession. Logging contractors that invest millions of dollars and run clean businesses are lumped into the same group as loggers who are only there for a short term or as long as they can hack it. Today a person can simply buy a chainsaw and a skidder, take a training class and then they are

considered a 'qualified' logger.

Many of these "loggers" do harm to the industry because they have a short term window of operations, but the damage they can do to the industry is long term. We cannot continue to operate this way. The time has come for a performance-based certification to truly separate the loggers that care, are invested heavily and want to see a future of responsible forest management.

There have been many people who are skeptical of Master Logger because they believe it will somehow inhibit their business, add cost and cause harm, when in fact its purpose is to recognize those of you who are doing things right and separate you from those who don't.

Training alone is a great equalizer when it comes to responsible and irresponsible logging contractors. Anyone can attend a training and be recognized for that. It is not enough. What matters is what happens in the woods.

Our industry simply can't move forward because everyone is "trained". Training programs have improved safety and opened up new ideas, but they also cost valuable time if they are taken simply to meet a required mandate. The logging profession cannot be judged on attendance at training programs alone. Better to judge the profession on performance standards that drive continuous improvement.

I think what has been lost over the last twenty years is the understanding of the terms: "qualified" and "certified". This has confused those working in the industry as well as the general public. As a result, these terms are comingled and used without understanding, allowing those who have attended a training program to call themselves certified even though this doesn't meet the definition of the term.

For context, I think it's extremely important to differentiate between 1st party (company), 2nd party (qualified) and 3rd party (certified) assessments. 1st Party assessment is a conformity assessment performed by the individual that provides the service, where the 1st party can establish, "I am good". 2nd

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party assessment is a conformity assessment performed by an organization (Trainer, instructor) that has an interest in the service provided, “we are good” otherwise known as “qualified”. 3rd party assessment is a conformity assessment that requires an entirely independent party to provide the conformity assessment. “They are good”. 3rd party is the only assessment that can be called certification.

In closing, I offer the following table for you to compare and contrast the differences and uses of Logger Training Program (qualified) vs. Master Logger (certified). Training has been important and will be important for growth for ourselves and our employees, but it should not be the deciding factor in measuring a logger’s commitment to the industry.

	Logger Training Program	Master Logger Certification©
What is it?	An educational process.	An assessment process.
Who is it for?	For both newcomers and experienced professionals.	Typically requires some amount of professional experience.
Who provides the oversight?	Content provided by a variety of organizations, institutions or other providers with subject matter knowledge.	Awarded by a third party, standard-setting organization with subject matter knowledge.
What does it consist of?	May be a single course or a series of classes with content relevant to the audience.	A well-defined initial assessment process with set components for renewal.
What does it indicate?	Indicates attendance at a program.	Indicates mastery and level of competency as measured against a defined set of benchmarks.
Expert validation?	Content varies widely.	Benchmarks are set through standardized, industry-wide process that results in demonstration of required knowledge and skills.
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Why?	Usually part of a mandated industry requirement or compliance standard. May have additional opportunities for voluntary professional development.	Voluntary process, not tied to an industry mandate. Typically led by the profession itself.
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Results?	Results in a certificate of attendance or compliance.	Results in a designation only available to companies who have successfully demonstrated achievement of third-party verified standards.

Many of you have years of experience, serious investments in machines, employees and your local communities. These successes that you have worked so hard to achieve can be undermined and minimized by a recognition system that is mandated by others, and that’s not fair. Performance based certification recognizes your good work and commitment to the logging profession and is that recognition that will lead to an image of our professionalism that we all desire.

I hope this article mobilizes conscientious logging contractors towards voluntary logger certification. We need all of you on board going above and beyond to help weed the bad out from the good. The industry and our profession will be better because of it.

LOGGERS WORKING IN THE TRENCHES

This article was written by Eric Carleson, executive director of Associated California Loggers for their recent newsletter. We thought this column is worth sharing. Are you in the trenches as well?

I was talking to an ACL member recently and he referenced the title of this Column ("From the Trenches.") He said to me, "You folks really ARE in the trenches, aren't you?" He went on to discuss the various projects and negotiations that ACL has been reporting on to our members over the past few years.

For a good example of being "in the trenches," look no further than the photos in this April newsletter, of various ACL Board Members who travelled to Washington DC last month and spent three days meeting with members of Congress, their staff, administrative officials and private sector "think tanks" in an effort to educate and advocate for the issues of our sector of the timber industry.

Every year ACL sends a delegation to Washington, and every year we come back knowing that we have put many solid arguments – backed by research and data – in front of the lawmakers and other officials with whom we meet. Our goals are many: to increase forest health by saving California forests from the threat of increased "mega-wildfires" and insect-killed dead and dying trees; to increase water yield for ALL Californians via timber management that avoids impacts on water quality and water supply; to promote a job-creating "win win" biomass alternative energy industry; to save our rural timber communities through increased timber harvest and thinning, and to re-create a timber industry that will attract a new generation of young men and women to commit to the tough but rewarding "great outdoors" work that is timber harvesting.

This year, during the very week we were in DC, the most significant pro-timber legislation in years passed both Houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Trump. Did the ACL delegation singlehandedly win this victory? The answer is no. Was the ACL delegation part of the "massive flood of grassroots lobbyists" who swarmed the US Capitol and laid a groundswell of support for the legislation that passed? The answer is a resounding YES.

Without our laying of the groundwork and flooding the Members of Congress with our information "up

close and personal, face to face", the pressure would have been less intense for negotiators to put pro timber provisions in the Omnibus Bill. Among logging states lobbying in DC that week, ACL had one of the largest delegations and visited the most offices – offices of both California lawmakers and of lawmakers from other states (of both parties) who could help get this win accomplished.

Our delegation also learned a hard lesson in DC this year. The Omnibus Budget Bill that contains so many good provisions for the timber industry was also a

"compromise bill" on a lot of topics that drew plenty of "no" votes and attacks in some of the press, for some of its spending provisions.

But that's the only major


bill that passed, and ACL will join in the effort to see that the Omnibus Bill is properly enacted to bring both money and reforms to the Timber Management side of the US Forest Service in California. For all the good things that made it into the Omnibus Bill for forestry, a number of things didn't make it.

ACL and other timber groups are pushing for those "left out provisions" to make it into the 2018 Farm Bill, which is being negotiated now. If it doesn't happen there (as 2018 becomes a combative Election Year), we will get back into battle mode and keep fighting for these reforms to get enacted in the future.

Though work on the federal forests is a vitally important part of ACL's mission, we certainly remain active in state issues (we will report on those as the year goes on), and in providing our members with access to insurance, safety training and ProLogger certification.

Still, it is in our "volunteer logger lobbying" that ACL has made its presence most felt in recent years. We keep expanding the number of loggers who want to get personally involved in meetings at the state and federal level. Nowadays, you can usually see ACL members in so many different meetings at so many different levels, that the officials staging these meetings must be thinking: "Who ARE those guys?" That's a line from the movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," but ACL loggers find themselves being spoken of that way all the time – and in a good way.

Who are those guys? They are the guys (and gals) who never go away, who always keep fighting, and who will continue to fight "in the trenches" for our members in the years to come.



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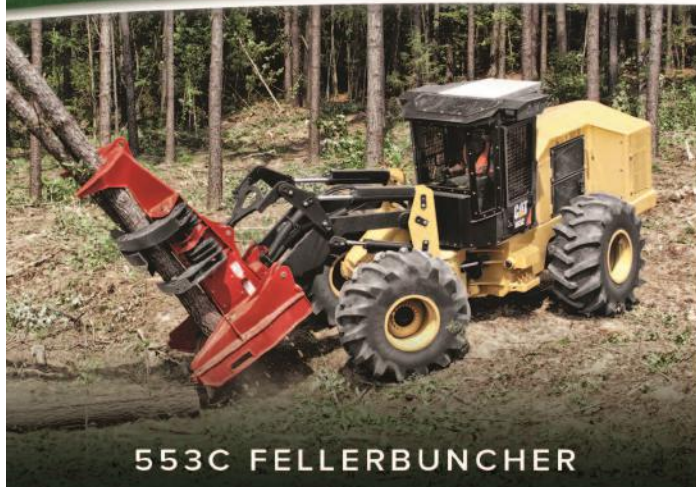


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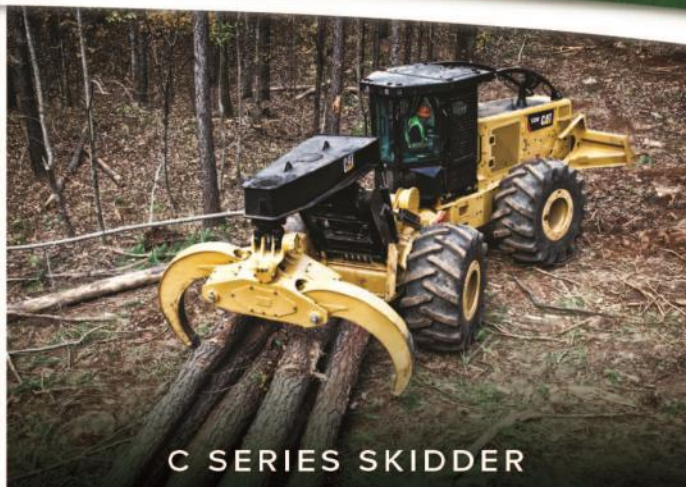


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WORKING TOGETHER, ARE WE?

