



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

1ST QUARTER 2025

Last Call

SCTPA Director Crad Jaynes hosts his final annual meeting after 26 years on the job.



ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY DAVID ABBOTT
MANAGING EDITOR
SOUTHERN LOGGIN' TIMES

MYRTLE BEACH, SC

The South Carolina Timber Producers Assn. held its 26th annual membership meeting February 21-23 at the Ellie Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. The official theme was "Overcoming Challenges While Sustaining Our Industry," but the week-

many because it is set to be the last meeting conducted by outgoing SCTPA Executive Director Crad Jaynes. While it still dealt with the usual business of a state logging association meeting, the weekend doubled as a farewell to Jaynes and a celebration of his career serving the logging community in his home state.

Jaynes, who has helmed the group since its inception in 1999, plans to retire before the end of this year, as



end meeting was bittersweet for

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soon as SCTPA's Board of Directors can hire his replacement—which is no doubt proving to be a task that is easier said than done. After all, as anyone who knows him can attest, there's only one Crad Jaynes.

"Looking for Crad's replacement is tough," acknowledged SCTPA board member Joseph "BoBo" Seckinger. "We had the right person for 26 years." While the search continues, Jaynes has agreed to stay on as long as he's needed...but not long enough to make it 27 years, he insists with a wry smile.

Jaynes has outlasted most of the people for whom he went to work in 1999: of the original board members who hired him, only one, Tommy Barnes, remains active today. Jaynes says his work for the last quarter

century-plus has been a labor of love. "I've had a wonderful 48-year career, 26 of them here," he said during an emotional farewell. "There's nothing more rewarding

than getting things done. It gives me great joy to accomplish things."

In an effort to express appreciation for his years of hard work and dedication on their behalf, Bob

Lussier, Josh Key and the rest of the board presented Jaynes with, among other mementos, a special commemorative book they had published

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of photos from throughout his career. The book was entitled “Love You, Mean It,” a phrase Jaynes is fond of saying to his friends and associates.

In addition, Swamp Fox Insurance Agency, one of the meeting’s sponsors, presented Brenda Jaynes, Crad’s wife, with the Silent Partner award, and then presented her husband with the final ever South Carolina Timber Leadership Award. Jaynes was the first and, 25 years later, will now be the final recipient of this award because, after this year, it will now be renamed the Crad Jaynes award in his honor. An overwhelmed Jaynes, often loquacious, responded by saying, “I’m without words—well, not really.”

Agenda

The meeting was well attended but numbers were actually down a bit this year, as expected in current conditions. But it’s not the quantity, only the quality that counts, Jaynes insisted: “And this is a quality group.”

After the first day’s board meeting, an evening welcome reception included a live auction and live music.

The second morning’s general session featured presentations from Rick Todd, President/CEO of the South Carolina Trucking Assn.; Cam Crawford, President/CEO of the Forestry Assn. of South Carolina; Josh Sandt, Canfor Southern Pine’s vice president of fiber procurement and residuals; and Scott Dane, Executive Director of the American Loggers Council. Each speaker provided useful information on the current state of the industry: the good, the bad and the ugly.

There are 24,000 different motor carriers in South Carolina, Todd stated, 65% of which are single-truck operations, and 95% of which have fewer than 10 trucks. “Trucking is everybody’s business,” he said. “It’s vital, visible and vulnerable.”

Sandt focused much of his presentation on how companies like Canfor are exploring new alternatives to replace lost markets in the face of so many shutdowns in the last few years. “Our biggest problem is what to do with chips now that IP Georgetown is gone,” he said. “We’re seeking alternatives, but there’s no silver bullet.” He mentioned mass timber construction projects, Airbus and sustainable aviation fuel development, Drax’s bioenergy with carbon capture and storage

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(BECCS) program, and various applications for biochar.

"We're working steadily at trying new things," Sandt contin-

ued. "There's no single thing that's going to replace the 200,000 tons of chips in Conway tomorrow." While he admitted that some things being tried may well fail, it's imperative to try anyway. "We can't just sit back and hope, so we're actively seeking alternatives."

While it's good to chase new markets, it's also vital that we protect our existing ones, according to Dane. "We've got enough opposed to us, we don't need to oppose each other." Dane, who received an invitation to represent the timber industry at President Trump's State of the Union address, noted that ALC has developed a "road map" plan for how to work with the Trump administration on trade policy beneficial to the industry. "We have their ear," he said. "We have a great opportunity. This administration is our last best chance. It will never happen again in our lifetimes." Regarding Canadian lumber tariffs, Dane expressed support, advocating for U.S. companies to bring facilities back online and increase domestic production. He also expressed frustration upon hearing the then-recent announcement of the IP closure in Louisiana. "I've had enough," he said. "When will it end?" Mills, Dane said, should take into consideration the impacts to the local community and jobs lost as

part of the equation when making these business decisions. Still, he encouraged the assembled loggers, "Help is on the way, so don't give up."

Tort Reform

One of the main points of discussion throughout Saturday's sessions was tort reform. Insurance man Rick Quagliaroli pointed out that South Carolina is now a more litigious state than Florida. He pointed to Alabama as a positive example: "Alabama 30 years ago was a hellhole of torts, now it's not," Quagliaroli said.

The issue has been playing out in the South Carolina legislature early this year, and Todd, Quagliaroli and others encouraged loggers to support South Carolina Senator Shane Massey, who is the state senate's majority leader representing district 25, which encompasses Aiken, Edgefield, Lexington, McCormick and Saluda Counties. Massey has been fighting a tough battle to rein in lawsuit abuse that has targeted the trucking supply chain with frivolous lawsuits, which enrich trial lawyers and force insurance rates up for everyone.

Afternoon, Evening, Morning

Luncheon business meeting guest speakers included Lori Walker, Executive Director of Carolina Women in Timber, an organization she formed in 2019 aimed at offering women in the industry a chance to network, connect and support each other. The indus-

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try's men, she said, understand and appreciate how much women bring to the table for their businesses. The group will hold its sixth annual meeting later this year, hosted by Bob and Cindy Lussier's Great Woods Companies.

Rick Quagliaroli of Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast also spoke at lunch, focusing his talk on tech, "future" tech that is very rapidly becoming everyday reality. "The future is what you make it," Quagliaroli said. Based on a recent experience with it in Arizona, Quagliaroli is confident that self-driving cars will soon make human-driven taxis and ride-share services like Uber obsolete. The technology is very far along in development and, once implemented on a wide scale, will likely prove to be a safer, more convenient, more affordable and all-around higher-quality alternative. And speaking of technology that isn't quite so new anymore, Quagliaroli advised all log truck owners to use dash cams. "They make 1,000 lawsuits go away," he said.

