



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

4TH QUARTER 2024



IP CLOSES GEORGETOWN HITS SC MARKETS HARD

Officials with the International Paper Co. mill at Georgetown, SC wasted no time after announcing on Halloween the imminent closure of the facility by the end of the year. On November 1, the mill took delivery of its last load of logs, blowing a huge hole in the local logging economy as the mill took up to 400 loads a day.



The more than 6,000 loads a month that the mill paid for helped support hundreds of loggers and their employees who worked in its procurement area. Local economic officials say the impact in the logging industry alone could be more than 1,000 jobs in addition to the 674 high-paying jobs lost at the mill. The Georgetown closure follows the closure of the WestRock mill at North Charleston in August 2023.

The Georgetown facility had been a major direct and indirect employer for the regional timber industry since 1937. One local official estimated the plant also worked with and provided opportunities for more than 200 local and regional contractors and suppliers of all kinds. The Georgetown mill produced about 300,000 tons of fluff pulp annually as well as an amount of uncoated freesheet paper that was filling a sales contract that expires December 31.

The company is keeping a box plant open in Georgetown that will operate with raw material shipped from Louisiana. Due to general labor concerns in many industries, local economic officials say they have been contacted by multiple companies that would like to possibly hire former IP employees.

The Georgetown closure is the latest of several announced by IP including a packaging facility in Kansas City, a container plant in Statesville, NC, a container plant in Cleveland, Tenn., a corrugated sheet plant in San Antonio, plus plans to lay off 400 employees at IP's Memphis, Tenn. headquarters.



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SCTPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By: Crad Jaynes

Greetings and Happy New Year. At the time of this writing, we are already into New Year 2025. Where did 2024 go? Seems like it just flew by so fast.

Certainly, I hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Holiday season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2024 was certainly a challenging year for the logging, wood supplying, forestry and forest products segments. The mill closures, reduced mill operating hours, reduced wood deliveries and the inflationary issues impacting operations were all factors.

The International Paper Georgetown mill closure announcement on October 31st, Halloween Day, was a big kick in the teeth for SC. This made Halloween particularly scary for many people and businesses.

The mill has been operating in Georgetown since 1937. This mill served as a mainstay for the Georgetown and surrounding communities' economies and the wood supplying and logging businesses. The closure impacted the region and had a negative impact on the state.

While the Georgetown mill continued to take wood deliveries for a time, the availability of timber increased for the region. Georgetown was a major market for pine and hardwood pulpwood.

Losing the IP Georgetown mill created wood delivery impacts for the region. Logging businesses were severely impacted as loggers were having to shut down crews. While other pulpwood receiving markets are in the region, the excess amount of wood can't be readily absorbed by the other markets. With the excess wood volume available this created reductions in delivery prices.

The closing's impacts will be felt for a long time. Hopefully the region will rebound and move forward as best it can into the new year.

With the incoming new President and administration, this provides optimism for our economy and the forestry, logging and forest products industries. Hopefully the inflation rates will be controlled and reduced for businesses and household economies. Certainly, new President Donald Trump will act on reducing "governmental red tape," reducing federal spending and roll back adverse regulations impacting forestry, logging and forest products industries.

SCTPA will continue to support Logger Economic Relief and Assistance Bill for logging businesses affected by a natural disaster such as a hurricane, flood, etc. Hurricane Helene resulted in tremendous timber damage and loss in SC and in neighboring states. The bill will have to be reintroduced in the new Congress. Through the work of the American Loggers Council and others, the federal bill will be a priority to get passed. There is a positive feeling that the bill will be passed.

SCTPA continues to represent the logging and wood supplying segments on the SC Forest Recovery Task Force. The Task Force will continue its work to locate a Bulk Ag and Forestry Port in Charleston.

In the SC General Assembly, reform of the state's judicial system will be a priority. SC's "out of whack" judicial system needs meaningful reform. The high cost of insurance due to large and "nuclear" verdicts has businesses stressed to maintain reasonable liability insurance.

SCTPA has been approved to receive funding for purchases of Temporary Bridges. The funding is

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now in the U. S. Forest Service office in Atlanta. We are working with Holly Welch, SC Forestry Commission, as she is administering the program with SCTPA. Once the funding is released, an announcement will be made as to how to apply and receive funding.

Our SCTPA 2025 Annual Meeting will be February 21 – 23 at Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton. The location is the same as last year. The resort has been renamed and totally remodeled and renovated. Two hotels are on the resort. The DoubleTree Resort Hotel and the Tapestry Hotel are the lodging facilities.

The 2025 Annual Meeting information is available on the SCTPA website, www.scloggers.com. Speakers and events are lined up and ready to make our 2025 annual meeting successful.

2024 is now in the history book. Let's hope and pray 2025 will be a very good year for everyone.

As always... Log On & Truck Safe!



Timber Talk

*Your Voice
for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

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

2025 SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING



SCTPA is excited about our 2025 Annual Meeting to be held February 21 – 23,

2025 at The Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton, 3200 South

Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Ellie Beach Resort was formerly the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront. The entire resort has been completely remodeled and upgraded and is now one of the finest resorts on the Grand Strand. The resort has two hotels. One is the Double-Tree Resort, and one is the Tapestry Hotel by Hilton. Registration, restaurant, bar, conference center and all lodging rooms have been completely remodeled and upgraded.

2024 has been again a very challenging year for the timber harvesting and timber supply segments with the mill closures and reduced wood flows due to market conditions. As we move into 2025, our meeting theme will be... Overcoming Challenges While Sustaining Our Industry!

Friday's schedule will be a board of directors meeting, afternoon registration and evening welcome reception with food and entertainment. There'll be a DJ, dancing and some Karaoke. We'll have our Live Auction at the Friday Evening Reception.

Saturday General Session speakers will be Rick Todd, President SC Trucking Association, Cam Crawford, President Forestry Association of SC and Josh Sandt, Region Manager Canfor Southern Pine and Forest Resources Association Chairman and Scott Dane, American Loggers Council Executive Director.

Saturday's featured luncheon speakers will be Lori Walker, Carolina Women in Timber and Rick Quagliaroli, Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast.

Saturday's association business session will feature the association's 2024 financials, Board of Directors elections, any bylaws changes, awards and presentations. Drawings will be held for a nice rifle and/or shotgun and free stay at Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach. Saturday evening is free to enjoy Myrtle Beach without the crowds.

We'll have the gospel group Port City Quartet for our Sunday Prayer Breakfast to bless us with their Southern Gospel music and faithful testimony.

Our Silent Auction will be available with a variety of nice items for bidding. The prize drawings, live and silent auctions help the association financially and Log A Load for Kids. We encourage folks to contribute to the Silent Auction and/or Live Auction.

Exhibitors will be inside the conference center with their products and services. Outside exhibits of equipment, trucks, etc. will be in the parking lots.

Our meeting is a casual family atmosphere. We encourage everyone to bring your family and employees. Dress is business casual. We ask for attire suited for a business meeting is worn.

Registration, exhibitor and sponsorship meeting information are available on the SCTPA website... www.scloggers.com.

Go ahead now and block the dates to join us February 21 – 23 for our 2025 Annual membership Meeting. The SCTPA Group Code is 91H for room reservations.

Brenda and I look forward to seeing you at our 2025 annual meeting.

Best regards,

Crad

Crad Jaynes

Please Note:
Sponsor / Exhibitor Packages will be mailed separately to Allied Suppliers & Allied Supporters.