By Danny Dructor, ALC Executive VP

If you have been following the legislative efforts of the American Loggers Council for very long, you will already know that we have been working to try and get state legal weight tolerances on the Federal Interstate Highway System for way too long. After all, the project began in 1997 and here we are 21 years later with the same result, nothing has changed yet.

Last year the Forest Resources Association came on board and for the past twelve months, both our organizations have worked on the issue, seeking support up on The Hill in Washington, DC. We have both heard the same story, the railroads don't support this.

There are two ways to get things done in D.C., one is to throw money at an issue and the other is to form relationships with those that represent you. We prefer the 2nd path of creating relationships for two main reasons; 1) We don't have funding to throw at issues, and 2) when you create relationships, there is a true understanding of the issue and we are not simply attempting to buy influence.

At a recent Team Safe Trucking meeting in South Carolina, I had the opportunity to speak to a group of individuals who represent insurance carriers insuring log trucks. I pleaded with them to get on board with us to help us get this legislation passed. If there is one thing I know for certain, their lobbying power in Washington is just as powerful, if not more so, than the railroads.

What came out of that discussion was a real eye-opener for me, and one that I feel we should all think about when asking for another person's help. I was told that the reason that the insurance lobby was still hesitant in supporting our proposal was because we still haven't proven that we can clean up our act on the highways, and allowing trucks to drive 70-75 miles per hour on the Interstate was a real concern to them.

Because all of this took place under the context of a Team Safe Trucking meeting, and because we were discussing driver training for both new and veteran log haulers, it dawned on me that what they are concerned about is correct. Until we can voluntarily show that we are willing to make the effort to create a safer environment for our drivers and the motoring public, we will be hard pressed to gain support for this issue outside of our own industry.

The first training module is in place and you can go online at www.teamsafetrucking.org to not only register for the training, but also print out certificates of completion once you have completed the course. There is a module for drivers and a module for owner-operators, and the best part is there is no charge for the course, but a donation to the group

would certainly be helpful and assist them in keeping things current and being able to develop future courses and printable materials.

We have always taken great pride in the fact that we do not go to Washington, DC looking for a handout. Our issues are generally fashioned around the concept of "just allow us to do our jobs" without further burdensome regulation. What we haven't thought about is the repercussions that "our" proposals might have on others that are allied to this industry. If we can't voluntarily improve our safety and decrease the incident rates with our current drivers and freight system, how can we expect others to work with us to support legislation that could end up costing them?

Let's all really begin to work together. Volunteering a little bit of time to educate and train ourselves to create a safer environment just might get us what we need; the ability to haul our already state legal weights on the safer, more efficient Federal Interstate Highway System. We will remain committed to this effort.



What came out of that discussion was a real eye-opener for me, ...

Omnibus Bill Delivers Fire Funding Fix, New Fuels Reduction Tools

By Nick Smith, Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, also known as the “omnibus” bill, delivered a number of legislative victories for federal forest management. Notably, the bipartisan forestry package gives federal agencies additional funding and new policy tools to support fuels reduction work on public lands.

Chief among these victories is a solution to federal “fire borrowing” that has hamstrung federal land management agencies for many years. The process for setting federal wildfire budgeting at the 10-year average of suppression costs has failed to keep pace with larger and increasingly severe fires. Whenever the agency exhausts its firefighting budget for the fiscal year, it is forced to redirect money from non-fire programs including those for fuels reduction.

Many in the forestry community have long advocated for a solution to fire borrowing. Some have proposed simply allowing agencies to access emergency disaster funds when suppression funds are exhausted, but the idea has faced resistance from key members of Congress. After four years of negotiations a compromise was finally reached, though the solution is nuanced and comes with a few caveats.

According to the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, the omnibus includes a new fire suppression funding mechanism that will adjust federal spending caps to accommodate firefighting needs. The legislation provides a new “disaster cap allocation” for wildfires starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 at \$2.25 billion, which increases to \$2.95 billion in FY 2027. In addition, the legislation freezes the wildfire suppression line item at the Forest Service at the FY 2015 level to stop the slow migration of non-fire funding to the fire programs at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Importantly, the new budget cap doesn’t come into effect until FY 2020. For FY 2018 and 2019, the bill pro-

vides \$1.946 billion in fire suppression funding, to be allocated to the Department of Interior and the Forest Service. If this funding, which is \$500 million above the current 10-year average, proves insufficient, the Congress will have to provide additional emergency spending.

In addition to the budget fix, the \$1.2 trillion omnibus increases wildfire-related programs by nearly \$550 million, including an \$80 million increase to the Forest Service’s Hazardous Fuels line item. In total, hazardous fuels and fire accounts total \$3.3 billion out of the \$5.9 billion total (55 percent) for the Forest Service.

The omnibus bill includes several forest management policy reforms. This includes a new 3,000-acre Categorical Exclusion (CE) under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) for Forest Service “Wildfire Resilience” projects. The CE must use a collaborative process, consider best available science, and maximize retention of old-growth and large trees. Projects must be located within landscapes designated under the Farm Bill as of March 23, 2018. Projects may also be within the Wildland Urban Interface, or within Condition Class 2 or 3, or Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III that contain very high wildfire hazard potential. Before using this CE, the Forest Service is required to apply its “extraordinary circumstances” regulation to ensure no significant effects.

The omnibus also reforms vegetation management around power lines and establishes new HFRA categories for fuel breaks and fire breaks. Under HFRA, these projects are eligible for expedited procedures including action/no-action analysis and a waiver of the administrative objection process.

Further, the omnibus bill amends federal Stewardship Contracting. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior can now award 20-year stewardship contracts, or agreements in areas where the majority of Federal lands are in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III. It permits agencies to give a preference to contractors that would, as part of a contract, promote an innovative use of forest products, including cross-laminated timber. The legislation also includes fixes to address the cancellation ceiling excess value, as well as the annual reporting issues associated with Stewardship Contracting.

The bill also requires mapping within two years of wildfire risks to inform evaluations of wildfire risk, prioritize fuels management needs, and show potential

(Continued on page 22)



(Continued from page 21)

for wildfire that could be difficult for suppression resources to contain and that could cause ignitions to structures. Finally, the omnibus bill provides a long-sought improvement to the federal Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) law that allows state agencies to work with the Forest Service to implement projects on forests in need of treatment. Specifically, it permits GNA projects to include recon-

struction, repair or restoration of National Forest System roads.

Overall, the forestry package in the omnibus bill is a major accomplishment. It will help federal agencies improve management of federally-owned forests, reduce fuel loads and mitigate the risks of catastrophic fires.

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Rick's experience includes 34 years as a state police officer, ten years with the SC Public Service Commission during the beginning stages of the Federal safety programs now enforced by the State Transport Police (STP) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Then 23 years with STP, of which 15 of these years as a State Transport Police Captain.

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- * Stolen Lowboy from River Bluff Logging & Trucking, LLC, on or about the night of April 25 or the morning of April 26, 2018, from the property located at 6702 Platt Springs Road, Lexington, SC, 29073...
- * 1991 Evans, White Color, 40 Ton Lowboy with Hydraulic Ramps, VIN # 1J9E146BL1003890 ...
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Prevalence of hearing loss among workers involved in forest nurseries, gathering of forest products from trees is 36%, more than twice the average for agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector; prevalence in tree harvesting is 22%: NIOSH study

Apr 3, 2018 -National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Original Headline:

Study Highlights Prevalence of Hearing Loss Among Workers in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing Industries

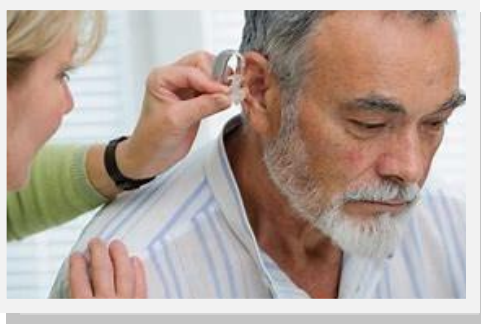
ATLANTA, February 21, 2018 (press release) – The prevalence of hearing loss among noise-exposed workers in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (AFFH) sector is 15%, according to a new NIOSH study published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine. However, when researchers examined industries within the sector they found as many as 36%—or 1 in 3 noise-exposed workers—have hearing loss. This is the first study to estimate prevalence and risk for hearing loss for sub-sectors within the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting industry sector.

The industries within the AFFH sector with the highest number of noise-exposed workers who have hearing loss and an elevated risk of hearing loss include:

- Forest Nurseries and Gathering of Forest Products (36%), which entails growing trees for reforestation or gathering barks, gums, fibers, etc. from trees;
- Timber Tract Operations (22%), which entails harvesting standing trees to make timber; and
- Fishing (19%), this study sample comprised workers fishing for finfish such as tuna, salmon, trout, etc.

Additionally, researchers found workers in the aquaculture (fish farms or hatcheries) and logging industries are at higher risk for hearing loss.

“While we found the overall prevalence of hearing loss in the AFFH sector to be less than all industries combined, which is 19 percent, our study shows there are many industries within the sector that have a large number of workers who have or are at high risk for hearing loss,” said Elizabeth Masterson, PhD, epidemiologist and lead author of the study. “Workers in the high-risk industries identified in this study would benefit from continued hearing conservation efforts.” For the study, researchers examined the results of 17,299 hearing tests, or audiograms, from workers employed at 458 companies in the AFFH sector. Certified technicians conducted the hearing tests for workers exposed to high noise (≥ 85 dBA) between the years 2003 and 2012 and shared the results with the NIOSH Occupational Hearing Loss Surveillance Project. “Hazardous noise affects an estimated 22 million workers in the U.S. and hearing loss from this workplace exposure is entirely preventable with the right strategies and technology such as controlling noise to



safe levels, protecting employees through the use of personal protective equipment and monitoring workers for changes in their hearing levels,” said Dr. Masterson. The prevalence of hearing loss in the AFFH sector has declined since the 1980s,

however, it remains one of the industrial sectors with the highest risk for hearing loss.