At the lunch meeting's conclusion, Jaynes presented the 2024 Gene Collins Activist of the Year award to Jason Wilks and Wilks Logging, Inc. of Chester, SC in recognition of the company's demonstrated commitment to professional and sustainable timber harvesting practices, steadfast support of SCTPA, active involvement in community and industry activities and promotion of education. Wilks Logging has been a member of SCTPA since the beginning in 1999. Jason's father, Crawford Wilks, previously received the award in 2005.

Later that evening, at a dinner hosted by Swamp Fox Insurance, local country music singer Cody Webb performed his own songs and covers of neo-classic tunes by Alan Jackson, George Strait, Brooks and Dunn and Shenandoah. Todd Martin and Bill Jones from the Southern Loggers Cooperative—both of them noted singers and pickers in their own right—

joined Webb on stage for some gospel and blue grass tunes.

The 2025 meeting ended Sunday morning with a prayer breakfast and more live music, this time from Port City Quartet, a gospel music group that moved many with their vocal harmonies. After silent auction announcements and final comments, Jaynes called his final meeting as SCTPA director adjourned.





AS WE SEE IT ... FEBRUARY 2025

"THE FIX IS IN"

Those of us who are blessed to live and work in the woods know something is very wrong. Millions of acres of America's forests burn in wildfires every year. Along with the forests, towns and homes burn, ecosystems are severely damaged, and watersheds are turned into mudflows and landslides. While the toll on the environment is great, more sobering is the loss of human lives and the long-ranging health impacts. Wildfire smoke offsets years of anti-pollution efforts and is finally receiving the scientific study needed to evaluate the adverse effects on human health.

Lately, I find myself in daily conversations with folks who ask, "What's going on with all these fires?" I had a meeting one afternoon with one of our county supervisors because he wants a clearer view of what's wrong in our forests and how to fix it. To answer him, and you readers, I'm going to relay the history of the Tecuya Ridge Thinning Project, a clear example of "what's wrong."

The Tecuya Project is located in Southern California, home to the notorious Santa Ana winds that have driven wildfire catastrophes throughout history. The project was originally envisioned by the Mount Pinos community, located between Los Angeles and Bakersfield, as a shaded fuel break that would help protect the area from wildfire.

The Kern County Fire Department became a strong advocate for the Tecuya Project and collaborated with the local community to move the project forward. The locals developed the Mount Pinos Community Wildfire Protection Plan. That plan, coupled with the Los Padres National Forest Strategic Fuel Break Assessment, gave the Tecuya Ridge Thinning Project the traction it needed.

In March 2018, the community and the Forest Service proposed the project: 1,626 acres of strategic fuel breaks designed to protect the forest ecosystem and the watershed, along with 3,800 homes

with "high risk" designation, in the event of a wildfire. The proposal triggered one year of project "scoping" where anyone could ask questions or provide comments about the fuel break. At the end of the year, in April of 2019, the submitted questions had been answered and concerns addressed by the Forest Service, and the decision memo to proceed with the project was signed.



Mike Albrecht
President
American Loggers
Council

This process was working just as it should work, right? The local community works with local agencies to identify a problem and after presenting it to the public for questions and input, moves forward on a solution. Wrong!

In stepped the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental organization based in Tucson, Arizona, backed with a \$45 million balance sheet and a reported 40 attorneys on staff, who sued to stop the project. They claimed it endangered the California condor and violated the Forest Service roadless rules. Were condors present anywhere around the project? No. Were new roads proposed for this project? No.

Final outcome . . . the Tecuya Project went to the US District Court where it was approved in December 2022. Good to go? Nope – the appellants took it to the Ninth Circuit Court, where it was finally cleared to proceed on March 1st, 2024, 6 years after it was initially proposed.

I have worked in the forest for over 50 years. During that time, stories just like the Tecuya fuel break story have played out repeatedly in forests all over the country. The results in California: in the 1980's, there were approximately 150 sawmills producing wood products from California's forests. Today the

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number of sawmills is down to 27, and even though our state is one-third forested, it imports over 80% of its wood products. Montana's story is similar: a University of Montana study states that over two-thirds of Montana's timber industry has been shuttered since the 1980's.

Today, the United States of America, with almost 800 million acres of forest, is the **#1 IMPORTER** of lumber in the world. What's wrong? Four decades of stories similar to the Tecuya fuelbreak recurring again and again across our National Forests.

After living through the past 4 years of presidential and Congressional forestry dysfunction that included a proposal to close off another 100 million acres of "maturing" and old growth forests from management, help has arrived. The problem has a "fix," and it is Congressman Bruce Westerman's (R-Ark.) and Scott Peters' (D-Calif.) bill, aptly named the "Fix Our Forests Act" (FOFA). The American Loggers Council has been a strong supporter of this legislation since its introduction, meeting with Congressman Westerman and attending his subcommittee hearing on the bill in April 2024.

Our support, along with the support of our partner timber associations, has been instrumental in promoting the FOFA right up to the finish line: the House overwhelmingly passed the bill with 64 Democrats joining all the House Republicans in approving this legislation. The FOFA is designed to do the following:

- 1) Incentivize large-scale (10,000 acre) forest management projects to increase the pace and scale of active forest management
- 2) Simplify and expedite the environmental review process on timber management projects.
- 3) Limit litigation (aka Tecuya Fuelbreak) involving fire-shed management projects

Moving the Fix Our Forests Act across the finish line now lies in the hands of the Senate, where the chance for approval is excellent. After Congressional approval, moving the FOFA from legislation to action will take, in my opinion, one more important step. Every timbered county in America will need to become

aware of and embrace this legislation. That will be more likely to occur at the county supervisor or commissioner level if those representatives hear from the "local folks" – you and me.

At last count, 85 environmental groups had mobilized to oppose the Fix Our Forests Act. The best way to make this "fix" a reality is to beat the folks against it to the punch, and here's your punch line:

- American is one-third forested (approximately 800 million acres).
- Our forests are overgrown with 5 times too many trees per acre (500 instead of 100).
- Wildfire is destroying or damaging approximately 7 million acres of forests each year.
- Along with those fires, lives, communities, and homes are lost.
- Wildfire, plant, insect and ecosystem losses on those 7 million acres are incalculable and often go unmentioned.
- The United States is now the **#1 IMPORTER** of lumber in the world, and we are rapidly losing our timber industry and critical infrastructure.
- As a result, according to Wood Central, Russian plywood imports to America have jumped 53% just in recent months.