2025 SCTPA Annual Membership Meeting

MEETING AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting ... Members & Guests Welcome
- 3:00 p.m. Registration Desk ... Open Until 7:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception... Food, Music, DJ & Karaoke

Conference Center

- 1st Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 3rd Floor

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 6:30 a.m. Member & Guests Breakfast
- 6:45 a.m. Registration Desk Opens
- 8:00 a.m. General Session Welcome, Invocation, Antitrust Statement & Announcements, SCTPA Chairman's Remarks
- 8:15 a.m. Speaker: Rick Todd, President SC Trucking Association
- 8:30 a.m. Ladies Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Speaker: Cam Crawford, President Forestry Association of South Carolina
- 9:45 a.m. Speaker: Josh Sandt, Canfor Southern Pine
- 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Scott Dane, Executive Director American Loggers, Council
- 11:20 a.m. Morning Break to Visit Exhibitors & Silent Auction
- 11:50 a.m. Move to Membership Luncheon
- 12:00 p.m. Membership Luncheon & Business Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Chairman's Welcome, Board of Directors Introductions & Announcements
Speakers: Lori Walker, Carolina Women in Timber & Rick Quagliaroli, Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast
Business Session: President's Report, Financial Report, Bylaws Report, Board Elections, Awards & Special Presentations, Door Prizes & Prize Drawings
- 2:50 p.m. Afternoon Break
- 3:00 p.m. Workshop: SFI Trained TOP DVD Module for SFI Training
For July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 SFI Trained Status
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn
Saturday Evening On Your Own. Enjoy Your Evening!

Conference Center

- 3rd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 3rd Floor
- 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Special Guest: *Port City Quartet - Gospel Music Group*
- 10:05 a.m. Silent Auction Announcements & Final Comments
- 10:30 a.m. Adjourn Meeting

Conference Center

- 3rd Floor

SILENT AUCTION BIDDING HOURS - CONFERENCE CENTER

Friday, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Sunday, 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

EXHIBITOR HOURS - CONFERENCE CENTER

Friday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR 2025 ANNUAL MEETING!

2025 SCTPA Annual Meeting Room Reservations

SCTPA 2024 Annual Meeting will be February 21 – 23, 2025 at the Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, 3200 South Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Ellie Beach Resort now has two hotels. One is the DoubleTree by Hilton and one is The Tapestry by Hilton. Specify which hotel you want to reserve the room.

Reservations are to be made directly with **Hilton World Wide Reservations** by calling **1-855-778-1190**. **The SCTPA Annual Meeting Group Code is “91H.”**

Provide **Group Code 91H** when making room reservations. Be sure to specify *Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach* when making room reservations. You can contact the Resort at 1-843-315-7100.

Reservations can be made online by using two booking links. Be sure to use the entire URL for it to work properly. **Use Booking** link as follows:

DOUBLETREE HOTEL BY HILTON
<https://group.doubletree.com/p7vrpn>

TAPESTRY HOTEL
[Hilton.com/en/attend-myevent/sc-timber-producers-ellie/](https://hilton.com/en/attend-myevent/sc-timber-producers-ellie/)

If you have difficulty in room reservations, contact Melissa Durham, SCTPA Event Manger, at 843 -685-2681 or melissa.durham@hilton.com.

SCTPA Encourages Everyone to Register As Quickly As Possible to Assist the Association in the Meeting Plans. This is important and will help SCTPA make appropriate arrangements for the meeting. Please register early.

SCTPA room block rates cut off is January 20, 2025. Room block number is limited. After January 20, 2025, regular room rates will apply. SCTPA has no flexibility with this cut off. Hilton reservation cancellation policy applies.

There is no reservation form for your use. Make room reservations direct with Hilton.

SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING - ROOM RATES - DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

Room Type	Single Rate	Double Rate
Deluxe Room - King or Double Queen	\$ 144	\$ 144
King Suites	\$ 144	\$ 144

SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING - ROOM RATES - TAPESTRY BY HILTON

Room Type	Single Rate	Double Rate
King w/Sofa Bed - Partial Ocean View	\$ 180	\$ 180

Please Note: All rooms are subject to applicable state and local taxes and resort fee plus any other applicable fees charged by the DoubleTree Resort per guest room per night. Hilton policies and fees apply for room reservations as well as room cancellations. SCTPA has no control on these charged fees.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

February 21 -23, 2025

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW.

Name _____ Badge Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact #: Work _____ Home _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Badge Name _____

Please list any additional badge names on page 8. Credit Card Payment Form on page 8. Thanks!

	Early Registration		After February 5, 2025
	#	\$	# \$
Member *	_____ @	\$ 240 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 270 = _____.
Member Spouse *	_____ @	\$ 135 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 170 = _____.
Active Member Employee **	_____ @	\$ 130 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 140 = _____.
Active Member Employee Spouse	_____ @	\$ 105 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 120 = _____.
SATURDAY, FEB. 25 ONLY	_____ @	\$ 185 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 215 = _____.
Non-Member	_____ @	\$ 250 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 265 = _____.
Non-Member Spouse	_____ @	\$ 135 = _____.	_____ @ \$ 145 = _____.
Children - Per Child – Age 6 – 18 Children Under 6 – No Charge	_____ @	\$ 35 = _____.	
TOTAL \$ DUE & PAID \$ _____.			
<small>* Please Refer to Member & Active Member Employee Descriptions Below *</small>			

Return Completed Registration & Check Payable To: SC Timber Producers Association (SCTPA)

*Members * = Active Members, Allied Supplier Members & Allied Supporting Members with Paid Dues.
Active Member Employee ** = Active Logger, Wood Dealer or Trucker Member Sponsored Employees Only not an owner,
 partner or corporate officer of active member's business. Supervisors & employees are encouraged to attend.
All other Non-logger, dealer or trucker active members use member registration rates per person attending.
 Call SCTPA if questions.*

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HILTON WORLD WIDE RESERVATIONS 1-855-778-1190 ... USE GROUP Code ... 91H
BOOKING LINK ... THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL - [HTTPS://GROUP.DOUBLETREE.COM/P7VRPN](https://group.doubletree.com/p7vrpn)
THE TAPESTRY HOTEL - [HILTON.COM/EN/ATTEND-MY-EVENT/SC-TIMBER-PRODUCERS-ELLIE/](https://hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/sc-timber-producers-ellie/)

SCTPA ROOM BLOCK RATES CUT-OFF IS JANUARY 20, 2025
Regular Hotel Room Rates Will Apply After January 20, 2025. Hilton Room Cancellation Policy Applies.

SCTPA Annual Meeting Cancellation Policy: Full refund if written cancellation received by January 1, 2025.
 50% refund if written cancellation request received by January 15, 2025. NO REFUND after January 15, 2025.

Additional Names for Annual Meeting Registration & Name Badges:

2025 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Total Registration Fees \$ _____

4% Credit Card Fee \$ _____

(4% Credit Card Processing Company Fee on Amount Charged. Fee Does Not Go to SCTPA.)

Total Amount Charged \$ _____

Credit Card Used: **VISA** **MASTERCARD** **DISCOVER**
(Circle Card Used)

Card Holder Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Card Verification Number on Back of Card: _____
(Three or Four Digit Number on Back of Card)

Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Billing Address Zip Code: _____

I agree to pay according to the Terms & Conditions of the Card Used.

Signature

Print Name

SC Timber Producers Association
PO Box 811
Lexington, SC 20971
bcjpaw@windstream.net
Cell 803-530-5984

2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Auction Item Donation

Our Silent and Live Auctions have been successful because of the participation of our Allied Supplier, Allied Supporting and Individual Members. Our 2025 Annual Membership Meeting, February 21– 23, at the Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton will again feature our Silent Auction and a Live Auction at the Friday Evening Welcome Reception. The auction proceeds are used to help support the association financially and a portion donated to **Log a Load for Kids**.

Would you and/or your company like to donate an item or contribute financially towards the purchase of an Auction item? This is voluntary. Even if you are not attending the meeting, but would simply like to participate, we would certainly appreciate your contribution and involvement.

If you are interested, please return this form to the SCTPA office. Or you may contact the SCTPA office at 1-800-371-2240, fax 803-957-8990, email bcjpaw@windstream.net or Crad's cell 803-530-5874 for more information. Your company will be recognized at the meeting as a Silent or Live Auction Donor.