For more information on occupational hearing loss surveillance, including industry sector-specific statistics on hearing loss, tinnitus, noise exposure, and other information, please visit the Occupational Hearing Loss Surveillance webpage. Visit the NIOSH website for more information about noise and hearing loss prevention research at NIOSH.

NIOSH is the federal institute that conducts research and makes recommendations for preventing work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths. For more information about NIOSH visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/.



Trucking Alliance Pushes Congress to Tighten Truck Driver Drug Testing

The Alliance for Driver Safety & Security, also known as the Trucking Alliance, announced it will push for congressional passage of a new drug testing law to require anyone who applies for a safety-sensitive job in the trucking industry to verify no opioid addiction or illegal drug use for at least 30 days prior to employment.

The Trucking Alliance announced its opioid test initiative at the United Nations, as part of an event entitled, "The Use of Technology to Promote Road Safety – The Brazilian Experience." Brazil requires all commercial truck drivers to pass a hair test before renewing their license. More than 1 million Brazilian drivers have either failed the hair test or refused to renew their license since the law took effect two years ago.

The Alliance is a coalition of freight and logistics companies that support the adoption of technology and regulations to improve safety in trucking, such as mandatory truck speed limiters, mandatory electronic logging devices, improved driver training and screening, and advanced safety assistance systems.

"Current drug testing methods for truck drivers are failing," said Lane Kidd, managing director of The Trucking Alliance. Kidd told UN attendees that in 2017, J.B. Hunt Transport identified 1,213 people who tested positive on their pre-employment hair test. Yet, 90% of the company's truck driver applicants passed the government-mandated urinalysis. "Clearly, the U.S. Department of Transportation's pre-employment drug test protocols are missing most lifestyle drug users and opioid addicts, and that's a national problem for our industry," said Kidd.

"We have an opioid problem in our nation, and from my experience, we have one in our industry, too," said Dean Newell, vice president of safety and driver training at Maverick USA, headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas. Newell also spoke at the United Nations meeting. "We [Maverick] started hair testing for opioids in 2014, and we've seen a steady increase [in opioid addiction] every year."

Opioids are undetected in a person's system after a few hours, allowing opioid addicts to avoid drugs before submitting to a urinalysis. However, a hair exam can detect

drug use for up to 90 days.

According to The Alliance, opioids subject to drug abuse in the trucking industry include codeine, morphine pain killers branded under hundreds of names, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone marketed under such names as OxyContin, Percoset, and Tylox, and the highly addictive opioids Methodone and Fentanyl. The U.S. Department of Transportation recently added four of these – hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, and oxymorphone – to

its pre-employment drug test protocols. But unless the applicant takes these opioids within a few hours of collection, a urinalysis drug test can miss their use, say hair testing proponents.

"We hope Congress will follow Brazil's leadership

and require a drug test that proves without a doubt that a truck driver job applicant hasn't taken illegal drugs or abused opioids for at least 30 days," said Kidd.

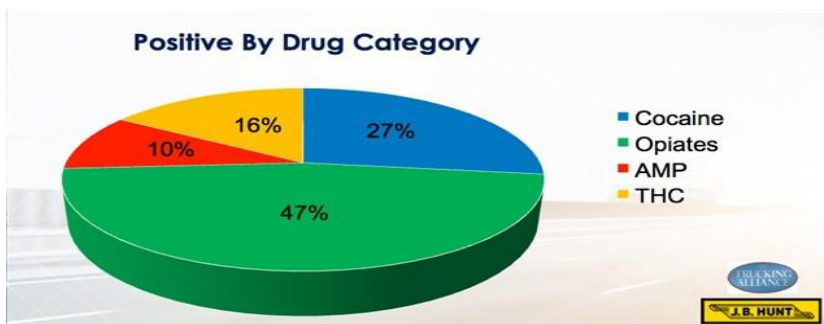
Kidd also said Congress might consider a new drug test law for all current truck drivers, requiring a hair test before they renew their commercial driver license, as Brazil requires. "Too many loopholes allow truck drivers to skip random drug testing, even after they're involved in a serious large truck accident."

Newell agreed that current regulations do not capture lifestyle drug users. "We've had 154 drivers at Maverick who failed their hair test after they passed a urine test. Those 154 drivers are working for another company," explained Newell. "They're running up and down the road with our families, and that is not acceptable."

Kidd added that since 2006, J.B. Hunt Transport has refused to employ 5,060 job applicants who failed a hair test after passing their urinalysis. Most of those truck driver applicants found jobs at other transportation companies, because almost all U.S. carriers use only the minimum federally required urinalysis.

"Multiply J.B. Hunt Transport's experience by the hundreds of thousands of truck driver applicants each year across the United States, and we have a major problem," said Kidd.

Hair testing "will save lives and hair testing is the right thing to do," said Newell. "Maverick wants to make sure the company is the safest it can be, and that all drivers are well trained and drug free. We have a moral obligation to our employees, but we also have a moral obligation to the public."



J.B. Hunt found that opioid use was far more likely to be caught by hair testing than by the standard urinalysis. From The Trucking Alliance's UN presentation.

Wendy Farrand: *Loggers, Listen to Those Who Truly Understand*



Ever since I set foot on a logging job, I have been advocating and defending loggers. I say to loggers everywhere, no one knows your world better than a fellow logging contractor. I am not a logger, but I did learn a lot of things from working in the woods right alongside loggers as a procurement manager.

As a procurement manager for a fully mechanized timber harvesting company, I was part of the crew. Once I got that contract signed, I supported my crews the best way I could which could entailed anything from running for a hose or part, driving a crew member to the hospital or court, or retrieving hot soup for the slasher operator who was sick as a dog, but refused to leave the job in order to keep the wood flowing to the mill. I always strived to pull my weight when it came to physical work.

No one and I mean no one, myself included, knows the pain and heartache of running a logging company when times are tough. When fuel prices are high, when quotas are low or when regulations halt a job. I experienced all those things alongside the owner, but when I went home, the bottom line, as much as I stressed about the business, I did not sign the paychecks and could not begin to tell the logger how to decide what to do. I could advise him on things that I knew without a doubt, but making those tough everyday decisions could only fall on his shoulders.

Which brings me to a very valuable bit of information no one but a fellow logging contractor can understand, really understand, what you experience in the woods. So when considering people to fill those positions of power, who are setting standards for how you work in the woods, please, please hold out for someone who has walked your shoes. Someone who really understands what it is like to look into the eyes of those men and women who have families waiting at home for them to return. Waiting for them to return with a fair wage to put food on the table, and a roof over their heads. People in power should understand those hard decisions, how you make them, and why you make them.

When I delivered my presentation "Rebranding and Industry" this past February at the Oregon Logging Conference, I opened my presentation exactly the way I opened this piece, I have worked in the woods alongside loggers, I have worked in this industry in hard times, but I still don't feel I have the right to tell a business owner how to make those tough decisions when I have never really walked in his shoes, or frankly had the courage to walk in his or her boots. I have never had a huge equipment payment, had to make the decision to buy an expensive part to repair a piece of equipment, or stretch a penny to buy fuel, the lifeblood that keeps the wood flowing. What's a logger to do? In order to keep the wood flowing those decisions, made under extremely stressful circumstances with very little room for a wiggle, let alone the luxury of time to decide, are what separate the weak from the strong. When someone from outside of your industry tries to tell you what to do, take heed, for without total understanding of the blood, sweat and tears that go into the decisions you so keenly make every day, they really don't understand.

Empathy, the ability to put yourself in someone else shoes, is one thing a successful leader must possess. So, there is one thing I can advise you without a doubt, and that is fill the spots, that are in your power to fill, with people who have walked in your boots. Not someone who might wear sandals or office flats on the job, if you know what I mean.

Wendy Farrand is a forest industry consultant who works to spread the word regarding the value of strengthening "The People Side of Timber Harvesting" and the positive impact that has on safety, production, and overall professionalism in the logging industry.



Treat the Disease: Support forest management in a wildfire funding fix

Our national forests have been in a continuous state of declining health for at least two decades. Not only are more wildfires burning federal lands, but they burn hotter, faster, and destroy more acres. This year alone, over 56,000 wildfires burned 10 million acres of land. These fires choked our air with smoke, and polluted our waterways with ash and debris.

In years past, federal land management agencies have been forced to borrow from land management and other important activities to fight wildfires. Agencies are then left with fewer resources to conduct thinning, timber harvests, and controlled burns, which can reduce the severity of wildfires. This fire-borrowing cycle negatively impacts fiscal and forest health.

However, solving the fire-borrowing problem alone is the equivalent of treating symptoms but not the underlying disease. Even if Congress fixes fire-borrowing, land management agencies are subject to constant red tape and legal threats that hinder their ability to carry out the needed operations to protect and improve federal landscapes.

In November 2017, the House acted on this principle in a bipartisan manner, when it passed HR 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act. This legislation would end fire-borrowing in a fiscally responsible manner, and also make necessary changes to forest management practices by building on the 2014 Farm Bill's categorical exclusions, expediting the removal of dead trees after a wildfire, and timber harvesting in areas impacted by pine beetle infestation. Better management of our forests will help to reduce the severity of wildfires, improve environmental quality, and save taxpayers money in the long run. HR 2936 provides a bipartisan path forward, and should be a framework for any potential forest management and fire borrowing fix legislation. This legislation is now pending in the U.S. Senate.

