



American
Forest & Paper
Association
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Grow the VoteNews

A monthly grassroots newsletter from AF&PA



www.GrowTheVote.org
*Your source for information
on the forest products industry*

Presidents' Day, while an enjoyable paid holiday for many, is a time to reflect and celebrate the many memorable Americans, like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who devoted their lives to improving our country. You can be a part of the democratic process that our forefathers worked so hard to establish and protect. It is an election year, and every voice counts. Please contact your Members of Congress on issues of importance to the forest products industry. Below are a few issues and activities we thought you might find interesting.

Coalition for American Jobs

AF&PA has joined a new coalition, the Coalition for American Jobs, whose goal is to postpone EPA regulation of GHGs from stationary sources under the Clean Air Act.

Please click [here](#) to view a TV ad that ran in media markets in the following states: AR, WV, ND, SD, NM, MI, OH, and VA. Print ads ran in newspapers distributed around Capitol Hill the week of February 22, when lawmakers returned to Washington, D.C.

The Coalition website will be up and running soon and will be found at:

<http://www.coalitionforamericanjobs.org/>

Please direct any questions to Erik Heilman (lobbying, 202-463-2792) or Carlton Carroll (media/communications, 202-463-2587).

Senate Jobs/Extenders Bills Update

The Senate has recently passed a small-scale jobs bill introduced by Senator Harry Reid (D-NV). Expected to cost \$15 billion, the Senate-passed bill includes four components, all of which were in an earlier, more comprehensive jobs package proposed by Senators Baucus and Grassley: 1) a \$20 billion transfer in highway funding (does not count toward the overall cost of the legislation); 2) a \$2 billion Build America Bonds provision (tax-credit bonds for state and local infrastructure projects); 3) greater flexibility for businesses to write off capital expenditures; and 4) a \$13 billion tax credit for employers who hire new workers.

Senator Reid's bill does not include tax extenders or the \$24 billion black liquor pay-for from the already passed House health care bill.

It is likely that additional jobs-related bills (including other provisions of the earlier Baucus-Grassley proposal) will be brought to the Senate floor in the coming weeks. Included among these may be a tax extenders bill. AF&PA encourages companies to ask their Senators to support addition of on-site power to the Section 45 extension in the Baucus-Grassley extenders bill. Click [here](#) to send a letter to your Senator today!

Forest Service FY 2011 Budget

The Administration's FY2011 Budget for the Forest Service eliminated the specific funding line for the timber sale program (the Forest Products line) and merged it into a new budget line called Integrated Resource Restoration. The budget summary explains this will fund a level sale program at 2.4 billion board feet. While the new line seems to contain sufficient funding for this, the funding is not specifically targeted as in past budgets and appropriations. This will result in considerable lobbying as the industry and Members of Congress seek certainty.

The Forest Service Research line item has a \$7.6 million (2%) decrease in funding over FY 2010 to \$304 million, State and Private Forestry has increased \$13.5 million (4%) to \$321 million.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program Proposed Rules Released

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the proposed rules for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and set a comment deadline of April 9. The proposal covers both the biomass matching payment program and the biomass supply payment program.

The proposed rule excludes both black liquor and biomass used to produce black liquor from material eligible for matching payments. It appears that other biomass used to create heat and power at a pulp mill would qualify, but this must be confirmed. The proposal also excludes wood wastes and wood residues that would otherwise be used for higher-value products. The preamble explains this is designed to exclude wood material that would be used to manufacture products such as particle board and plywood, but does not explain how the determination would be made. USDA could not decide on a payment policy for the matching payment program. USDA asks for comment on three options set out in the rule text, with variations described in the rule preamble. The matching payment program has been in operation since last September under a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA), which is being terminated; no new applications for matching payments will be accepted.

The supply payments program covers only non-industrial forestland, recognizes the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and Tree Farm programs as qualifying stewardship plans, and generally seems to follow the provisions of the law. USDA does not adequately explain how it will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act or what will happen with comments filed on the draft programmatic environmental impact statement last September.

AF&PA will file detailed comments on the proposed rules, and plans to urge USDA to consider the following important principles: minimization of BCAP's distortion to existing markets for biomass; expedited implementation of BCAP's provisions intended to increase the supply of biomass; and implementation of the program in a fair and transparent way that guarantees all stakeholders' concerns are given fair consideration.

Truck

AF&PA and our member companies participated in a very successful truck weights fly-in with Congress February 2-3 run by the Coalition for Transportation Productivity (CTP), the Agricultural Transportation Efficiency Coalition (AgTEC), and the Americans for Safe and Efficient Transportation Coalition (ASET). The fly-in had almost 90 participants who took part in over 120 House and Senate meetings asking for support for H.R. 1799 and for introduction of a proposal in the Senate. Already, Representatives Marion Berry (D-AR), Don Young (R-AK), Jeff Miller, (R-FL), and Bob Latta (R-OH) have signed on as co-sponsors. Representative Young is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.



Pictured, from left to right: David Cothren (IP), Ricardo DeLaCruz (IP), Representative Ralph Hall (R-TX-04), Graeme Rodden (Pulp & Paper International Magazine), Mike Mauldin (IP), and Jean Cothren (IP, seated).

PPRC comes to Washington

The Pulp and Paperworker's Resource Council (PPRC), a grassroots organization made up of hourly employees who work in the forest products industry, was in Washington, D.C. on February 1-5 for their annual fly-in on Capitol Hill. This year's group had 45 participants who made 256 House visits and 100 Senate visits. They also had visits with representatives from both the Office of Management and Budget and the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss such issues as clean air regulations and carbon neutrality. PPRC focused their advocacy on climate change, energy, Section 45, truck weights, and Waters of the U.S.

Rail

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials was scheduled to hold a hearing on the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Reauthorization on February 11. The hearing was

postponed due to severe winter weather and the limited operating status of the House. No new date has been announced at this time, but we are anticipating a March date for the hearing.

The Consumers United for Rail Equity (CURE) group, of which AF&PA is a member, is working on a letter to refute any attempts by the railroads to claim that S. 2889, The Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization, is not a compromise bill. Shippers have not gotten all provisions in that bill that they would like to see, including antitrust provisions, and feel very strongly that it is a compromise and want to clarify that with Congress.

Quiz:

- Who became the first American to orbit the earth on February 20, 1962?

The first person to answer the question correctly wins a prize! Send your guess to grassroots@afandpa.org.

The answer to last month's quiz question (state that officially became a part of the U.S. on January 3, 1959) was Alaska. Congratulations to the January quiz winner—Mr. Louis Hengen, in Washington, D.C.!

Get involved!

Do you have a grassroots update from your home state? Got an idea to make our voice more prominent on the Hill and in state and local governments?

Contact AF&PA's PAC/Grassroots Director Anita Peduzzi if you wish to get involved or for additional information (202-463-2755, anita_peduzzi@afandpa.org).