Thanks for your support in our efforts to continue representing professional loggers and timber producers here in South Carolina. Your auction donation is greatly appreciated. Your contribution may be tax deductible as a contribution to this association.



AUCTION ITEM

Please Circle as Silent or Live Auction Item: SILENT AUCTION LIVE AUCTION

Donated Item Description _____

Item Value \$ _____

Donated By _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Name _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Silent Auction Financial Donation

** Financial Donation Toward Purchase of Silent Auction Item: \$ _____. **

** SCTPA will purchase Silent Auction items. Financial contributor will be designated for the item. **

Please Mail, Email or Fax To: SC Timber Producers Assoc. P.O. Box 811 Lexington, SC 29071
Shipping Address: Crad Jaynes SCTPA 601 Carola Lane Lexington, SC 29072

ENVIVA ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL EMERGENCE FROM FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING PROCESS POSITIONED FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND CONTINUED MARKET LEADERSHIP

Strengthened Balance Sheet and Improved Financial Flexibility Through Elimination of Approximately \$1.0 Billion of Prepetition Debt

Enhanced Earnings Profile Achieved Through Restructuring Actions Accomplished Ample Liquidity to Successfully Complete the Ramp of Enviva's Epes, Alabama Facility and to Support Growing Customer Demand for Sustainable Energy Solutions

Businesswire, December 06, 2024

BETHESDA, Md.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Enviva, LLC ("Enviva" or the "Company"), a leading producer of industrial wood pellets, today announced its successful emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, marking a significant milestone in the Company's strategic transformation. Enviva is well-positioned for long-term growth and consistent operating performance, allowing the Company to serve its customers as a market leader and critical partner in meeting their demand for renewable fuel. Enviva's Plan of Reorganization (the "Plan") was confirmed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, with overwhelming support from the Company's key stakeholders and business partners. As part of its financial restructuring, Enviva has equitized more than \$1 billion of indebtedness and American Industrial Partners Capital Fund VIII ("AIP") has become the largest shareholder of the Company.



"Emergence is a critical milestone and exciting step forward in positioning Enviva for a successful future" To support ongoing operations and future growth initiatives, Enviva is capitalized at emergence with an attractive exit loan facility, as well as access to further capital through a delayed draw term loan. As part of the Plan, stakeholders provided \$250 million of new money financing through an Equity Rights Offering to help fund the recapitalization of the Company. As a result of this, the Company's liquidity and financial profile is very strong and the Company has no near-term debt maturities. The secured funding also fully finances completion of the Company's 11th production plant, under construction in Epes, Alabama, which is anticipated to produce its first pellets in May 2025. Once fully ramped, the Company expects the new plant to produce ~1 million metric tons of wood pellets per year, providing a significant opportunity to sell into new and existing markets.

Also on emergence, Glenn Nunziata, who most recently served as Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer, and James Geraghty, who formerly served as Executive Vice President of Finance, has been named Chief Financial Officer.

"Emergence is a critical milestone and exciting step forward in positioning Enviva for a successful future," said Glenn Nunziata, Enviva's Chief Executive Officer. "On behalf of Enviva, I want to express our gratitude to all our stakeholders, especially our customers and associates, for their continued business and support. With a substantially reduced debt burden and dramatically improved liquidity profile, we are well-positioned to serve our customers reliably as a leading producer of industrial wood pellets and to rebuild trust and confidence in the communities in which we operate and markets in which we sell our product."

In connection with emergence, Enviva will operate as a private company with a new Board of Managers ("Board") comprising representatives from key shareholders, including AIP, Keyframe Capital Partners, L.P., and Ares Management funds, who bring valuable financial, operational, and end-market experience to support Enviva's

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operations and future growth.

Jan Trnka-Amrhein, member of Enviva’s Board and Partner at AIP, added, "Enviva’s best-in-class portfolio of production assets and robust logistics capabilities allows for the Company to be the go-to partner for woody biomass renewable energy solutions. We see an immense opportunity for growth and expansion in the markets in which Enviva operates, and we’re confident that Enviva is well equipped to reliably meet its customers’ growing demand for biomass products."

Enviva extends its gratitude to its employees, customers, suppliers, and other partners for their support throughout the restructuring process.

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, Vinson & Elkins LLP, and Kutak Rock LLP served as legal counsel, Lazard served as investment banker, and Alvarez & Marsal North America, LLC served as restructuring advisor to Enviva. The Ad Hoc Group of Creditors was represented by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and McGuireWoods LLP as legal counsel and Evercore Group LLC as investment banker.

About Enviva

Enviva, LLC is a leading producer of industrial wood pellets, a renewable energy source produced by aggregating a natural resource, wood fiber, and processing it into a transportable form, wood pellets. Enviva owns and operates ten plants in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi, and is constructing its 11th plant in Epes, Alabama. Enviva sells most of its wood pellets through long-term, take-or-pay off-take contracts with customers located primarily in the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Japan, helping to accelerate the energy transition away from conventional energy sources in hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, lime, chemicals, and aviation. Enviva exports its wood pellets to global markets through its deep-water marine terminals at the Port of Chesapeake, Virginia, the Port of Wilmington, North Carolina, and the Port of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and from third-party deep-water marine terminals in Savannah, Georgia, Mobile, Alabama, and Panama City, Florida.

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US South Set to Surpass Canada in Lumber Production

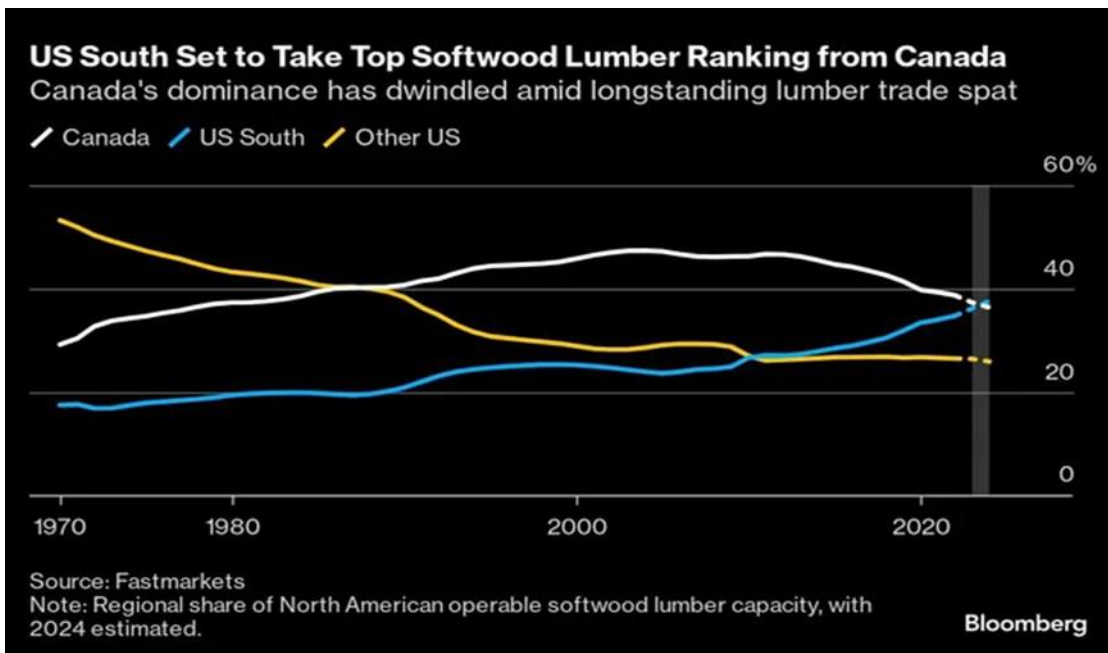
Trade Policies, Wildfires Shift Softwood Capacity Southward

By Transport Topics, November 4, 2024

The U.S. South is poised to overtake Canada's historic dominance in North American lumber production as decades of trade restrictions take their toll.