We urge members of Congress to fix both of these problems simultaneously. It is the best way to ensure that our forests stay healthy and resilient, while also protecting agency budgets.



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Improve forest management by reforming the National Environmental Policy Act

The American Loggers Council (ALC) supports meaningful reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



This well-intended federal environmental law was originally intended to give the American public a voice in public land management decision making. But after more than four decades of implementation, NEPA has provided professional "No Management" groups with a powerful tool to bring responsible, science-based, active management to a halt. The results have been devastating: less healthy forests, more taxpayer dollars spent on endless paperwork, expensive lawsuits, and rural communities that cannot provide good paying jobs or essential services like law enforcement.

The time required for the Forest Service to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) has risen from 817 days to a whopping 1,300 days. The number of days required to complete an environmental assessment (EA) increased from 594 days to 730 days. According to U.S. Government Accountability Office, the Forest Service between 2008 and 2012 produced more than twice as many EISs as the Army Corps of Engineers or the Federal Highway Administration, and nearly two and a half times as many as the Bureau of Land Management.

There's strong agreement on the need to reduce paperwork. Longstanding guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality, for instance, recommends that EIS's only be used for significant environmental impacts, and that they should be completed in one year or less, and should be generally less than 300 pages. Forest Service NEPA processes frequently take up to four years and documents run into the thousands of pages.

It's time to make the NEPA process more responsive to the needs of our forests and communities. Action is needed because it's taking the Forest Service longer to complete NEPA paperwork. With 100 million acres of Forest Service land at some risk of catastrophic wildfire, we need the agency to manage our public lands. Reforming NEPA would enable the Forest Service to implement better forest projects more quickly. This will not only improve the health of our federal forests, it will support America's small, family-owned logging companies who will do a majority of the work.

ALC urges the federal government to reform NEPA through Congressional action and administrative rulemaking. We support the NEPA reforms contained in the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 (HR 2936) that expands "categorical exclusions" under NEPA to expedite projects at immediate risk of catastrophic wildfire, insects and disease, as well as to protect watershed, enhance wildlife habitat and ensure speedy salvage and reforestation after a wildfire. The U.S. House has already approved HR 2936, and the U.S. Senate should approve it without delay.

Other reform options include streamlining projects on lands that have already been identified as being suitable for timber production; expanding categorical exclusions for projects on forests that are in immediate need of treatment; recognizing the risks of inaction; declaring an emergency on all Federal lands designated as condition fire class 2 or 3; among others.



State-legal Loads

On the Interstate System

Individual states have long set weight limits for their roads and highways. With the advent of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways (Interstate system) the Federal Government established its own weight limits for this system. **Several states have received various exemptions from these limits. Many “new” sections of the Federal Interstate Highway system have been “grandfathered” in to allow the existing state legal load limits prior to the roadway becoming a portion of the Federal Interstate Highway System.**

Generally, Title 23, Section 127(a), U.S. Code sets Interstate System weight limits at 20,000 pounds on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on tandems and a gross weight of 80,000 pounds on a 36 foot tandem spread. A bridge formula is used to recognize different axle spreads. These maximums include enforcement tolerances

Based on safety considerations, the American Loggers Council (ALC) is proposing an additional exemption for agricultural (including forest) commodity loads that meet state-legal requirements and tolerances. The exemption is expected to result in a shift of a substantial amount of existing trip mileage from two-lane secondary roads and highways to the Interstate System improving safety for the motoring public, including the trucks themselves.

This proposal would also “fix” the issue with the addition of “newly” designated federal interstate highways having to receive piecemeal exemptions based on existing State weight tolerances.

Language introduced in the 113 Congress

Amending Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter I, Section 127(a), United States Code, by adding the following final paragraph:



“(j) State Agricultural Exemptions. –

“(1) IN GENERAL. – Notwithstanding subsection (a), individual State weight limitations for an agricultural commodity that are applicable to State highways shall be applicable to the Interstate System within the State’s borders for vehicles carrying an agricultural commodity.

The addition of this paragraph only requests recognizing those agricultural commodities that are already recognized in Individual State statutes.

This action will not be in direct competition with freight moved by rail as it will only pertain to those commodities moving from the farms and forests on the federal interstate highway system considered to be short haul (less than 150 air mile radius) to the point of processing to a finished product. We are not looking for long haul or other exemptions.

For assistance regarding this proposal, please contact Danny Dructor, American Loggers Council, (409) 625-0206.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2018

NEW SFI BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED TO ENHANCE CONSERVATION IMPACT, SUPPLY CHAIN ASSURANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ottawa, ON and Washington, D.C. — The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) is pleased to announce the election of four new members to its Board of Directors: Mike Parr, President, American Bird Conservancy; Jim Irving, Co-CEO, JD Irving Limited; Lennard Joe, President, Nicola Tribal Association; and Jaime Yraguen, President, Associated Oregon Loggers. These new members embody SFI's three pillars: supply chain assurance, conservation elevation, and education and community engagement.

"SFI is embarking on a strategic direction exercise and we are so pleased to have these new representatives from key constituencies among our leadership. They will help us think through our role in the next chapter of our forests, our responsible supply chains, and our communities, including measuring conservation results, connecting youth to the outdoors, and engaging our grassroots network of 34 SFI Implementation Committees who do critical work at the local and regional levels across the U.S. and Canada," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc.

SFI's 18-member, multi-stakeholder board of directors comprises three chambers, representing environmental, economic and social interests equally. SFI Board members include executive-level representatives of conservation organizations, academic institutions, Indigenous communities, family forest owners, public officials, workers and the forest products sector.

Michael J. Parr, President, American Bird Conservancy (representing the environmental chamber)

Mike Parr joined the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) in 1996 and became President in 2017. He is an international wildlife conservationist with more than 25 years of experience in program development, fundraising, communications, and management. He has particular expertise in bird conservation, with substantial field experience, including a special focus on the United States and on the Andean region of South America. ABC is a strong supporter of SFI, engaging with SFI through research grants and through the Bringing Back the Forest Birds initiative.

"I have been involved with SFI for a number of years through its grants program and I very much appreciate what the organization and its members are doing in helping deliver sustainable forest management throughout the U.S. and Canada. The potential to provide more input on the direction of SFI, and especially its work to enhance bird populations, is of tremendous interest to me," said Parr.

Jim Irving, Co-CEO, JD Irving Limited (representing the economic chamber) Jim Irving pioneered JD Irving Limited's (JDI) reforestation and tree improvement programs, helping to set the tone for sustainable forestry in Canada and around the world. In 1996, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. JDI's forestlands in Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia produce pulp and paper products, specialty papers, tissue products, and lumber. JDI was the recipient of the 2017 SFI Leadership in Conservation award. JDI has been planting trees since 1957. This year will mark the planting of the company's billionth tree. JDI invests \$1.5 million annually in forest research, which guides best practices on the ground.

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30)

“These voluntary investments in science and conservation are a cornerstone of our sustainability commitment and have been part of the way we have done business for over 30 years. I hope to use my new board position to leverage the research and conservation work of the SFI network to expand the positive impact JDI and SFI can have when it comes to providing supply chain assurances for consumers and companies,” said Irving.

Lennard Joe, President, Nicola Tribal Association (representing the social chamber)

Lennard Joe brings over 28 years of forestry and business experience to his current roles. The Nicola Tribal Association is the advisory body for seven First Nations’ Indian Bands in British Columbia. He is a Registered Professional Forester, a member of the Nlaka’pamux First Nation, and he represents the Shackan Band as a Director. Lennard also serves on the boards of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association and he is an advisor and committee member with the University of British Columbia Faculty of Forestry First Nations Council of Advisors and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology’s Faculty of Forestry.

“Our goal is to continually incorporate Indigenous values into the practice of sustainable forestry. Our management activities truly embody our ethic of conserving the ecosystems where we work and our commitment to the future of our forests. Indigenous lands certified to SFI are a big part of this and I’m looking forward to furthering this connection by serving on the SFI Board,” Joe said.

Jaime Yraguen, President, Associated Oregon Loggers (representing the economic chamber)

In addition to his role with Associated Oregon Loggers, Jaime Yraguen is co-owner of Basco Logging Inc., a third-generation logging company in Sutherlin, Oregon. Associated Oregon Loggers represents over 1,000 family owned contract logging companies and businesses associated with the forestry sector. Jaime oversees the Oregon Professional Logger Program Committee that manages the logger training program required for SFI compliance. Jaime is a life member of the Coastal Conservation Association and has served on the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He also

served on the Josh Bidwell Foundation, a nonprofit for youth sports.

“Loggers who are aware of their role as responsible professionals are better equipped to protect the environment through actions like best management practices for water quality. Reaching the thousands of professional loggers is the key to the quality of forest harvesting operations and is one of the hallmarks of the SFI approach. I’m looking forward to building on this deep culture of logger training at SFI,” said Jaime.

Guy Gleysteen, Chairman of the GreenBlue Board of Directors, and Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Commonwealth of Virginia (reelected to second terms)

The SFI Board reelected Guy Gleysteen as Vice-Chair. He provides leadership at GreenBlue — an environmental nonprofit dedicated to the sustainable use of materials. Bettina Ring was reelected as an SFI Board member. Bettina oversees three agencies — the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Racing Commission.