The American public has voted in an administration that can help right the ship, but they will not succeed without our help. Our local voices can stand up and prevail against those who seek to obstruct science-based forest management and the wise use of our forest resources. We need to show up . . . and get there first.



Mike Albrecht has a master's degree in forestry from Duke University, is a Registered Professional Forester in California, and has worked for 50 years in forest management and the forest products industry.

Mike currently serves as president of the American Loggers Council and is a past president of Associated California Loggers and the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference.



SWAMP FOX AGENCY HONORS CRAD JAYNES

*Rick Quagliaroli, President
Swamp Fox Agency*

I joined Swamp Fox Agency in 2013. I have been involved with Associations my entire career in insurance. Because Swamp Fox Agency is the endorsed Agency for the South Carolina Timber Producers Association Crad Jaynes was one of the first people I met.



What soon became apparent, is this “one man band” was everywhere. He was getting more done than other associations with many staffed positions. Then there was the unique set of skills. A Clemson forestry major who had significant insurance and loss control experience.

We quickly built a strong working relationship. It was a matter of showing respect to support Crad and the Association in any way I was able. One of the conversations we had involved the volatility of the commercial auto insurance market place for loggers. Loggers experienced insurance carriers providing coverage for a few years and then non renewing coverages. The services these insurance carriers were often limited to paying claims.

Our conversation led to what are the available options. Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast, the only logger owned captive insurance company in the United States, writing commercial auto and general liability coverages, became the solution. From a conversation in early 2016, FI-CoSE is now in four states bringing stability to the volatile commercial auto market for loggers nearly a decade later.

Every year at the SCTPA annual meeting Swamp Fox Agency recognizes an individual who exemplifies the values that the loggers in the forestry industry hold dear i.e. hard work, do whatever it takes, family and a belief in God.

The first person recognized as a recipient of the award was Crad in 2011. He had led the Association from the start as a founding member. He navigated difficult financial storms to lead the Association to be financially solid. He has the diplomatic skills to keep twelve strong-willed, independent loggers moving in the same direction. As a result, he has earned their respect.



It is only fitting that the individual recognized at the Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach in February 2025 should be Crad. This time the Award recognized **28 years** of dedication to an association and industry. The Award also recognized his role with Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast and continued guidance as an advisor to the Board of Directors. From this date forward, the Swamp Fox Agency's South Carolina Timber Industry Leader Award shall be known as the **CRAD JAYNES TIMBER INDUSTRY LEADER AWARD**.

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In 2022 the Agency added a second recognition award. This award is directed at an individual that leads operations critical to the business. Those of us who attend the annual meeting know the amount of work that gets done is significant and done by a small group of individuals. This year's winner of Swamp Fox Agency's **Silent Partner Award** is **Brenda "Booboo" Jaynes**. The SCTPA annual meeting is an annual success story. The Team that supports Crad is led by BooBoo assisted by family and friends. There can be no higher achievement of living the values of loggers than Crad and Booboo.

As Crad retires from the Presidency of the SCTPA and Booboo leaves her role of coordinator, we congratulate them on their new title, grandma and grandpa. Lives well led are a joy to recognize and celebrate.

My friend, your commitment to the Association will be dearly missed, but you will remain a friend and colleague forever.



White House / Administration Identify the pending European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) as a Barrier to Trade

The U.S. Trade Representative office included the EUDR as one of the top ten unfair trade practices as a barrier to trade. State Association representatives of the American Loggers Council brought this up (included in the "Road Map to Recovery") last week at a White House Meeting with officials, including a representative from the Office of U.S. Trade Representative. There is no Deforestation in the U.S., so the Administration needs to tell the EU that the U.S. will not be participating in their EUDR program. The U.S. Senate and House have opposed it, numerous State Agriculture Commissioners oppose it, 22 of 27 EU Agriculture Ministers have expressed concern. China has refused to participate.



DISASTER REFORESTRATION ACT COALITION LETTER

April 22, 2025

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Chairman Smith, and Chairman Crapo:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing agriculture, business, conservation, forestry, and rural interests across the country, we write to congratulate you on passing a budget resolution that sets the stage for advancing meaningful, pro-growth policies. As you work toward crafting “one big, beautiful bill,” we respectfully urge you to include the Disaster Reforestation Act, a commonsense, bipartisan solution to support rural communities and strengthen our domestic timber supply.

This bill fixes an outdated section of the tax code that penalizes private forest landowners whose timber is destroyed by natural disasters. Under current law, these landowners can only deduct a minimal tax basis—often pennies on the dollar—making recovery nearly impossible after hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, and other catastrophic events. Unlike other agricultural sectors, timberland owners have no access to crop insurance or meaningful federal safety nets.

The Disaster Reforestation Act empowers landowners by allowing them to deduct the true value of their timber destroyed by disasters. This long-overdue policy will allow private landowners to replant, recover, and continue stewarding America’s working forests—forests that sustain rural jobs, provide critical environmental benefits, and form the backbone of our nation’s timber supply chain.

This policy also directly aligns with President Trump’s recent executive orders calling for the protection and sustainability of our domestic timber sources. By enacting the Disaster Reforestation Act, Congress will help ensure these goals are realized by providing family forest owners with a tool they desperately need to recover—when, not if—a natural disaster strikes.

This is a rare opportunity to deliver a win for Rural America by standing with the landowners who sustain working forests and local economies. Including the Disaster Reforestation Act in upcoming legislative efforts will:

- ✓ Strengthen our rural economies by keeping working forests in production and supporting the thousands of jobs tied to them;
- ✓ Protect critical environmental resources such as clean water, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage;
- ✓ Maintain our domestic timber security by enabling timely reforestation after disasters.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you to secure this vital relief for America’s forest landowners and the rural communities they support.

Sincerely,

April 22, 2025
WASHINGTON, DC –

The Forest Landowners Association (FLA) has led a coalition of more than **75 state and national organizations** in sending a letter to Congressional leadership urging the inclusion of the **Disaster Reforestation Act** in the upcoming budget reconciliation package. The broad coalition represents key sectors of **agriculture, business, conservation, forestry**, and other stakeholders committed to the future of **Rural America and the domestic wood products supply chain**.

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This marks the **strongest show of support for the bill to date**, reflecting the growing recognition of the vital role that **healthy working forests** and a resilient **domestic timber supply** play in our economy, environment, and national security. The legislation would allow private forest landowners to deduct the **true value of timber destroyed by natural disasters** and requires **reforestation**, ensuring long-term forest stewardship and accountability to taxpayers.