The region will surpass Canada in softwood lumber capacity for the first time since at least 1970, according to commodity pricing agency Fastmarkets. The shift reflects how a key Canadian resource sector has declined due to U.S. duties and other challenges, including wildfires, land-use regulation and insect infestations.

The U.S. increased import duties on Canadian softwood lumber by nearly 81% in August, the latest development in a four-decade trade dispute. Analysts expect the levies — currently at 14.54% — could double again next year under the Commerce Department's annual review. The measures demonstrate how trade policies can reshape industries. Import restrictions are a prominent topic in the U.S. presidential race, with Republican candidate Donald Trump advocating widespread tariffs on foreign goods.



US South Set to Take Top Softwood Lumber Ranking From Canada
(Source: Fastmarkets via Bloomberg)

The U.S. has long accused Canada's C\$10 billion (\$7.2 billion) industry of dumping low-priced wood and argued that government fees paid by Canadian loggers for timber harvesting amount to a subsidy. The dispute has particularly affected British Columbia, where forest products represented a quarter of exported commodity value in 2022.

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“You would see widespread curtailments throughout not just BC, but across Canada,” said Kurt Niquidet, chief economist of the BC Council of Forest Industries, regarding potential additional levies.

As Canadian sawmills struggle with high costs and lower revenue — especially in British Columbia — the South is gaining ground. The U.S. Lumber Coalition credits the duties for boosting American investment and capacity.

North America lost 4% of sawmill capacity through closures this year — with more than 40% of that in British Columbia, according to Dustin Jalbert, senior economist at Fastmarkets.

Forestry firm Canfor Corp. announced in September it would close two British Columbia sawmills by year-end and take a C\$100 million write down, citing duties and wood supply shortages. West Fraser Timber Co., the world’s largest lumber manufacturer, and smaller competitors Interfor Corp. and Western Forest Products Inc. have also suspended or closed western Canadian mills.

Interfor and Western Forest Products declined to comment, while West Fraser and Canfor didn’t respond to requests for comment.

Demand Turnaround

The South has offset some of British Columbia’s losses, thanks to faster-growing private forests that have made the region the “largest wood basket on the continent,” said Brooks Mendell, president of Forisk Consulting in Georgia. However, he said adequate U.S. lumber supply assumes “Canada doesn’t go to zero, because Canada is still an important player.”

Without self-sufficiency, the U.S. will need to continue importing wood. Americans might pay premium prices from either a diminished Canadian sector or distant sources like Scandinavia.

“The U.S. can only produce so much more incremental lumber before they reach a maximum timber harvest,” said Russ Taylor, a BC-based forestry consultant who has worked in and covered the industry for 45 years.

Signs of recovery in lumber demand could halt Canada’s decline. U.S. single-family home construction is increasing, and the National Association of Home Builders expects this trend to continue through 2026. Fastmarkets predicts North American lumber production capacity will fall short of demand this year for the first time since the pandemic-driven renovation boom.

“Next year, if we have a good demand recovery — you know, demand up, supply down — it doesn’t take a business economist to tell you what that probably means for prices,” Fastmarket’s Jalbert said.



Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

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



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FORESTRY RISK
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If it Ain't Broke, Why Fix It?

That seems to be a common sentiment amongst a number of logging business owners when it comes to considering how they can improve the way they handle a fundamental part of their logging operation: tracking, receiving revenue for, and paying for the loads they produce.

The problem is: often they don't even know their methods are broken until they try another method.

And then they see the **time they were wasting** with their old methods, and **the money they were leaving on the table** from loads that were paid incorrectly, and the **ticket errors** that their old methods never allowed them to catch. I can say these bold comments because our clients have repeatedly made these observations to me over the years— all because they were willing to embrace a new way of doing things.

Sometimes the most positive outcomes in our lives - and our businesses - come from "making improvements" rather than just "making do." And those improvements allow us to get ahead instead of just get by.

The last time you bought a new machine for the woods, chances are, your old one was probably still working. Yet you embraced the change because you believed a new machine would help you be more productive.

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2025 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce sponsored The University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business 44th annual Economic Outlook Conference held at the Pastides Alumni Center on December 11, 2024. The headline for the day was - the Palmetto State is likely to see steady growth in 2025 despite an increased risk for inflation.

South Carolina's economy is expected to expand in 2025 with steady growth projected across most industries, even as inflationary pressures remain a concern, according to Moore School economists Douglas Woodward, Ph.D., and Joseph Von Nessen, Ph.D. The outlook presented today highlighted how the state's economy has readjusted to more sustainable growth patterns following the deflation of the stimulus-based pandemic bubble.

"If we had to give it a grade, we would grade South Carolina's current economic performance at a B+ level," said Von Nessen, research economist in the Moore School's Division of Research. "There's no question that consumer sentiment remains low because of high prices and the lingering effects of inflation. But consumers are continuing to spend, all major sectors are seeing positive employment gains, we have historically low unemployment in South Carolina, and wage growth is once again outpacing inflation — meaning that consumers are beginning to claw back some of their lost purchasing power."

Looking ahead to the new year, Woodward and Von Nessen project that if wage growth continues to outpace inflation, consumers will likely recapture their lost purchasing power in 2025. This makes it more likely that consumer spending — the single biggest driver of economic growth — will continue unabated.

"This economy is still in recovery mode, even though most economists don't use that term very often these days," Von Nessen said. "But the reality is that to have a full recovery from the 2020 recession, South Carolina must recover all of its lost jobs and all of its lost purchasing power. It's this second piece that we haven't seen yet. This is why many South Carolinians continue to feel so frustrated and often don't believe it when they hear that the economy is doing well overall."

Another part of South Carolina's readjustment to a

more sustainable growth pattern is the cooling of the labor market. For example, South Carolina's unemployment rate has increased to its current level of 4.7 percent from 3.0 percent in January 2024. While this is a dramatic increase, the average unemployment rate in South Carolina across all previous economic expansions was 6.0 percent, meaning that the labor market is still in a strong position.

"We have gone from an 'excessively tight' labor market to a 'tight' labor market," Von Nessen said. "And this could actually be good news for local businesses. We want to see South Carolina continue to expand but at a sustainable pace where businesses can more easily find the workers that they need."

According to Woodward and Von Nessen, the biggest threat that South Carolina's economy faces in 2025 is the possibility of a rebounding inflation. Despite the fact that the U.S. inflation rate has been slowly falling towards the Federal Reserve's target of 2.0 percent, there are still significant price pressures that could blunt this momentum.

"There are a number of factors — from strong consumer spending and high-wage growth to elevated housing prices and rising transportation costs — that are still putting upward pressure on prices," Von Nessen said. "This, combined with the fact that the Federal Reserve has been lowering interest rates in recent months, makes it more likely that inflation may start to tick up again next year."

This threat of higher inflation could be further exacerbated by new tariffs being proposed for the Trump administration. Nevertheless, the economists also stressed that tariffs could, under the right circumstances, generate long-run benefits for South Carolina.

"We are entering a new era of international trade policy, and South Carolina's manufacturing economy has the potential to come out ahead," Woodward said. "The Trump policy is to localize more production in America. The state is well-positioned to take advantage of new investment resulting from protectionist measures."

This year's EOC also featured two additional keynote speakers: Curtis Dubay, chief economist of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Cheryl Richards, Ph.D.,

(Continued on page 17)

president and CEO of Catapult Employers Association in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dubay addressed the global economic outlook and how the U.S. could be impacted by changes in trade policy next year. Richards focused on labor market trends and how businesses are coping with an ongoing labor shortage that is still permeating most industry sectors.