About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI)

SFI® Inc. is a sustainability leader that stands for future forests. We are an independent, non-profit organization that provides supply chain assurances, delivers conservation leadership, and supports environmental education and community engagement. SFI works with the forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous peoples, governments, and universities. SFI standards and on-product labels help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions. Additionally, we oversee the SFI Forest Partners Program, which aims to increase supply of certified forest products, the SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program, which funds research and community building, and Project Learning Tree, which educates teachers and youth about forests and the environment. SFI Inc. is governed by an independent three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social, and economic sectors equally. SFI believes caring for forests improves everyone’s quality of life. Learn more: sfiprogram.org. Media Contact Daniel Pellegrom, VP, Communications Tel: 202-596-3452 daniel.pellegrom@sfiprogram.org

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British Columbia softwood lumber exports to U.S. plunge 20 percent

By Robert Dalheim April 18, 2018, Woodworking Network



BRITISH COLUMBIA - Softwood lumber exports from British Columbia to the U.S. have fallen 20 percent

from last March, according to the Canadian federal government.

British Columbia - Canada's largest lumber-producing province - exported just over 514 million board feet of lumber to the U.S. last month, down from 645 million board feet a year ago, said Canada's Global Affairs. Global Affairs said shipping constraints was to blame.

"Output from the B.C. Interior remains depressed due to shipping constraints," Hamir Patel of CIBC World Markets wrote in a report.

First-quarter shipments from the B.C. Interior, a region that encompasses a third of the province but accounts for more than 90 percent of its lumber exports, were 18 percent weaker than a year ago, largely due to transportation issues. B.C. Coastal shipments were 36 percent lower, reported The Globe and Mail.

Cold winter weather and unexpected volume increases are the cause of the shipping problems, say

the Canadian National and Pacific Railways.

Total Canadian shipments in the first three months were down 17.4 percent, but up two percent from February to March. Other provinces, like Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, saw shipments fall 16.6 percent, 8.6 percent, and 28 percent, respectively.

Patel said close to 60 percent of B.C.'s lumber exports went to the U.S. in February, down from 68 percent in January. Exports to China have been decreasing annually since 2013 and running 22 percent lower for the year.

Prices for lumber have also surged in Canada, in an effort to cover the softwood lumber duties applied by the U.S. government, says Patel.

In early November, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced the final determination of anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of Canadian softwood lumber.

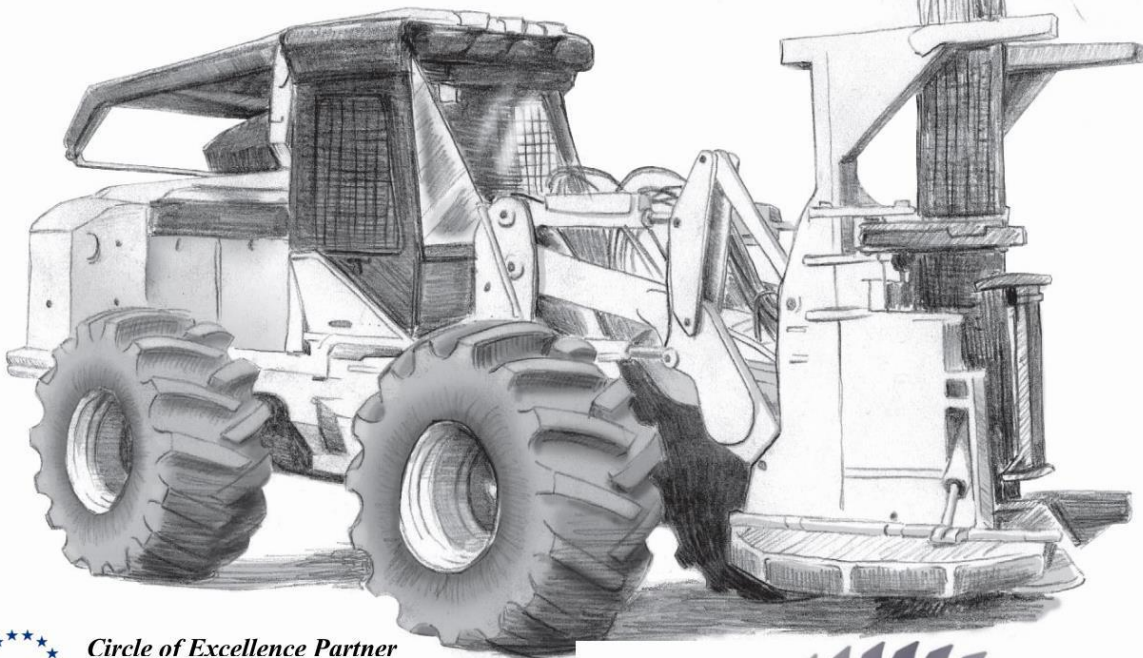
Reactions from the U.S. were positive and from Canada were negative. The combined final determination rates as announced by the U.S. Department of Commerce are: Canfor 22.13 percent; Resolute 17.90 percent; Tolko 22.07; W. Fraser 23.76 percent; Irving 9.92 percent; All Others 20.83 percent.

Canada has no plans of backing down and vows to resist the duties indefinitely. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has little faith that the Canadian softwood lumber trade dispute will be resolved anytime soon.

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HAVING IT BOTH WAYS?



Over the past couple of years, several CEO's of large timber companies, have expressed concerns about not having enough logging contractors to do the work needed. Who they are or who the concerns were expressed to are not important. They each followed a similar pattern. Deep concerns expressed about the aging and diminishing supply of qualified logging contractors! In each case, the reply has been that "loggers don't make enough money for the hardships they endure!" This is then followed by some blank stares and comments like "what are you talking about?"

It seems that the upper management of some timber companies are quite oblivious to the details of getting their timber logged and delivered to manufacturing facilities. I think that if they paid a little closer attention to their own processes of setting logging rates, that they would see that they are trying to have their cake and eat it to. To have high quality logging contractors at rock bottom prices.

I must admit that, as a capitalist, I can completely understand this desire. The logging process is one of the major expenses of producing timber products. And, being a commodity, the value of those timber products is often set on a world market. In other words, the pie is only so big. So why not always get the lowest logging price you can? It's been working for quite a while.

One of the issues that loggers run into is how timber sales are managed.

I say go for it! Us loggers are big boys and girls. We just don't ever, ever, ever want to hear another complaint about there not being enough loggers!!!

Some timber companies have come up with some intriguing ways to get sales logged at "below bid prices." Just last year, we were asked to do a job. We had given a "pre-bid price." We were told that they really wanted us to do the sale because it fit us really well. We wanted to do the sale as well. We were told, however, that our numbers were "too high". We met a couple of

times, to hash things out and we argued back and forth. But in the end, we were told that we had to log the sale at their numbers. We relented and decided that we would. However, in retrospect, we wished that we had said no. The truth was, that the price we were offered was the same price we could have gotten twenty years ago. Twenty years ago, however, we could have made some money at that price. However, on last year's sale, there was precious little money to be made. Inflation has taken its toll over the years and loggers are being squeezed really hard right now. The price of lumber had almost doubled from the time this sale was purchased and when it was logged. You would think that the sale purchaser could have spared a few dollars to help the logger?

Several years ago, we were asked to bid a timber sale. We were one of three bidders. We were told that the good news was that we were the lowest bid. However, the bad news was that our bid was higher than their anticipated logging costs. We were then asked to split the difference between our price and theirs, or they would rebid the sale. Looking back, I wish we would have said not only no, but hell no! There was about \$50,000 difference in our bid price and the price we logged the sale for. However, we needed that money a lot more than that timber company did. If you are going to put things out for bid, then at least make it an honest process. Bidding a timber sale can be a very complicated process.

Us loggers are quite capable of coming up with numbers that are lower than they should be. Especially if it is a sale that we feel we need, to get us through the slow time of the year. I think every logger out there has been, at some time or other, overly optimistic about the production they can get on a particular timber sale. Sometimes it seems like we are our own worst ene-

(Continued on page 36)

(Continued from page 35)

mies. However, I have heard many stories about loggers being asked to reduce their price, to match a “really low bid” submitted by another logger.

One of the issues that loggers run into is how timber sales are managed. Sale management can make a big difference in profit margins. As one logger recently told me, “to get a nice timber sale, you have to bid it at maximum production, assuming that everything will go perfectly. Then as soon as you are awarded the sale, they start throwing road blocks up that inhibit production”. It’s not uncommon to have a timber sale postponed at the last minute. To be told to pull out half way through and come back later to finish it. To have more sorts added, then were originally expected. Or to have quotas imposed that are lower than the production required, to produce a profit. All of these things and many others reduce the profitability of the loggers, of course, at no cost to the timber company.

Most of us loggers realize that we are not going to get rich working for timber companies. In most cases, we are just subcontractors. We have to work hard and be as efficient as possible to just get by.

However, it would be nice to be treated fairly, in an open and honest process. Some of the CEOs of these timber companies might be surprised how hard their loggers will work for them if they were allowed to make enough profit to pay their employees what they deserve and live a decent life themselves.

As I said before, the pie is only so big. However, with the building boom that has been going on lately, the pie has been getting considerably larger. If loggers were to get a little bit larger piece of that pie, those same CEOs might be surprised how little it would hurt their profit margins. They might also find more loggers available to do the work needed.

Mark Turner is the President of the American Loggers Council. Mark and his brother Greg operates Turner Logging out of Banks, Ore. Mark is an active leader with the Associated Oregon Loggers.

The American Loggers Council is a 501 (c)(6) not for profit trade association representing professional timber harvesters and log truckers in 32 states across the United States with headquarters near Hemphill, Texas.