“This is a clear message to Congress: protecting working forests is not just about trees—it’s about jobs, clean water, wildlife habitat, and keeping rural economies strong,” said **Scott Jones**, CEO of the Forest Landowners Association. “This bill gives landowners a tool they desperately need to recover from disasters and keep forests in production for generations to come.”

The letter was sent to Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO), and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID). The bill is bipartisan and bicameral, and the coalition expressed hope it will be included in the final package being crafted by Congress.

FLA and its partners will continue working with both the **Executive Branch** and the **Legislative Branch** to advance policies that support **family forest landowners** and the **long-term health and productivity** of America’s working forests.





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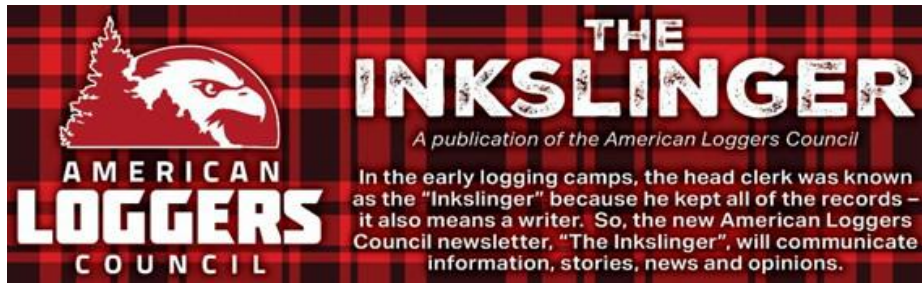
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SECRETARY ROLLINS ANNOUNCES SWEEPING REFORMS TO PROTECT NATIONAL FORESTS AND BOOST DOMESTIC TIMBER PRODUCTION

In response to the President’s Executive Order issued on March 1st, Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins has issued the following Memorandum. This memorandum demonstrates not only the Administration’s recognition of the deteriorating health of the National Forests, but also an urgency in implementing emergency actions to address the threats posed by this situation. Numerous state members of the American Loggers Council were in DC this week meeting the USFS, Congress, and other Administration officials about issues, including the National Forests, and are committed to providing the resources and services necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the Executive Order and this Memorandum.

(Washington, D.C., April 4, 2025) –

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins issued a Secretarial Memo (PDF, 2.9 MB) to establish an “Emergency Situation Determination” on 112,646,000 acres of National Forestry System (NFS) land (PDF, 19.8 MB). This Memo comes on the heels of President Donald J. Trump’s Executive Order to expand American timber production by 25%, and it will empower the U.S. Forest Service to expedite work on the ground and carry out authorized emergency actions to reduce wildfire risk and save American lives and communities.

“Healthy forests require work, and right now, we’re facing a national forest emergency. We have an abundance of timber at high risk of wildfires in our National Forests,” **said Secretary Rollins**. “I am proud to follow the bold leadership of President Trump by empowering forest managers to reduce constraints and minimize the risks of fire, insects, and disease so that we can strengthen American timber industry and further enrich our forests with the resources they need to thrive.”

The Memo issued by Secretary Rollins is part of a larger effort to ensure American resources are properly managed for generations to come. This work will support rural economies, reduce wildfire

risk, and build capacity through workforce alignment and expanded partnerships.

This Memo will also spur immediate action (PDF, 285 KB) from the U.S. Forest Service directing field leadership to increase timber outputs, simplify permitting, remove National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes, reduce implementation and contracting burdens, and to work directly with states, local government, and forest product producers to ensure that the Forest Service delivers a reliable and consistent supply of timber.

This action builds on Secretary Rollins’ announcement last month to unleash American energy by directing the USDA Forest Service to take action to remove burdensome Biden-era regulations that have stifled energy and mineral development on Forest Service land. As part of these decisive actions, the agency also canceled two mineral leasing withdrawals on Forest Service land that will help boost production of critical minerals.





SCTPA wishes to thank the following SPONSORS and EXHIBITORS who, with their generous financial contributions and time, helped to make the **2025 SCTPA Annual Meeting** a great success! A sincere thank you to all!!!

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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.

In the same way, doesn't it make sense to consider making a positive change to enhance productivity in the office?

Not only will it enhance productivity, it can even help you make more informed decisions about where your business is most in need of positive change.

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2024 GENE COLLINS ACTIVIST AWARD

Jason Wilks Wilks Logging, Inc. Chester, SC

The 2024 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award is proudly presented to Jason Wilks and Wilks Logging, Inc., Chester, SC, for sincere commitment to professional timber harvesting, loyally supporting the association, participating in community and industry activities, practicing sustainable timber harvesting, promoting education and positive promotion of professional business practices.

Wilks Logging is led by Jason Wilks, son of Crawford Wilks, who is a conscientious, professional businessman understanding the value of relationships with customers, employees and industry, environmental stewardship and promotion of a positive image as a professional logger.

Jason began working with his father Crawford in the 1980's and started full-time when he was eighteen years old in 1992. His grandfather had been in the logging business since 1952. Crawford purchased Wilks Logging from his father in 1989. Crawford unfortunately passed away in 2012. Then Jason took the reins of Wilks Logging.

Jason purchased Wilks Logging, Inc. from his mother Brenda in 2013 and has continued the professional legacy of his grandfather and father.

Early on Jason operated two crews and consolidated the crews into one logging crew. Wilks Logging's professional logging crew works with wood dealer Tommy Barnes, Jr., Williams Forest Products, Inc., Rock Hill, SC.

Jason's wife Tonya is involved in the company and handles the business's administrative duties.

Jason has two veterans on the Wilks Logging

Team. Henry "Dead Eye" Brown has been with the company for 37 years and William Coleman for 30 years. Terry Wilks, Jason's father Crawford's brother, works with the company as a truck driver.



Wilks Logging has 19 employees. The woods employees are 9 including Jason, 8 drivers and 1 full-time mechanic at the shop. Employees are cross trained to operate multiple machines. Jason is SC Sustainable Forestry Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Trained. Jason went to a fully mechanized operation 10 years ago, reducing the number of

workers on the ground and improving the operation's production efficiency.

Woods equipment consists of two Tigercat knuckleboom loaders with pull through delimbers with cut off saws, three Tigercat grapple skidders and two Tigercat feller bunchers. Support equipment is available as Wilks Logging has two John Deere 700 model bulldozers for road work and log deck preparations. Spare equipment is available at the shop if needed in case of breakdowns.