Left to Right: Rohit Verma, Ph.D., Dean, Darla Moore School of Business; Douglas Woodward, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Darla Moore School of Business; Curtis Dubay, Chief Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Joseph Von Nessen, Ph.D., Research Economist, Darla Moore School of Business; Mike Brenan, President and CEO, SC Chamber of Commerce; Cheryl Richards, Ph.D., President and CEO, Catapult Employers Association



GREENVILLE-BASED ENDOWMENT PROTECTS NATION'S WORKING FORESTS

By Jay King, December 12, 2024



With a \$23 billion wood and paper products industry in South Carolina, it might not be surprising that there's a Greenville-based organization dedicated to preserving the state's working forests and the communities that depend on them.

What might be surprising is that organization's mission is national in scope, and its creation was prompted by the U.S. and Canadian governments as part of a settlement in a decades-old timber trade dispute.

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has been working for almost two decades all over the country to ensure the nation's working forests are sus-

tainably managed.

This work not only produces environmental benefits but helps support the timber industry and, through that support, the people and communities that rely on working forests for their livelihoods, according to Pete Madden, the endowment's president and CEO.

Trade troubles

The endowment is a nonprofit public charity born out of the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement between the U.S. and Canada stemming from a trade dispute between the two countries over timber pricing.

As part of the agreement and at the request of both governments, the endowment was created with \$200 million in funding to support its mission.

Madden said people don't usually tend to think a trade dispute could create a meritorious, long-term initiative, but the endowment was set up in perpetuity

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

to use the proceeds from its initial capital to fund the work of sustaining the nation's working forests.

He said in the 18 years since the endowment's inception, it has awarded more than \$100 million in grants nationwide to "advance systemic, transformative and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forests."

This work is important to the state and national economies considering the forest products sector supports about 2.5 million jobs nationally and generates an estimated \$128 billion in annual payroll, according to Alicia Cramer, the endowment's chief operating officer.

Market changes

One of the challenges to keeping the American forestry industry healthy is the changing nature of demand for timber-based products, Madden said.

For instance, with the explosion in electronic communication in recent decades the demand for paper has slumped.

These market forces contributed to the closing of paper mills in Canton, North Carolina, and North Charleston and Georgetown in South Carolina, Madden said.

He added that mitigating the negative impact of losing such major employers on their surrounding communities is why the endowment works with forest products industry partners and government agencies to identify and develop new products and markets for those products.

In Southern states such as South Carolina, species like the loblolly pine grow exuberantly and have been a mainstay of the state's timber industry. By helping identify and support markets for that timber the endowment aims to provide incentives for landowners to keep their land producing a sustainable, marketable product rather than sell off that land for development, Madden said.

"A tree doesn't care about West Texas crude prices or a war in the Middle East," he said. "It keeps on growing."

That's why the growing demand for cross-laminated and mass timber products for the construction industry is a promising development for the nation's working forests, Madden said.

With companies like Timberlab in Piedmont in southern Greenville County pioneering precision

mass timber fabrication for the building industry, the endowment works to keep forestry a vibrant part of the U.S. economy.

Toward that end, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities announced in November it was making \$6.5 million in funding available for impact investments for projects supporting three primary focuses:

- **Forests:** Support working forests and the use of sustainable forest management practices for the health and retention of U.S. forests.
- **Communities:** Work with trusted partners within rural forest-reliant communities to build economic prosperity and resilience.
- **Markets:** Support forest industry processes and products, both traditional (e.g., paper mills, sawmills) and emerging (e.g., biochar, carbon).

The endowment will release a request for proposals in January with a proposal deadline of March 11, 2025.

For more information, visit usendowment.org.



U.S. ENDOWMENT FOR FORESTRY AND COMMUNITIES FAST FACTS:

- Established in 2006 and based in Greenville with \$200 million in initial funding.
- Endowment has grown to \$270 million with more than \$100 million distributed in grants so far.
- Works to promote the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities.

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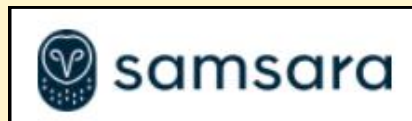
Dash cameras have proven their worth and value in many accidents to where the truck driver was not at fault in an accident. Dash cameras help to avoid the “he said, she said” situations in accidents. And of course, the dash camera can show a driver being at fault in an accident as well. Even if the driver was at fault, having the dash camera could potentially assist in the accident investigation and the outcome.

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Team Safe Trucking Driver Safety Training Modules Outline (additional modules available covering various subjects)

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association Educational Sponsor Website

southcarolinatimberassociation-teamsafe.talentlms.com - (31 courses) Driver Refresher Training Program Courses
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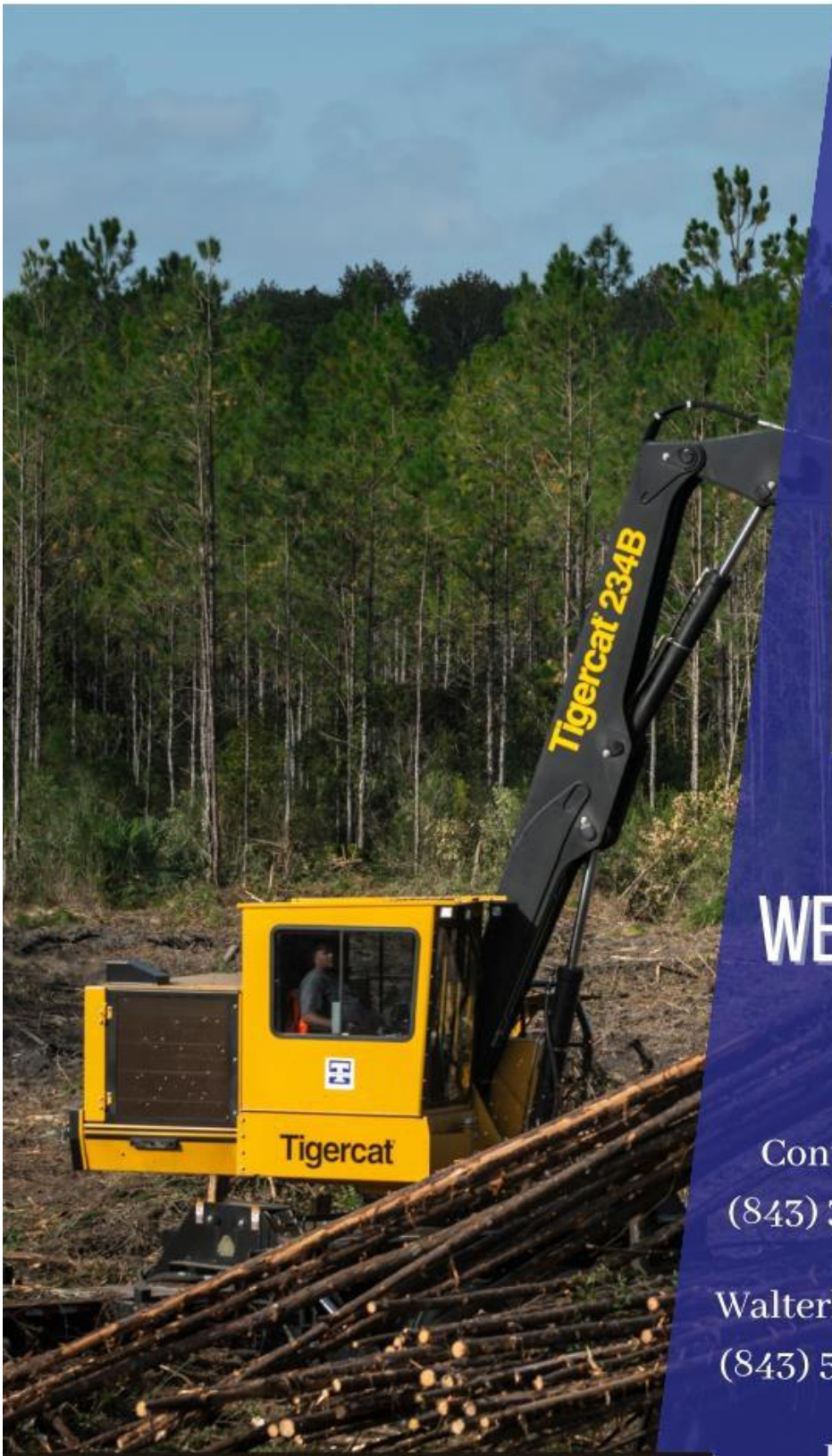
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Roadmap to Recovery Of the U.S. Timber Industry

The American Timber Industry is in a serious state of decline that threatens the entire forest products (paper, lumber, bioenergy,) industry and public / private healthy forest management goals and objectives. Human infrastructure continues to age (average logger age over 55 check demographics) and employment within the logging sector is declining 2% annually over the past 20 years. The logging sector is the first link in the forest industry that has a \$300 billion U.S. economic impact, without which the entire timber and forest products industry collapses. These jobs are rural in nature, but supply materials for products that all of American society depends on daily.