HUBBARD NOMINATION SUPPORT LETTER - April 2018

April 23, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

The undersigned organizations write to you in strong support for the nomination of James Hubbard to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

Jim’s background, experience, and understanding of forests and the important role these lands play – from providing clean air and water, places to recreate, hike, hunt, and fish, habitat for fish and wildlife, jobs in rural America, to products we use every day – make him the right person for the job. He understands the Forest Service, and the many challenges facing the agency. He understands the importance of the National Forests to local economies and the environment, and is committed to creating jobs in hard pressed rural communities. He understands the role of private forest lands in meeting the nation’s environmental, social, and economic goals. In short, he is uniquely qualified to lead USDA’s efforts to conserve, protect, and manage all of our forest resources.

Jim is a career public servant with an impeccable record, and a clear dedication to both forest management and conservation. We are all anxious to begin working with him as soon as possible. We urge you to quickly confirm James Hubbard so he can begin working on the many challenges facing our forests.

Sincerely,

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

Alaska Forest Association	Associated California Loggers	Western Hardwood Association
Alabama Forestry Association	Associated Oregon Loggers	Western Wood Preservers Institute
Aldo Leopold Foundation	Binational Softwood Lumber Council	Western Pallet Association
Alliance for Community Trees	Biomass Thermal Energy Council	Weyerhaeuser
American Chestnut Foundation	Black Hills Forest Resource Association	Wildlife Mississippi
American Farm Bureau Federation	California Cattlemen's Association	Wisconsin Paper Council
American Forests	California Forestry Association	Wyoming Stock Growers Association
American Forest Foundation	California ReLeaf	Vermont Woodlands Association
American Forest & Paper Association	California Wool Growers Association	
American Forest Resource Council	Canfor Southern Pine	
American Loggers Council	Center for Heirs' Property Preservation	
American Sheep Industry Association	Center for Invasive Species Prevention	
American Wood Council	Colorado Cattlemen's Association	
American Woodcock Society	Colorado Timber Industry Association	
Arbor Day Foundation	Connecticut Forest & Park Association	
Archery Trade Association	Douglas Timber Operators	
Arizona Cattlemen's Association	Evergreen Forest County Group	
Arkansas Forestry Association	Federal Forest Resource Coalition	
Arkansas Timber Producers Association	F.H. Stoltze Land & Timber	
Association of Consulting Foresters	Florida Forestry Association	
Forest Energy Co.	National Woodland Owners Association	
Forest Ind. National Labor Management Cmte.	Nevada Cattlemen's Association	
Forest Resources Association	New England Forestry Foundation	
Forest Stewards Guild	New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association	
Forest Trends	New Jersey Forestry Association	
Genoverde Biosciences, Inc.	New Mexico Forest Industry Association	
Georgia Forestry Association	Northeastern Loggers Association	
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association	Northern Arizona Loggers Association	
Green Forests Work	Northern Forest Center	
Hancock Natural Resources Group	North Carolina Forestry Association	
Hardwood Federation	Oregon Cattlemen's Association	
Hawaii Forest Industry Association	Oregon Women in Timber	
Hedstrom Lumber	Outdoor Recreation Roundtable	
Idaho Cattle Association	Pacific Forest Trust	
Idaho Forest Group	Pennsylvania Forest Products Association	
Idaho Wool Growers Association	Pennsylvania Forestry Association	
Illinois Forestry Association	Pinchot Institute for Conservation	
Intermountain Forest Association	PotlatchDeltic	
International Snowmobile Mfgs. Association	Professional Logging Contracts of Maine	
Intertribal Timber Council	Public Lands Council	
Kansas Forestry Association	Rayonier	
Kentucky Forest Industries Association	Resource Management Service, LLC	
L&C Carbon LLC	Ruffed Grouse Society	
Longleaf Alliance	RV Industry Association	
Louisiana Pacific	Saloom Properties, LLC	
Maine Audubon	SCJ General Services	
Maine Woodland Owners	Shannon Ramsay Timber	
Marine Retailers Assoc. of the Americas	Sierra Cascade Logging Conference	
Michigan Forest Association	Sierra Pacific Industries	
Michigan Forest Products Council	Smith Logging, Inc.	
Minnesota Forest Industries	Society of American Foresters	
Minnesota Forestry Association	South Carolina Timber Producers Association	
Minnesota Timber Producers Association	Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association	
Missouri Forest Products Association	Southern Group of State Foresters	
Montana Logging Association	Sustainable Forestry Initiative	
Montana Stock Growers Association	Sustainable Northwest	
Montana Wood Products Association	Texas Forestry Association	
Montana Wool Growers Association	The Conservation Fund	
Mountain West Log Scaling & Grading Bureau	The Lyme Timber Company	
National Alliance of Forest Owners	The Westervelt Company	
National Association of Conservation Districts	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	
National Association of Forest Service Retirees	Trust for Public Land	
National Association of Home Builders	Trees Forever	
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds	U.S. Industrial Pellet Association	
National Association of State Foresters	Utah Cattlemen's Association	
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative	Virginia Forestry Association	
National Cattlemen's Beef Association	Virginia Loggers Association	
National Marine Manufacturers Association	Wallawa Resources	
National Shooting Sports Foundation	Washington Cattlemen's Association	
National Ski Areas Association	Washington Contract Loggers Association	
National Wild Turkey Federation	Washington Forest Protection Association	
National Wildlife Federation	Washington Hardwoods Commission	
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association	West Fraser	



EPA's Treatment of Biogenic Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emissions from Stationary Sources that Use Forest Biomass for Energy Production

Introduction

The use of biomass from managed forests¹ can provide numerous environmental, energy and economic benefits. Specifically, forest biomass use for energy can bolster domestic energy production, provide jobs to rural communities, and promote environmental stewardship by improving soil and water quality, reducing wildfire risk, and helping to ensure our forests continue to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

EPA recognizes the importance of the nation's forest resources and related industries, and the role that biomass can play in renewable energy strategies. These principles are core elements of provisions in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018*.² Those provisions explicitly direct EPA, the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to establish policies that "reflect the carbon-neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use." Such policies would also be consistent with Executive Order 13783,³ *Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth*, which requires executive agencies to review requirements that may hinder domestic energy production. Furthermore, in response to Executive Order 13777, *Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda*,⁴ many forest and forest products industry stakeholders provided comments about uncertainty related to the treatment of forest biomass used for energy in EPA programs. These comments explained that regulatory uncertainty concerning biogenic carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the use of forest biomass for energy has made planning future investments riskier for these industries and forest communities, hindering growth of the U.S. bioeconomy.

To proactively address congressional directives and stakeholder concerns specific to the use of forest biomass for energy, EPA's policy in forthcoming regulatory actions will be to treat biogenic CO₂ emissions resulting from the combustion of biomass from managed forests at stationary sources for energy production as carbon neutral. EPA's ongoing work under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) and Title II will not be impacted by this policy and will continue to be governed by the existing regulatory and statutory process and requirements already in place.⁵

Policy Summary

EPA's rationale and basis for applying this policy is as follows. In treating biogenic CO₂ emissions associated with the use of forest biomass for energy at stationary sources as carbon neutral, the Agency has balanced the Executive Orders and Congressional direction described above with the following considerations:

¹ 'Managed forest' is a forest subject to the process of planning and implementing practices for stewardship and use of the forest aimed at fulfilling relevant ecological, economic and social functions of the forest (IPCC). Also, in this document, it specifically comprises lands that are currently managed or those that are afforested, to ensure the use of biomass for energy does not result in the conversion of forested lands to non-forest use.

² <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1625/BILLS-115hr1625enr.pdf>

³ www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-promoting-energy-independence-economic-growth/

⁴ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-28/pdf/2017-13551.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/regulations-and-volume-standards-renewable-fuel-standards>

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- U.S. forests have been historically and are currently a net sink of carbon; in 2015, the forest sector offset approximately 11.2 percent of gross U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.
- Use of biomass for bioenergy can support the management of U.S. forests and can lead to increased carbon sequestration from U.S. forests over time.
- Draft EPA analysis suggests that use of various biomass feedstocks for energy at stationary sources can result in negligible net contribution to atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ depending on factors related to feedstock characteristics, production and consumption, and alternative uses.
- Use of biomass feedstocks from managed forests for energy at stationary sources can provide multiple environmental benefits, such as pest management, improved water and soil quality, and wildfire risk reduction.
- Use of these biomass feedstocks for energy at stationary sources can provide numerous economic benefits to rural communities, including new jobs and income from forest biomass industry and support of existing tourism and recreation industries in forested areas.
- EPA's technical work on a framework for assessing the net atmospheric contribution of biogenic CO₂ emissions from biomass feedstocks used by stationary sources for energy production, includes an ongoing peer review by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB). However, this process has not to date resulted in a workable, applied approach.
- Many forest and forest products industry stakeholders view the lack of a clear EPA policy on the treatment of biogenic CO₂ emissions resulting from the combustion of forest biomass for energy at stationary sources as an impediment to the use of biomass from managed forests for bioenergy purposes, thus frustrating the realization of its expected environmental and economic benefits.

The Agency's approach is a pragmatic one, promoting the environmental and economic benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy at stationary sources, while balancing uncertainty and administrative simplicity when making programmatic decisions.

This statement of agency policy is not a scientific determination and does not revise or amend any scientific determinations that EPA has previously made. Rather, this statement of policy is intended to: 1) provide clear recognition of the benefits of using forest biomass for energy production at stationary sources; and 2) signal the Agency's intent to treat the biogenic CO₂ emissions associated with the use of forest biomass for energy by stationary sources as carbon neutral in future regulatory actions and in various programmatic contexts, in accordance with the Executive Orders and Congressional direction described above.