Wilks Logging operates 8 full-time Mack trucks with one spare Mack truck to fill in due to a breakdown.

Averaging 130 loads per week from one crew, Wilks Logging supplies the wood receiving markets of Boise Cascade in Chester, New-Indy Catawba, LLC, in Catawba, Canfor Southern Pine in Camden, Sylvamo in Eastover and Doman Tucker Lumber Co., formerly C M Tucker Lumber Company, in Pageland. Products produced are pulpwood, chip-n-saw logs and sawtimber.

Wilks Logging, Inc. has been a SC Timber Producers Association logger member since 1999. The company is a Forestry Association of SC and SC Trucking Association member. Jason and his father attended the first meeting when SCTPA was being formed.

The company has attended the SCTPA annual meeting every year since the first meeting in 2000. Jason's dad Crawford was awarded the SC Timber Producers Association Gene Collins Logger Activist Award in 2005. Jason has attended the SCTPA District Meetings in Richburg over many years.

Jason and family attend Calvary Baptist Church in Chester. They are supporters of Log A Load for Kids, Chester High School Girls Softball Team and York Prep Academy Volleyball Team. Wife Tonya serves on the West Chester Community Center board of directors.

Jason says, "I love the logging business as I learned from my dad. He made sure to instill in me the right work ethics to do a good job for sustainable forestry, our employees and our clients. It's a tough time now for logging. I'm concerned about where the industry is headed. With the mill closings and reduced markets what is on the horizon. We need more markets to sustain the industry."

Jason takes great pride in his business and job performance. His professional commitment to forest landowners, markets, community and forest environment to provide sustainability of our forest resources and environment.

Jason says, "I am proud to be a SC Timber Producers Association logger member. I realize the importance of what the association does and brings to our industry's segment. I tell people about the importance of having SC Timber Producers Association to help look after the industry. The association is there for us. Same as the American Loggers Council provides national support for the professional logging industry."

"One area our industry needs to do a better job is educating the critical public. Most people don't know about what we do and how we do our jobs. We are forest stewards," Jason says.

SCTPA's President Crad Jaynes says, "I am very proud of Jason and his company for the do it right philosophy they adhere to in their work. Being a professional logger in a challenging business, he believes in his business, his employees and industry. The industry is tough for sure as it has always been. Adhering to the right attitude and work ethic, Jason

has continued the legacy of Wilks Logging, Inc. I was fortunate to know Jason's dad Crawford and cherish the close relationship we had."

Understanding the responsibilities and importance associated with how professional loggers contribute to their local and state economies, how professional loggers must work with forest landowners, wood suppliers and wood receiving companies in cooperative, mutually beneficial partnerships, promoting and practicing sustainable forestry, educating the critical public regarding professional timber harvesting, demonstrating a stewardship attitude about our sustainable and renewable forest resources and our environment are all important issues to Wilks Logging's business and operational standards.

As an industry leader with a sincere commitment to professional logging, sustainable forestry, community, their business and family and the principles of outstanding business, SCTPA is proud Jason Wilks and Wilks Logging, Inc. is our 2024 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award recipient.

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association's Logger Activist Award recognizes a logger member who has demonstrated an exceptional desire to promote and represent the profession by actively participating in association state and district activities, promoting and participating in educational efforts, community action projects and association projects to positively promote timber harvesting's image, conducting business activities in the best interests of the timber harvesting profession to engender the public's trust by meeting and exceeding the American Loggers Council Loggers Code of Practices and has displayed a professional commitment to sustainable forestry practices.

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



Jason Wilks Wilks Logging, Inc.

Chester, SC



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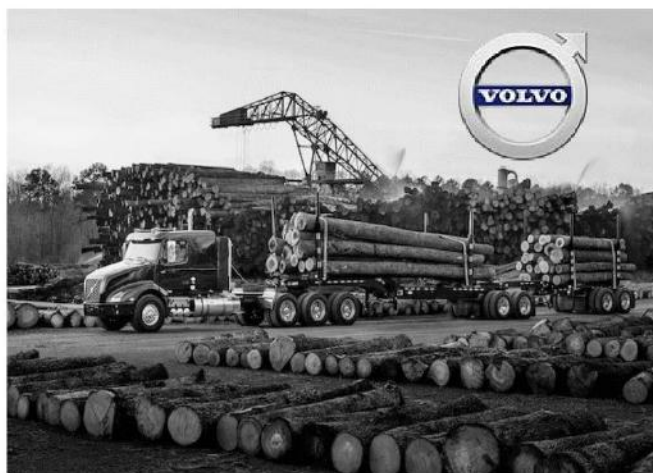


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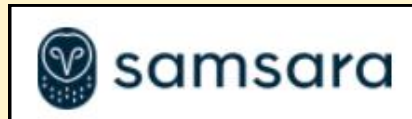
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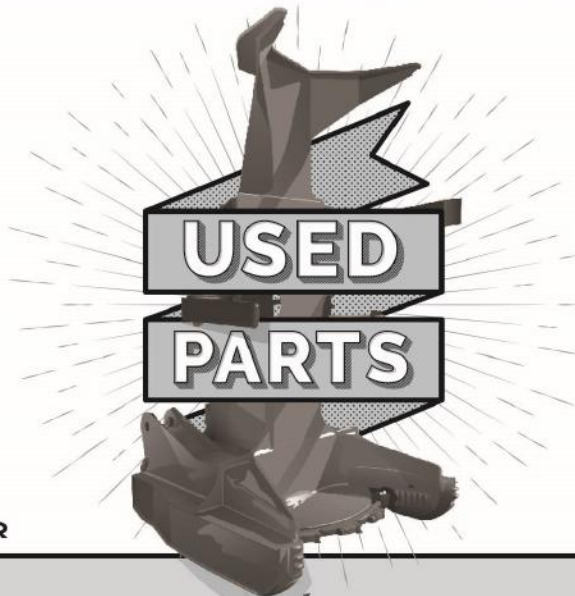
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Team Safe Trucking Driver Safety Training Modules Outline (additional modules available covering various subjects)