The factors contributing to the decline of the U.S. timber and forest products industry have been identified and can be rectified through proper trade policy, active forest management practices, new forest products market development, maximizing transportation efficiency, workforce development, and favorable tax policy,

The following information identifies the priority issues and actions and are a road map to the recovery of the U.S. timber and forest products industry that Congress and the Administration must undertake.

TRADE POLICY

ISSUE:

Trade Policy: The U.S. is the leading global importer of softwood lumber (ref). The primary source is Canada, followed by Brazil and China

as well as Europe. The U.S. continues to import wood products (plywood) from Russia. In fact, manufactured wood products constituted over 50% of the trade between the U.S. and Russia in 2024, increasing 53% in the latter half of 2024 (ref). All while record numbers of forest products mills close in the U.S., millions of acres of U.S. forests burn annually, and over 10,000 jobs have been lost in the timber and forest products industries in the past 24 months.

Clearly the U.S. demand and market exists for softwood lumber. The U.S. should not be supporting the timber industry of other countries at the demise of the U.S. forests and industry.

Additionally, in some cases, raw timber is shipped from the U.S. (due to a lack of domestic markets that have gone offshore) to countries that process it into finished products and then ship it back to the U.S. markets.

ACTION:

Fair Trade: Enact trade policy, including tariffs, to level the playing field and allow for U.S. forest management, U.S. raw material harvesting, U.S. forest products production, and create U.S. jobs.

Enact and enforce a full ban on Russian origin lumber.

Inform the European Union that the United States has strict sustainable forestry practices and standards recognized and, in some cases, originating in Europe that ensure no deforestation

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tion practices are conducted. In fact, the forested area of the United States has increased over what it was 100 years ago. Therefore, the U.S. will not be implementing the unnecessary requirement of the ill-conceived European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR). The EUDR is an environmental driven initiative to further obstruct the timber industry, add uncompensated costs, and generally a solution looking for a problem where, regarding the U.S., one does not exist.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

ISSUE:

National Forest Management: There is an obvious correlation between areas where national forest management dominates the landscape and unhealthy, overgrown and dense forests plagued by disease, infestation and wildfire. This creates a self-fulfilling cycle of reduced timber management and harvest volume leading to a loss of forest products mills / markets, which is then used to justify continued reduction in timber sales volume that is inadequate to support the supply needs of existing markets thereby causing the failure of remaining markets and perpetuating the circular downward spiral of forest health and industry. The end result of this national forest management practice is forest management by fire, disease and infestation. This “management” fails to comply with the National Forest Management Act of 1976 which requires the U.S. Forest Service “to maintain effective land management”.

National Forest Plans identify the Allowable Sale Quantity that can be harvested during a 10-year period while maintaining sustainability based on areas suitable for timber production. The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have failed to ever achieve this volume.

The U.S. Forest Service currently harvests approximately 3 billion board feet of lumber com-

pared to 13 billion board feet 20 – 30 years ago. The U.S. Forest Service spends more of their budget on wildfire response than forest management. Incidentally, of the nearly 30,000 U.S. Forest Service employees only 3% of them are foresters.

In Minnesota, where the National Forests represent 11% of the forested land, it only contributes 4% of harvested timber. This trend is significantly multiplied in regions (western states) where the majority of public lands is managed by national agencies. These areas also experience higher mortality, wildfire, overstocking, and lost infrastructure. In contrast, regions that are majority privately managed land, forest health and markets are more productive, healthy and stable.

ACTION:

Manage National Forests: The U.S. has an abundant renewable resource that can be sustainably managed to provide raw material for lumber and other forest products production ***if active forest management is returned to the public landscape.***

The U.S. Forest Service must increase active forest management and timber harvest as per their current volume “target”. This target, is typically 1/2 to 1/3 of the Allowable Sale Quantity and even at that reduced volume is rarely achieved. In Alaska, the second largest National Forest, the Chugach has zero timber harvest planned.

A commitment to increased forest management timber harvest volume will enable the remaining forest products industry infrastructure to maintain sustainability while conveying a commitment that will secure additional investment and growth. Thus, reversing the decline in National Forest management and timber industry infrastructure, as well as wildfire severity.

(Continued on page 30)

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The National Forests will be critical to support the development and expansion of domestic softwood lumber markets and the reduction in softwood lumber imports as noted in the first issue.

SAFER TRANSPORTATION

ISSUE:

Interstate Truck Weight Restrictions: The U.S. transportation policy and inconsistencies creates a competitive burden for agricultural products, including raw timber. Weight limits on the federal interstate systems vary drastically for timber products, although it is the same interstate system. Foreign transportation policy allows for heavier transportation weights than parts of the United States.

Log Truck Weight Limits Examples:

Canada (national roadways)

140,000 (up to) pounds based on configuration

Michigan (164,000)

164,000 pounds w/11 axles

New England (2010 pilot, 2017 permanent)

100,000/99,000 pounds w/6 axles (Maine/Vermont)

Minnesota (2015. Limited to 23 miles)

99,000 Winter w/6 axles

Mississippi (2024)

88,000 pounds w/5 axles

Wisconsin (2015. Limited to designated routes)

100,000 winter w 6 axles

North Carolina (new interstates grandfather

88,000 pounds w/5 axles In at state weights)

Otherwise, states are restricted to 80,000 pounds on their respective interstates.

Additionally, the commercial trucking sector is experiencing severe driver shortage with a projected 60,000 commercial truck drivers needed.

This is even more pronounced within the log truck driving category due to the unique aspects of hauling logs. Improving transportation efficiency will enable the log trucking sector of the timber industry to do more with less.

ACTION:

Improving Transportation Safety and Efficiency: The Minnesota Department of Transportation, the University of Georgia, State of Mississippi, State of Maine, and other sources have conducted studies and analysis of the road impacts, safety, braking capacity, fuel consumption (mpg), CO2 emissions, miles traveled, and truck trips of various configurations of logging trucks using the federal interstate system. All have concluded that there are benefits in every category, particularly safety.

A recent study found that nearly 78% of all log truck fatal crashes occurred in the Southeast region of the U.S. In these states, oncoming cars infringing on the logging trucks' lanes were the leading cause of logging truck accidents. These accidents account for 20% of all log truck accidents and often occur on rural roads.

Routing these trucks off rural roadways, school zones, residential neighborhoods, pedestrian areas, and narrower two-lane opposing traffic routes will reduce accidents and improve safety.

The State of Maine documented a reduction in logging truck accidents after they were authorized to access the federal interstate system.

Logging truck interstate access is already authorized in many states. The federal precedent has been established in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Maine, Vermont, North Carolina, and Michigan. Identical language and legislation should extend federal interstate access to allow log trucks already operating on local, county and state roads in each state as per their

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30)

own criteria to utilize the federal interstate road system. The Safe Routes Act has been introduced in Congress with Bipartisan support annually.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

ISSUE:

Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): The Renewable Fuel Standard was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 for the purpose of; reducing the country's reliance on foreign oil; Grow the renewable energy industry; and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program is implemented by the EPA in consultation with USDA and DOE.