This statement of agency policy does not represent a final agency action and does not directly address the treatment of biogenic CO₂ emissions at any particular stationary source or in any specific regulatory context or other EPA program such as voluntary programs. Any changes to the current treatment of biogenic CO₂ emissions at a specific entity or in a specific regulatory program or other context will be accomplished through the appropriate mechanisms, including, as necessary, a notice of any proposed rulemaking, the basis for such changes, and an opportunity for public comment.

Technical Summary

Through photosynthesis, plants absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and add it to their biomass as carbon, a process referred to as sequestration. When plant biomass is harvested or cleared from the land and burned for energy, used as an input to an industrial process, or biodegraded as part of waste treatment processes, the carbon in biomass is released into the atmosphere as CO₂.

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EPA tracks all anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sequestration, including those resulting from the use of bioenergy, via the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. Consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies, the Inventory provides a holistic approach to estimating carbon sequestration and GHG emissions at the national level across all sectors. Biogenic CO₂ emissions related to activities affecting terrestrial carbon stocks, such as harvesting trees, are captured within the land-use, land-use change, and forestry sector of the Inventory, even if a portion of those emissions, such as the CO₂ emissions from biomass combustion, ultimately take place at facilities typically associated with a different inventory sector (e.g., the energy sector).⁶ This national land sector inventory approach is well suited to track national trends, but it cannot attribute changes in forest carbon stocks to particular activities, such as the use of forest biomass for energy.

The scientific and technical considerations relevant to assessment of the GHG emissions and other land use-related outcomes from biomass use for energy production can be complex, as there are several interrelated biophysical, energy and market systems underpinning biomass production and use. Beginning in 2010, in response to stakeholder comments,⁷ EPA sought to advance the technical understanding for assessing the net biogenic CO₂ emissions associated with the use of biomass at stationary sources. In 2011, as part of this process to advance our technical understanding, EPA submitted for peer review with the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) a draft technical report⁸ presenting considerations for evaluating the biogenic CO₂ emissions associated with biomass use for energy at stationary sources (2011 Draft Framework). The SAB peer review of the 2011 Draft Framework⁹ found that it is not scientifically valid to assume that all biogenic feedstocks are carbon neutral, but rather that the net biogenic carbon profile related to the use of biomass feedstocks depends upon factors related to feedstock characteristics, production and consumption, and alternative uses. The SAB also asserted that use of some biomass feedstocks may have minimal net biogenic CO₂ emissions and others may require more analysis.¹⁰ Furthermore, the SAB also acknowledged that in addition to scientific elements, EPA may need to consider the tradeoffs and benefits of different accounting approaches and other practical implementation issues to inform policy choices when

⁶ While included in the reported net carbon sequestration/CO₂ emissions in the land-use sector of the Inventory, the biogenic CO₂ emissions from combustion of biomass for energy are also quantified for informational purposes in the energy sector of the Inventory as a memo item, but are not included in that sector's total to avoid double-counting.

⁷ FR Notice [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0560; FRL-9175-9], Call for Information: Information on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Bioenergy and Other Biogenic Sources <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/biogenic_ghg_srcs_cfi_7.15.10_fr.pdf>.

⁸ Draft Accounting Framework for Biogenic CO₂ Emissions from Stationary Sources (2011) <<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/biogenic-co2-accounting-framework-report-sept-2011.pdf>>.

⁹ EPA Science Advisory Board Review of the 2011 Draft Accounting Framework for CO₂ Emissions for Biogenic Sources Study (2012) <[https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/0/57B7A4F1987D7F7385257A87007977F6/\\$File/EPA-SAB-12-011-unsigned.pdf](https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/0/57B7A4F1987D7F7385257A87007977F6/$File/EPA-SAB-12-011-unsigned.pdf)>.

¹⁰ A number of forest biomass feedstocks, such as certain industrial byproducts, have been demonstrated to result in little to negligible contribution to net atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ when used for energy at stationary sources.

assessing biogenic CO₂ emissions from stationary sources.⁹ The SAB further acknowledged that accounting for biogenic CO₂ emissions associated with stationary sources involves both scientific and policy considerations, including the policy context in which the accounting is applied.¹¹

In November 2014, EPA released a revised second draft of its technical report (2014 Revised Framework)¹², which incorporated input from the SAB's review of the 2011 Draft Framework and stakeholder comments and presented a potential framework for assessing biogenic CO₂ emissions. Final recommendations from the SAB peer review process of the 2014 Revised Framework remain uncertain as there is disagreement among the SAB on specific technical elements.¹³

As a result, while a valuable exercise, the lengthy and intensive process of assessment and discussion, including among the SAB, has not to date resulted in a workable, applied approach for consistently assessing the net atmospheric contribution of biogenic CO₂ emissions at stationary sources. In addition, broader considerations also motivate EPA to establish this policy, including the substantial environmental and economic benefits associated with the use of forest biomass, the benefits of providing clarity to stakeholders, and direction from Congress and relevant Executive Orders.

National Forest Carbon Stocks and the Role of Bioenergy

While it is not possible to discern from national forest carbon stock estimates the effects of a particular stationary source's use of forest biomass for energy, general U.S. carbon stock trends in the land sector, including changes in forest biomass consumption, are captured in the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. U.S. forested lands currently remove more CO₂ from the atmosphere than they emit (i.e., they are a net sink of carbon); in 2015 the forest sector offset approximately 11.2 percent of gross U.S. GHG emissions.¹⁴ While there is some uncertainty within the scientific community about whether U.S. forests will remain a net carbon sink over the coming years, recent research shows that under current market and environmental conditions, continued forest land investment and management can allow for continued and even increased U.S. forest carbon stocks in the future. Specifically, landowners can anticipate future markets for woody materials and accordingly invest in forested lands.¹⁵

Changes in demand for forest-derived biomass could influence how U.S. land owners manage forests and the related forest carbon stocks. For example, in the short term, increased biomass demand may

¹¹ In fact, the SAB acknowledged in its review of both the Draft and Revised Frameworks that it was difficult to conduct a scientific review of the Framework in the absence of information about the applied policy context in which it would be used.

¹² Revised Framework for Assessing Biogenic CO₂ Emissions from Stationary Sources. (2014) <<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/framework-for-assessing-biogenic-co2-emissions.pdf>>.

¹³ Disagreement remains between EPA's Biogenic Carbon Emissions Panel and the EPA Chartered SAB, specifically on the issue of the timeframe for assessment of biogenic CO₂ emissions from the use of biomass at stationary sources. The disagreement is focused on whether the timeframe should be a policy-specific horizon or based on the time horizon in which all terrestrial impacts (positive and negative) associated with biomass use for energy are included.

¹⁴ *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2015* <<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks-1990-2015>>.

¹⁵ Tian, Xiaohui, Brent Sohngen, Justin Baker, Sara Ohrel, and Allen A. Fawcett. 2018. *Will U.S. Forests Continue to Be a Carbon Sink?* Land Economics February 2018. 94 (1): 97–113. ISSN 0023-7639.

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change forest product market dynamics and how the forest industry sources materials. Stakeholders have raised concerns regarding near term land-use changes in response to increased biomass demand. Over time, stronger markets for biomass from managed lands could potentially bring more added value to forested lands and lead to increased forested lands and carbon sequestration.¹⁶ This market development could help reduce the conversion of forest lands to non-forest uses. EPA recognizes the importance of ensuring the management of forests protects and conserves biologically sensitive areas and, in the ongoing implementation of this policy, will continue to closely monitor overall bioenergy demand and landscape conditions for changes that might have negative impacts on public health or the environment. EPA will continue to evaluate the applicability of this policy of treating biogenic CO₂ as carbon neutral based on relevant information, including data from interagency partners on updated trends in forest carbon stocks. This safeguard, among others, serves to ensure that EPA periodically assesses the need to revisit this treatment in the future.

Environmental and Economic Benefits of Bioenergy

EPA recognizes it is also important to consider additional roles of biomass and the land sector in GHG mitigation strategies and in the economy. Biomass from forest management activities can provide significant energy, economic, and environmental benefits to the U.S. For example, thinning and fuel treatments in western states can reduce the risk of forest fires, while simultaneously providing an energy source for the electric grid. The use of forest biomass for energy at stationary sources can also provide environmental benefits, such as improved soil and water quality, which help facilitate healthy forests. Healthy forests support outdoor recreation and tourism, bringing much needed income to rural communities. Landowners and communities benefit from the economic gains of their forests, which in turn allows them to invest more in the habitats and ecosystems that sustain these industries. The use of forest-derived bioenergy can also play a role in promoting domestic energy security for the U.S. and provide flexibility for stationary sources to use a variety of feedstock resources, potentially lowering costs. The U.S. has historically had a large forest products industry and continued growth is expected in the bioeconomy.¹⁷ Thus, forest-derived bioenergy can provide new markets and new products to the U.S. bioeconomy.

Currently, many U.S. states recognize the benefit of using biomass as renewable energy in their state electricity generation mixes, as evidenced by the number of state renewable portfolio standards (RPS) that include some biomass as an eligible renewable energy resource. Many international programs also recognize that biomass can have benefits and encourage its use for energy production through national energy policies, such as the United Kingdom Renewables Obligation program.¹⁸ These U.S. state and international programs have shown that diverse energy resources and unique economic, environmental and renewable energy goals can promote bioenergy development, as well as responsible land management. An EPA policy treating biogenic CO₂ emissions from the use of biomass from managed forests at stationary sources for energy as carbon neutral, as presented in this document, will foster the alignment of EPA regulatory actions with the treatment of biogenic CO₂ emissions in U.S. state and

¹⁶ Latta, Greg S., Justin S. Baker, Robert H. Beach, Steven K. Rose, Bruce A. McCarl. 2013. *A multi-sector intertemporal optimization approach to assess the GHG implications of U.S. forest and agricultural biomass electricity expansion*. *Journal of Forest Economics* 19 (2013) 361–383.

