

Important information from the Hardwood Federation

By Dana Lee Cole

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We all are up to our necks in uncharted waters. And the time is now to be up close and personal with your elected officials. We thank them for working overtime to safely assist us through the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, once we see our way clear, the question then will be, what's next?

Federation Fly-In set for June

The Hardwood Federation Fly-In will be held **June 2-3**, 2020 in Washington D.C. This event is the industry's opportunity to meet with allies and experts on the Hill, the Administration and with our partner wood products industry groups. And your participation helps the Federation staff coordinate efforts, allocate the work load, and amplify our hardwood message!

2020 is an election year. From the top down, government officials are seeking re-election. It is important that you make your voice heard! Plan to join your peers in Washington to discuss the myriad issues impacting your businesses.

Additional Fly-In details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, should you have any questions about the event, please contact me, dana.cole@hardwoodfederation.com.

Remember the theory of the 'squeaky wheel'

As a memory refresher, there are 535 Members of Congress and over 430 Departments, Agencies and Sub Agencies. (And we wonder why government moves slowly?) So when it comes to getting our hardwood issues to the forefront, being "just an observer" falls short of the mark. Consistent engagement, at all levels of government, is what makes things happen. Be informed! Be involved! Take action! Participate in the process by:

- Knowing who your elected officials are - everyone from the local level to Members of Congress - and knowing how to reach them.
- Talking/Communicating with elected officials - DC Fly-In, State Capitol visits, at public events, via email - to let them know what's keeping you up at night.
- Inviting them to visit your mill or yard and showing them how your business operates, how many people you employ, and how significant your business is to our country's economy.

HFPAC gets their attention, too!

The Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee (HFPAC) is one of the most important tools we have to help represent the industry in Washington. HFPAC helps us educate Members of Congress, their staff, and candidates for Congress; expands your political influence beyond your own district; and broadens the group of allies willing to raise their voices to help achieve results on the industry's behalf.

Participation in the HFPAC is voluntary but strongly encouraged, especially if you can provide insight as to the best way to engage the elected officials from your state. We know that we get our best information from those of **You** at the grassroots level. Help us in our efforts. Visit www.hardwoodfederation.com to learn how.