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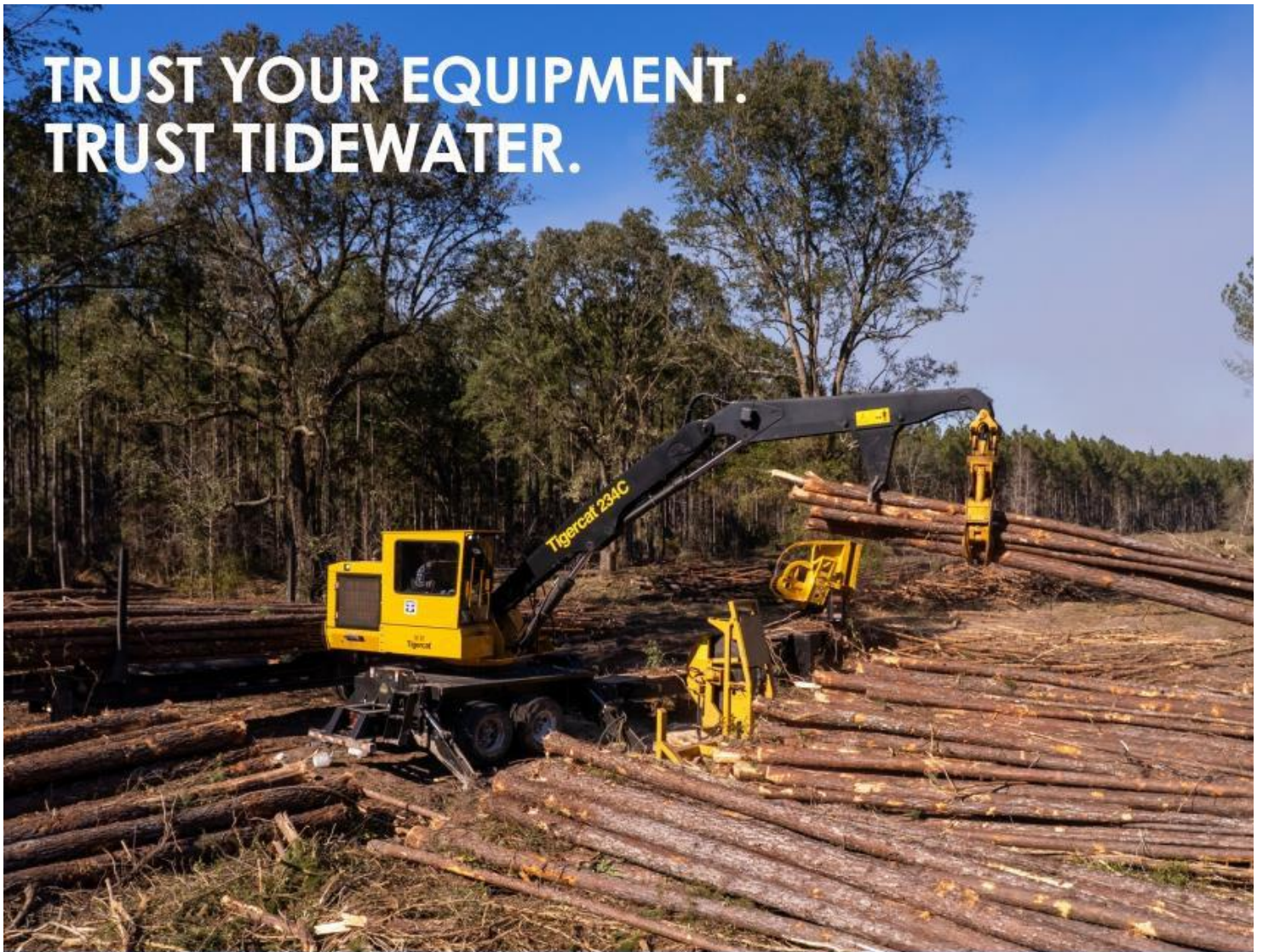
Driver Refresher Training Courses:

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S C Timber Producers Association
Crad Jaynes, SCTPA President & CEO
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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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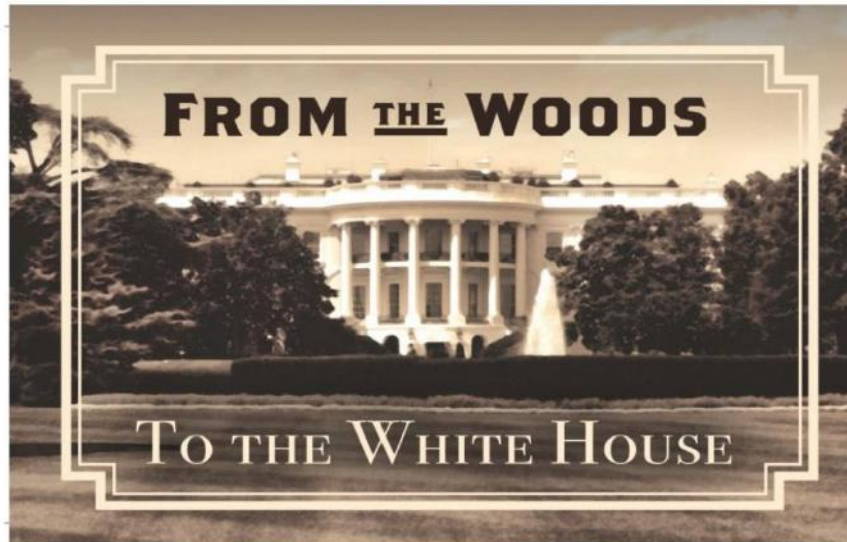
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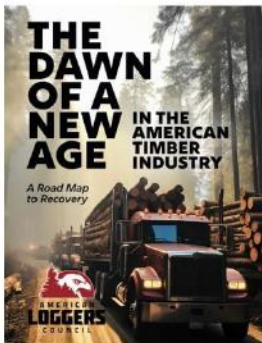


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Nearly 100 timber industry stakeholders representing 25 states flew into Washington DC armed with a *"Road Map to Recovery"* to share with Congressional leaders, high ranking agency officials, and White House representatives. The Fly In was a joint event cosponsored by the American Loggers



Council and the American Biomass Energy Association. In two days,



donning Making LOGGING Great Again hats and "wooden ties" provided by Bob Verrier (Rhode Island Wood Operators Organization), over 200 meetings and engagements were conducted.





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Additionally, Congressional Representatives and officials addressed the group. Acting



Associate USFS Chief Chris French kicked off the breakfast briefing at the Congressional Visitors Center (in the House alternate Chamber). Congressman McClintock (CA) and Congressman Westerman (AR) provided presentations during lunch. Additional Congressional lunch and dinner meetings were held.