There are four renewable fuel categories:

- Biomass based diesel
- Cellulosic biofuels
- Advanced biofuel
- Total renewable fuel

Within these categories there are five subcategories or silos describing the various Renewable Index Numbers (RIN's) per specific type of renewable fuel. The D3 and D7 RIN's are cellulosic based produced from cellulose, hemicellulose, or lignin. This would include forest-based feedstock.

D3 and D7 cellulosic renewable fuels have never been commercially produced and is confirmed by the EPA who have developed Cellulosic Waiver Credits due to "recognizing the short-term difficulty in attaining required volumes of cellulosic standards."

However, there are billions of dollars in investment prepared to produce D3 and D7 cellulosic renewable fuels, including sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) upon approval of project pathway applications. The only obstacles are EPA's timely

Pathway application response and approval and overly restrictive "interpretation" of eligible forest-based feedstock (contrary to USDA USFS consultation). There are millions of tons of unmerchantable timber, biomass and hazardous fuels available as feedstock for the production of D3 and D7 cellulosic renewable fuels.

The USFS Wildfire Crisis Strategy recognizes the need to treat 50 million acres, including hazardous fuels that are feeding the wildfires. The challenge is what to do with this otherwise unmerchantable biomass. The answer is to use it as feedstock for renewable fuels production.

The EPA's position on Pathway Application processing is to address each application on a case-by-case basis. This creates uncertainty and delays the collective processing of similar projects.

Approval of the known projects to produce cellulosic renewable fuels will compliment the U.S. energy independence agenda and produce new and much needed forest product markets.

Nearly 15 years ago the EPA recognized that electricity derived from renewable biomass qualifies as a renewable transportation fuel as part of the 2010 RFS2 Rule, but the EPA has failed to comply with the language in their own rule and activate the electric pathway. With the emergence of electric vehicles, which represent 9% of vehicle market share, the EPA's delay jeopardizes legally obligated revenue streams and fiscal viability of these electric generation facilities.

The EPA has failed to implement the full scope of the RFS as per the Congressional Intent.

ACTION:

RFS Administration: The EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) does not have the background, understanding, or expertise of forest-based cel-

(Continued from page 31)

lulosic feedstock and forest management practices to effectively administer or process the Pathway Applications for D3 and D7 RIN's projects. EPA has not collectively deferred to USDA USFS expertise, advice, and direction regarding forest management practices and timber source marketing / value.

The RFS program must be moved from OIAQ, OAR to the USDA / USFS or other administration authority that is knowledgeable in forest-based feedstock (biomass, hazardous fuels, unmerchantable timber, cull wood, etc.) or headed by a political appointee with a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA USFS.

All Pathway Applications must be reviewed, processed and approved / disapproved within ninety days of submission.

Recognize forest-based biomass as a renewable carbon neutral feedstock for electrical power generation and renewable fuel production, as practiced by the rest of the developed global countries.

Include e-RIN's (renewable electricity generated from forest-based renewable feedstock) as eligible for RIN credits. This renewable energy displaces petroleum-based fuel and can be traced to electric vehicle charging. Therefore, it accomplishes the goals of the "reducing the country's reliance on foreign oil; grows the renewable energy industry (particularly hazardous fuels identified in the Wildfire Crisis Strategy); and reduces greenhouse gas emissions." These facilities can address the projected demand for additional baseload electricity to feed the grid more readily, cost-effectively, and quickly than larger traditional power plants while replacing the many coal power plants that are shutdown or scheduled for shutdown.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE:

Workforce Development: The demographics of the timber industry workforce are well documented to be aging, with nearly 25% 55 to 64 years old (2017) and a declining total workforce of 2% annually as referenced. Surveys of existing logging businesses also revealed the majority were owned by individuals 55 years or older. Many of their succession plans do not include passing on the family business, but instead closing the business. This aging workforce and ownership is going to compound the workforce shortage in the next 5 – 10 years.

The traditional succession for logging businesses is to pass them on to the next generation. Most logging businesses are small, multigenerational, family businesses.

The logging industry is facing a structural shortage of skilled workers entering the timber industry. The following factors are influencing logging industry workforce development:

1. Wage and Benefit Competitiveness
2. Seasonality
3. Profitability
4. Public Perception / Image

There has been trade school programs developed around the country; however, they typically train small numbers (10 – 12 students) per session.

Starting or maintaining a logging business is capital intensive requiring millions of dollars in investment, with the profit margins of 1%-3% for many companies, and significant risk and uncertainty. Most logging companies do not have binding volume or price contracts with mills that they do business with.

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Seasonal harvest seasons have created operational restrictions that render employment within the sector as seasonal. Maintaining a skilled workforce in a seasonally limited environment is challenging and undermines the employment sustainability within the logging workforce. Coupled with long hours, harsh environment, and operational hazards without commiserate compensation and benefits, these factors have a negative impact in attracting young new workers into the industry.

ACTION:

Logging is Agriculture: Logging businesses are small family-owned multigenerational agricultural businesses very similar to farming. In recognition of the workforce structure and succession of farming businesses, farmers are able to integrate their family members that are 16-17 years old in the “mechanized” operation of farming equipment to facilitate learning the operations and for future succession.

Exemptions to the Hazardous Occupations (HO) Orders do not apply to youth employed or operated by their parents. At age 16 minors can perform any farm job, including those declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor. In other occupations minors are not allowed to perform hazardous work until the age of 18. Ref. U.S. Department of Labor

Loggers are not currently specifically permitted this exemption, although the Department of Labor Child Labor Bulletin 102 states.

The Hazardous Occupations (HO) Orders for Agricultural Employment, Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) provides a minimum age of 16 years for any agricultural occupations which the Secretary of Labor finds and declares to be particularly hazardous for persons under the age of 16. The Secretary of Labor has found and declared

that the following occupations are hazardous for minors under 16 years of age:

Felling, bucking, skidding, loading or unloading timber with butt diameter of more than 6 inches

This could be interpreted to allow for “logging operations” to be conducted by agricultural workers 16 years and older.

The same opportunity for family members 16 - 17 years old to operate “mechanized” logging equipment should be extended to family logging businesses. The mechanization of the logging industry is the single largest factor that has contributed to improving safety. This legislation has been introduced with bipartisan support into Congress for many years in the form of the Future Logging Careers Act. This is the most readily available pipeline for entry workforce and family business succession.

Trade schools specializing in logging industry workforce training should receive federal support and investment to provide cost free tuition to prospective students. Efforts to recruit at risk, underserved demographics, including an emphasis on rural and urban areas should be a targeted focus. Employers hiring from these programs should receive an “apprentice” tax credit for the first year.

Note: Contrary to Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting (ie. Logging Industry Most Dangerous Occupation), a review of all injury and fatality reports found the reporting criteria is skewed and misleading. The American Loggers Council met with the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington DC to review their data. That meeting revealed that the report of fatalities per 100,000 (98/100,000) employees was extrapolated since there are only 40,000 loggers in the workforce and for the year reviewed was actually 47 fatalities. Of those, 80% were non-mechanized operations (ie. chainsaws and

(Continued from page 33)

handfelling) and some were log truck accidents. When adjusted for these factors, actual mechanized logging operations fatalities would be approximately 10 per year or extrapolated to be 20/100,000 – comparable to the agricultural sector at 23/100,000, the second highest fatality rate.

TAXES

ISSUE:

Tax Burden Holding Back Investment: The Federal Excise Tax on heavy trucks was first enacted in 1917 (3%) to help pay for World War I and is the highest excise tax levied by the federal government. Over the course of 100 years the tax was repealed (1924), reinstated (1932 at 2% due to the depression), increased in 1941 (2.5%) and 1941 (5%) during WWII, 1951 (8% due to the Korean War), 1956 (10% for the formation of the National Interstate Highway Program), 1972 scheduled to be reduced to 5%, but due to ongoing interstate construction and overruns is maintained at 10%, 1975 Senate votes to repeal, but House does not, 1982 increased to 12% and extended to present day.