¹⁷ Biomass Research and Development Board. 2016. *Federal Activities Report on the Bioeconomy* <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/02/f30/farb_2_18_16.pdf>.

¹⁸ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/ro>

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international programs. For example, the California Cap-and-Trade Program¹⁹ and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)²⁰ among Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states exempt biogenic CO₂ emissions from a compliance obligation, provided that specified types of biomass are used that meet certain requirements. In addition, the European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS)²¹ exempts biogenic CO₂ emissions at stationary sources from a compliance obligation.

Conclusion

For the reasons described above, EPA's policy in forthcoming regulatory actions will be to treat biogenic CO₂ emissions resulting from the combustion of biomass from managed forests at stationary sources for energy production as carbon neutral. Although this policy announcement does not itself alter sources' obligations with regard to GHGs and CO₂ in any particular regulatory program, the Agency is committed to addressing regulatory uncertainty about how it treats biogenic CO₂ emissions in forthcoming actions under various EPA programs. The Agency also recognizes that technical, policy, legal, and Congressional contexts may change over time and plans to revisit this treatment of biogenic CO₂ emissions at stationary sources as necessary. Various tools, including data from our interagency partners, are available to help EPA periodically assess the need to revisit this treatment in the future. For example, the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks* can be used to track broad trends in forest carbon stocks over time.

EPA's policy treatment of biogenic CO₂ emissions associated with forest biomass use at stationary sources for energy production aims to provide clarity to forest and forest product industry stakeholders. As directed by Congress and Executive Orders, this policy seeks to ensure that biomass from managed forests plays a key role in addressing the energy needs of the U.S., furthering U.S. energy dominance, in an environmentally and economically beneficial way.

¹⁹ <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm>

²⁰ <https://www.rggi.org/>

²¹ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets_en



Wood Energy

The American Loggers Council (ALC) is a non-profit organization representing professional timber harvesters in 32 states across the country. Our members have a responsibility for sustainably harvesting forest products from all of our nation's forests, including both private and public lands. In 2002, the ALC also became the program administrator for the Master Logger Certification program, the world's first and only third party certification program for loggers.

Wood derived energy is a critical source of renewable, baseload, dispatchable electricity and heat across the country and an important component of an affordable, diverse renewable energy portfolio that serves as an end-market for low-grade forest material and mill residue and supports thousands of jobs in the most rural areas of the country.

The members of the ALC support the recognition of wood from responsibly managed forests as a carbon beneficial fuel for the following reasons:

1. Utilize the forests' energy and climate benefits to displace traditional fossil fuel.
 - ALC views forests as a strategic renewable natural resource and supports diverse and robust markets for the full spectrum of woody materials to allow landowners and foresters to practice responsible forestry while providing new economic opportunities and rural jobs for professional timber harvesters utilizing previously unused, unmerchantable material.
 - Intensive forest management can improve growth rates and productivity of forest stands resulting in increased forest regeneration and greater ability of forests to sequester carbon.
2. Promotes economic growth and acts as a stimulus to rural economies
 - Wood derived energy creates local, rural employment. As a rule of thumb, each megawatt of wood fueled electricity supports approximately five full-time jobs: one direct job in the power generation facility and four indirect jobs in surrounding forests and communities.
 - Diversification of new markets for low value wood provides new income sources for family owned forests and mills, providing a sustainable revenue source and incentive for forest management.
 - Creates new industry and an economic opportunity for rural communities to create and maintain family wage jobs economic diversification. • Utilizes existing sustainable resources to create energy (heat and power) in a distributed generation model, avoiding extensive capital investments.
3. Wood utilization reduces greenhouse gases and improves forests
 - Wood energy facilities make use of abundant, indigenous local fuel supply and provide a valuable outlet for waste wood streams from forest products industries such as sawmills and pulp mills. When low-grade waste wood is removed from forests as part of a responsible harvest plan, forest health is enhanced. This low-value forest waste would otherwise inhibit new growth in the forests, decompose on the forest floor and release methane, create forest fire risk, and obstruct future harvesting practices.

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- As organic waste decomposes it slowly emits methane gas and carbon dioxide. The utilization of low value wood turns waste into fuel that generates energy. During the generation process, the methane gas is eliminated, and carbon dioxide emissions are greatly reduced.
- Wood energy reduces greenhouse gases. In fact, the use of wood for energy generation removes over 30 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. It accomplishes this remarkable feat both by replacing fossil fuels, eliminating the introduction of non-naturally occurring carbon and by preventing the release of greenhouse gases from organic waste that would otherwise decompose in the open.
- Burning fossil fuels only adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere that was already sequestered deep in the earth.
- The ALC commends Congress on addressing the immense challenge of reducing the nation's dependence on fossil fuels. All renewable resources will be needed to meet the country's energy needs. Forests have a key advantage given their ability to produce energy independent of weather conditions that other renewable sources are subject to.

We are committed to help craft a definition for wood energy that addresses concerns related to forests in a way that draws upon the existing forest harvesting practices – and making the changes where needed - to meet local forest conditions. Specifically, the ALC recommends Congress to take the following actions:

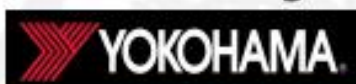
1. The EPA should continue working to take the lead to recognize wood energy as carbon beneficial throughout federal agencies to create regulatory stability;
2. Existing tax law provides little creates an unlevel playing field (wind) that can only be corrected by repealing existing tax credits (unlikely) or providing a benefit (possible), for example, Congress should extend and make refundable the tax benefits provided for by Section 45, for the full 10 years and at the same rate as wind and other technologies; C from Public or Private lands. 2. benefit for the utilization of wood for energy. Existing law
3. Create policy that treats wood equally for wood energy purposes whether harvested from Public or Private lands.



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...BREAKING NEWS...

After months of hard work, we have launched our new website. Members will now have access to their SLC invoices 24/7 with a member login! Amongst the new features are the "find the nearest station" to my location feature, an approved national tires and parts dealers with location info, fill out an application on-line and other features that will assist in the improved communication with our members. The SLC's founding "Cost-Cutting Mission" continues!



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Mark Your Calendar

May 2018

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

June 2018

18 – 22 SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour, Hartsville & Pee Dee Region Tour

July 2018

11 – 12 TOP 2-Day Classes, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Georgetown.
Contact Guy Sabin at Forestry Association of South Carolina for Registration,
803-798-4170

19 – 21 American Loggers Council Summer Board of Directors Meeting, Moline, IL
Hosted by John Deere

Regretful Note: Due to scheduling conflicts with SCTPA and locations for meetings... Spring District Meetings regretfully will not be conducted this Spring. Due to the busy schedule of SCTPA with meetings and legislative issues, Spring district meetings will not take place. SCTPA will attempt to make this up by scheduling Fall meetings around the state. Again, SCTPA apologizes for this and regrets that the Spring district meetings will not take place.

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.

Need SFI Trained DVD Class or other training?

SCTPA can provide the New DVD Training Module for SFI Trained status. SCTPA is an approved DVD training class facilitator and will be scheduling classes during the year. Other training programs are available for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

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

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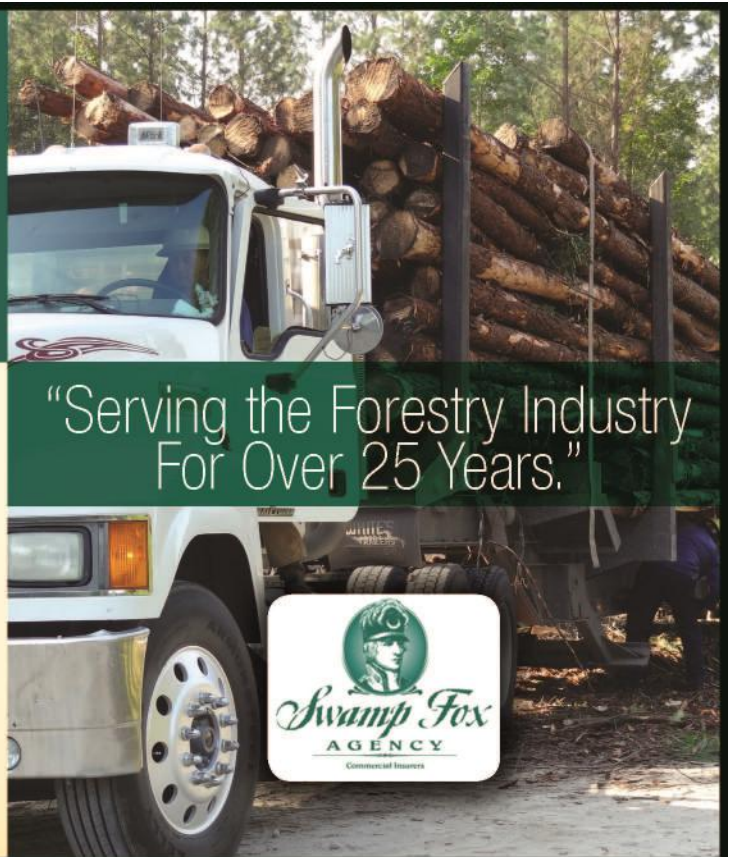
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Our Mission

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.