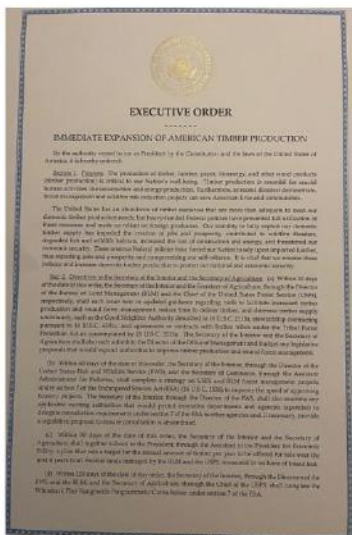
Notably, representatives from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama met with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce to discuss the impacts of imported pulp and structural panels (OSB and Plywood) on U.S. markets. The Louisiana delegation also



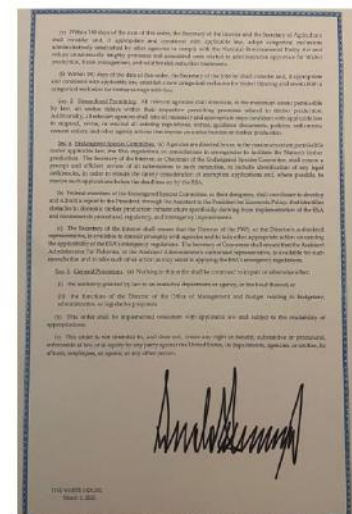
met with Speaker of the House and Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson. A White House meeting with the Office of Public Liaison and the



U.S. Trade Representative officials was attended by 12 ALC / State representatives with a heavy emphasis on the European Union Deforestation Regulation discussed.



After the White House meeting a copy of the President's Executive Order 14225 *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production* was presented to the American Loggers Council





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Capping off the event was a Reception at the USDA Headquarters attended by the timber industry stakeholders, Congressional officials, and USDA / US Forest Service representatives.



The location of the Reception, in the ornate Whitten Building Atrium, with flags from all of the states hung



around the perimeter, was symbolic of the states (46) represented by the American Loggers Council, and the collaborative partnership USFS and the timber industry improve the health of the American Loggers Council Congressional Leadership (ME), Senator Risch (ID), and (CA) in recognition of their legislative leadership for the industry.



between the USDA / as we work together to National Forests. The presented the 2025 Awards to Senator King Congressman LaMalfa strong support and American timber



The overall takeaway from the participants was that there was a much more positive response and reception in DC regarding increased emphasis and support for forest management. Recognizing this opportunity the American Loggers Council will be investing in, and increasing our efforts and presence in DC, to advance the agenda. Already, legislation has been introduced (Safe Routes, Repeal of the Federal Excise Tax, Future Logging Careers, Fix Our Forests Act, Secure Rural Schools Act) along with the *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production* Executive Order and the USDA Secretary of Agriculture Memorandum *Increasing Timber Production and Designating an Emergency Situation on*



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National Forest System Lands. Acting Associate Chief, Chris French, released Implementation Guidance in response to the President's Executive Order and Secretary's Memorandum to meet the goals and objectives of these directives.

The Board of Directors and members met for the Spring meeting before departing Washington DC.



South Carolina Represented at ALC Fly-In

By Rick Quagliaroli
President & CEO Swamp Fox Agency

The ALC fly-in is an annual event. This year the dates were April 1 through 3. Scott Dane the executive director of the American Loggers Council organized a tight agenda which left ample time to meet with various state legislators. This year's attendance set a record for participation. The American Bio Mass Association joined this year's fly-in.

The South Carolina contingent met with all six House members and two Senator's Legislative Directors. The ALC provided detailed position papers on each of the key issues. Additionally, we prepared a book that laid out for each delegation the important facts of the Timber Industry to employment in South Carolina.

The issues we raised in every meeting included:

1. Safe Roads Act
2. Unfair Trade Policy
3. Workforce Development
4. Fix Our Forest
5. Sustainable Forestry Incentives & Carbon Markets
6. Fair and balanced regulations

We featured Beech Island to add a personal touch. The level of human-interest success and the impact on employment was recognized by each of our delegations.

The demand for our representatives' time is significant. Each office had a minimum of four meetings, every day, Monday through Thursday. The level of interest shown in our message is high, the professionalism of the Legislative Director was impressive. All asked excellent questions. There was a keen interest in trying to understand our industry.

Most of the Legislative staff originates from South Carolina. Those who do not come from South Carolina found they shared the same values as our representatives.

- We got some excellent advice from Congressman Clyburn's office regarding strategies to pass the Safe Roads Act, which could quickly benefit South Carolina.
- There was interest from Representatives Biggs, Fry, Mace, Norman and Timmons legislative directors to learn more about becoming co-

- sponsors of the Safe Roads Act
- Representative Mace's staff took the initiative to let us know she voted for the Fix Our Forest Act
- Representative Biggs staff expressed real interest in the news regarding the Georgetown mill producing bio mass fuel.
- Every member both House and Senate was aware of the Georgetown mill closing. There was instant recognition of the impact that had on the workers at the mill. Energy policy is on everyone's agenda and so the news regarding the future of the Georgetown mill was high.
- Finally, every member was on board with the idea of creating new products to sustain the forestry/logging industry in the State is critical.

The clear message was that taking the time to educate our representatives on the issues faced by loggers was appreciated. We built some ongoing channels of communication which will tie each to remaining in touch. With the number of meetings being held every day we are just being competitive with the other industries trying to educate our representatives.

There is no clearer message, **"if you want to be known about, you must be present. Every other industry is!"**

As part of the "fly-in" ALC recognized legislative leaders who have supported our industry. The reception is the final "fly-in" event before the Board of Directors meeting. This is the time that members of Congress are recognized for supporting the forestry industry. The recipients of the

Congressional Leadership Award were:

- ◇ Senator Risch from Idaho
- ◇ Senator Angus King of Maine
- ◇ Representative LaMalfa of the 1st District California

There may be some differences from state delegation to state delegation, but the core issues/problems were common to all.

The other benefit of making the fly-in is that we walked 14.3 miles in two days, we may never have slept better, and being sore never felt so good.

South Carolina was represented by Sarah Stansell, Jeremy Barclay and Rick Quagliaroli. Thanks to Sarah for putting together a comprehensive booklet about the importance of logging to South Carolina's economy and voters.



Senate Amends House Liquor Liability Bill to Include S.244

SC Chamber of Commerce

Three Things to Know

April 18, 2025



This Week, the SC Senate amended the House-passed liquor liability bill (H.3947) by removing all of the House language and replacing it with the entirety of S.244, a comprehensive lawsuit reform package that will deliver much-needed relief for all sectors of the South Carolina economy that are being negatively impacted by the state's out-of-balance civil justice system and one of the business community's top legislative priorities this year, before sending the bill back to the House.