This tax adds more than \$30,000 to the cost of new trucks and trailers. Off-highway equipment such as agriculture, earthmoving, forestry and mining machinery are exempt from the tax. This tax is paid at the time of sale on new trucks (not used since the excise tax has already been levied when new), which consequently incentivizes the purchase of used trucks over new trucks.

The Federal Excise Tax on new over the road trucks disincentives purchasing new trucks that are safer, more efficient, and produce less carbon emissions. Half of the Class 8 trucks on the road today are over 10 years old and lack the cleaner technologies and fuel efficiency gains of

today's new trucks.

The price of conventional diesel trucks (\$150,000) has increased over 50% in 10 years, and the price of electric trucks (\$250,000) is nearly double the price of a standard diesel truck. The Federal Excise Tax is 12%. While the taxable value has increased significantly, the Federal Excise Tax has remained the same, generating a disproportionate amount of additional revenue at the expense of the consumer.

The timber industry provides the forest-based feedstock to biomass power plants. These markets are critical to comprehensive forest management operations and particularly the removal of hazardous fuels. In the realm of the renewable energy environment (wind, solar, biomass) 60% of renewable energy consumed in the U.S. is derived from biomass according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. However, the biomass renewable energy sector is at risk of losing IRS tax code sections 45Y and 48 E production and investment tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 due to a lack of guidance from the Biden Administration. This creates an untenable uncertainty for renewable biomass power facilities.

ACTION:

Reduce Taxes to Support Economic Investment: Reduce or eliminate the Federal Excise Tax on Commercial Trucks. This funding (\$5 billion annually) has been included in the Highway Trust Fund. The question is how to keep the Highway Trust Fund whole with the elimination or reduction in this revenue stream.

Considering the significant increase in truck and trailer value over the past 10 years, a 50% reduction in the Federal Excise Tax, from 12% to 6% would theoretically generate the same revenue as 2013.

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Another alternative would be to backfill the Federal Excise Tax revenue with a 2.5 cent per gallon fuel tax. The U.S. consumes 135 billion gallons of gas annually and 45 billion gallons of diesel fuel. A 2.5 cents per gallon tax will generate \$4.5 billion annually. This would allow for the full elimination of the Federal Excise Tax.

Transferring the fee to the actual vehicles impacting the Highway system upon annual registration is a simple alternative that will capture all vehicles including electric vehicles. With 283,000,000 private vehicles and 3 million commercial trucks, a flat \$20 per vehicle will fully offset the \$5 billion current Federal Excise Tax.

Regarding Clean Electricity Production and Investment Tax Credits (Sections 45Y, 48E and 45Z) for Renewable Biomass Power generating facilities, Congress and the Administration must provide immediate clarity through the Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service of eligibility. The lack of direction and certainty from the Biden Administration has left the renewable biomass industry in a compromised position that threatens the vital role these facilities represent in renewable energy production, timber industry markets, forest management and wildfire mitigation.



Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

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

SCTPA MEMBER BENEFIT & SERVICE



MICHELIN & B. F. GOODRICH TIRE SCTPA MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

SC Timber Producers Association is proud to offer this Member Benefit Program. SCTPA has partnered with Michelin and B. F. Goodrich (BFG) to offer ACTIVE dues paid members the opportunity to save money on tires through this program.

SCTPA President Crad Jaynes said, "SCTPA is pleased and proud to partner with Michelin North America to offer this valuable and cost saving opportunity for our members. Our members are always our first priority and when our association can provide a cost saving program like this, it is a "win" for everyone. I appreciate Michelin partnering with us in this program."

This program is available to ALL active dues paid members in all SCTPA member categories. Members are able to visit any local Michelin dealer. Program requires an application be completed and the use of a credit or debit card.

MEMBER PROCESS FOR SCTPA MICHELIN & BFG TIRE PROGRAM

1. Contact SCTPA to receive active member number, membership period and member status (logger, wood dealer, etc.).
2. Must be an Active Dues Paid SCTPA Member.
3. Interested SCTPA members should reach out to your local Michelin Tire Dealer.
4. Contact Michelin's Sharon Warner, 386-479-1169, email sharon.warner@michelin.com to receive an application. Sharon will ask questions regarding number of tires to be purchased, who pays and how.
5. Sharon Warner will verify active membership with SCTPA's Crad Jaynes.
6. Once application is verified, it will be sent to Michelin for approval.
7. Michelin will provide the customer with a Bill To and Ship To Number. At that time, the member will have to Register their account at **Michelinb2b.com** and upload the member's Credit or Debit Card.
8. Program available to ALL members registered as active dues paid SCTPA members.
9. Program available for Michelin and B.F. Goodrich tires. Tires available are Truck, Light Truck, Passenger Car & Agricultural, Industrial & Off Road Tires & Retreads.
10. Once a member is registered on Michelinb2b.com, member will have access to all their purchase reports and tire pricing.
11. Members can go to any Michelin dealer to purchase tires.
12. Tires cannot be ordered online or shipped to the customer. Must go through a Michelin dealer.

SCTPA is pleased to offer our members this tire discount program on the high quality tire products offered by Michelin Tire and B. F. Goodrich Tires. Should a member have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Warner or SCTPA.

9-8-23



 Please contact our endorsed SC Timber Producers Association broker - Mark Snelson (843)325-1211 msnelson@sc.rr.com

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We feel that groups in today's complex and constantly changing environment need more than simply proposals and service. We understand that you are expected to sometimes be a lawyer, accountant and human resources department all at once, and we've expanded our portfolio of services to include things to help you wear all those hats.

Here are some of the cool things we are doing very, very well.

Online Benefit Enrollment Tool

Enroll and manage your entire employee benefits package online — no more paper forms!

Customized Benefit Booklets

We create a customized professional benefit booklets for you. They run the full gamut of all the benefits that your group offers their employees.

ERISA WRAP Documents

That's right, we will complete the ERISA WRAP Documents, and have the full Summary Plan Descriptions (SPDs) including mandated ERISA language ready for your group to distribute to employees.

Full Online HR Library

Easily share our HR Library with your employer groups and can assist them with such areas as OSHA, ERISA, COBRA, Immigration, Taxation and more.

Quoting Tool

Send us a small group census and we'll send you quotes back from every fully insured carrier available in your market in one concise, easy to read spreadsheet.

1094 Completion and Distribution

We take the burden off the HR administrators by providing all forms ready to distribute to the employees of your insured groups, as well as signature ready employer tax forms. All your customers have to do is distribute them to their employees, sign the corporate form and mail to Uncle Sam.

ACA Compliance

Our software tracks and maintains your plan to make sure that you are hitting the required governmental benchmarks.



ATTENTION SC Timber Producers Association Members!! Our exclusive broker, **Mark Snelson** is here to help you with all of your Medicare needs. Please contact him at:

(843)325-1211 or msnelson@sc.rr.com

Medicare Supplement Plans from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina



Medicare alone won't pay for all your expenses. We can help you fill the gap! Call **Mark Snelson** at **(843)325-1211**. Mark is an authorized agent for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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Timber Talk

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Mark Your Calendar

February 2025

- 13 SC Sustain able Forestry Teachers Tour Committee Meeting, Forestry Association of SC, 10:00 a.m., Columbia
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 21 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton, Tapestry Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 21-23 SCTPA 2025 Annual Meeting, Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton, 3200 South Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC

SCTPA is available to those needing to view the 2024 SFI Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Update Video to continue to be SC SFI Trained for the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 period. Contact SCTPA and a group live class or individual live class can be arranged.

District Meeting dates are subject to change. Meeting notices will be mailed, posted on SCTPA Facebook page and listed on the website www.scloggers.com prior to scheduled meeting.

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.

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO
SCTPA

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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.