Despite only three weeks remaining in this year's legislative session, there are many ways in which lawmakers can still enact meaningful lawsuit reform this year that benefits all sectors of the state's economy. A few different paths forward exist now for the amended version of the bill, including:

- The House could concur with the Senate's changes and send the amended bill (with the entirety of S.244 attached) to the Governor's desk for his signature.
- The House could amend the bill back to its original version of H.3497, as passed by the House, which would send the bill to a conference committee, while separately moving S.244 throughout the committee process during these final three weeks.
- The House could amend the bill further by stripping and/or revising certain provisions before sending it back to the Senate, upon which the Senate can either concur or send the bill to a conference committee to ultimately decide the fate of lawsuit reform this year.

Now that both bills are pending in the House of Representatives, House members must continue to hear from businesses on this critical issue. Please contact your representative today and urge them to deliver much-needed relief for all sectors of the South Carolina economy that are being negatively impacted by the state's out-of-balance civil justice system before the end of this year's legislative session.

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SCTPA Comments: SC Senate Bill 244, SC Justice Act, passed the Senate and went to the House of Representatives for action. This bill is very important to SC's businesses, including the wood supply chain, to reign in and fix SC's broken tort laws and reform the justice system. SCTPA members and friends had a presence at the SC Statehouse on March 5 to attend the press conference to show support for Senate Bill 244. Thanks to everyone who came to the Statehouse for the press conference.

NEW MASS TIMBER ACT TO TARGET ALL FEDERAL BUILDINGS — US CONGRESS

By Jason Ross,
Wood Central

The new bill - which has strong bipartisan support - would help ramp up supply for an industry which is currently running at just 39% manufacturing capacity.

Thousands of 'public buildings' across the US, including schools, colleges, office blocks and military installations, could be built from 'innovative wood products' after a new bill, which would see the establishment of the Mass Timber Federal Buildings Act 2025, could see the removal of several barriers to market adoption.

The Act—which has been read for a second time before Congress—aims to incentivize the use of mass timber in federal building contracts. It comes weeks after President Trump issued an executive order to “free up forests for timber production.”

Introduced by Senators Jeff Merkley (a Democrat) and James Risch (a Republican) and co-sponsored by Ron Wyden (a Democrat) and Mike Crapo (a Republican), the bill is the latest push to promote an industry expected to grow 25 to 40-fold over the coming 30 years. It will prioritize locally grown and manufactured timber over imports – currently 10-15% cheaper than US-made equivalents – amid a race to use mass timber and hybrid timber systems in public buildings worldwide.

Announcing the bill, Senators Merkley of Oregon and Risch of Idaho said that mass timber creates jobs in rural and urban communities, reduces fire risk, increases resilience, and helps shrink carbon footprints: “By using mass timber in federal projects, our bipartisan efforts will help tackle our nation’s biggest challenges whilst creating good-paying jobs in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest,” Senator Merkley said.

“As a trained forester, I understand how important the timber industry is to Idaho communities, wildfire risk reduction and forest management,” Senator Risch

said. “The Mass Timber Federal Buildings Act is commonsense legislation to benefit Idaho’s forests, create jobs and increase economic growth.”

According to Senator Wyden of Oregon, mass timber has enormous potential to generate jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and develop an innovative approach to combating the housing shortage nationwide. “Boosting demand for timber in the construction of federal buildings will harness the incredible work already done in our forests, creating new opportunities for Idaho companies, workers and products,” Senator Crapo of Idaho said.



Should it pass, the Act will mandate a preference in federal building contracts for mass timber products. “This will give mass timber companies the ability to compete for federal construction, renovation, or acquisition of public buildings and military construction,” according to a statement supporting the bill.

The US Army has been working for over a decade on using mass

timber construction materials in military installations. In 2016, blast tests confirmed the material’s durability under heavy combat fire.

The act would see a two-tier preference introduced into all federal contracts.

The bill creates a two-tier contracting preference—the first applies to mass timber coming from state, federal, private, and Tribal forestlands, whilst the optional second applies to mass timber products sourced from restoration practices, fire mitigation projects, and underserved forest owners. In addition, there will be a requirement to conduct building lifecycle assessments, which will provide data to learn more about carbon sequestration in mass timber buildings.

Endorsed by the American Wood Council, Sustainable Northwest, Forest Landowners Association, National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), Weyerhaeuser, Freres Engineered Wood, Oregon Forest Industries Council, Composite Recycling Technology Center (CRTC), Oregon director, Washington Mass Timber Accelerator, Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub, American Forest Resource Council, and Oregon Department of Forestry, industry hopes the Act will stimulate an industry that last year slowed down in line with con-

(Continued on page 35)

(Continued from page 34)

struction activity.

According to the 339-page Mass Timber Report handed out to delegates during the International Mass Timber Conference last month, the US demand for mass timber buildings declined by 20% last year, down from 197 buildings (either built or commencing construction) in 2023 to 155, with developers squeezed out by high interest rates.

"Another 1,168 projects are in the design stage in the US as of December, indicating that there is strong demand for mass timber construction once funding becomes available and affordable," the report said, revealing the industry was operating at 39% manufacturing capacity (down from 47% last year).

President Trump signed an executive order to increase timber harvesting in US forests by at least 25% over the coming years.

Last year, Wood Central reported that "favorable public policies and the removal of barriers to market adoption" could see mass timber grow from 0.362 million cubic metres or 0.4% of the American softwood industry to between 452 million and 750 million cubic metres, with "the greatest adoption rates projected for the seven-stories and higher," fueled by a surge in new buildings in the South (43%), followed by the West (23%), the Midwest (21%) and the Northeast (13%).

About Wood Central:

Wood Central is Australia's first and only dedicated platform covering wood-based media across all digital platforms. Our vision is to develop an integrated platform for media, events, education, and products that connect, inform, and inspire the people and organizations who work in and promote forestry, timber, and fibre.



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
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msnelson@sc.rr.com

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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:

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Mark Your Calendar

May 2025

- 11 Happy Mother's Day!
- 22 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Hampton Inn
Harbison, Columbia.
- 26 Happy Memorial Day!

June 2025

- 23-27 SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour, Newberry.

July 2025

- 4 Happy Fourth of July... Independence Day!

SCTPA is available to those needing to view the 2025 SFI Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Update Video to continue to be SC SFI Trained for the July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 period. Contact SCTPA and a group live class or individual live class can be arranged.

Spring 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.