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Your HFPAC \$ in Action

by Dana Lee Cole, Executive Director, Hardwood Federation

The 118th Congress will convene in January 2023, and your Hardwood Federation (HF) team is taking steps now, to ensure that a significant number of members—on both sides of the aisle—will fight for the issues important to the hardwood sector. This is where funds raised through the Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee (HFPAC) come into play. And the significance of HFPAC dollars cannot be understated.

HFPAC dollars open doors to and support the campaigns of the lawmakers—from diverse political and geographical backgrounds—who support our industry’s agenda. And once these doors are open, the HF staff builds connections, shares insights and perspectives, and continually works to grow relationships. HFPAC \$’s open important doors like these:

- In late 2021, HF attended PAC meetings with both Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator John Boozman (R-AR), currently serving as the chair and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, respectively. Both legislative veterans are long-time champions of farm bill programs that support the industry, including export promotion funding. Regardless which party controls the 2023 Senate, HF will have a champion in both party leadership seats.
- In late January, HF met with Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA), a longtime industry friend and senior member of the House Agriculture Committee. If Democrats retain their majority in November, there’s a strong possibility he could assume chairmanship of the committee, providing a platform for the industry’s carbon agenda. If Republicans take over the House, he could become the committee’s ranking member, bringing a deep understanding of the issue to the minority side of the table.
- In February, Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) assured HF that he will prioritize measures that provide relief from transportation bottlenecks. His seat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee assures an effective advocate on this key issue.
- In March, HF talked to Rep. Jim Comer (R-KY), the ranking member of the House Oversight Committee who could ascend to the Chair’s seat depending on the November outcome. During the meeting, Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) made an appearance and shared insights regarding

Senate action for the balance of 2022. (An impromptu opportunity to engage and share our message.)

- Also in March, Rep. Annie Kuster (D-NH) told HF she wants to lead the charge on policy measures assuring that climate-related programs account for carbon captured in finished wood products.
- On April 27, HF will be co-hosting an event for long-time ally Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA). GT is now the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee and will likely become chair, should Republicans assume the majority in the fall. An expert on the importance of federal forest management and an advocate for the wood products industry, he understands the environmental benefit connection between forest management, wood product manufacturing, and sustainability.

Because the issues we face are growing in number and complexity, now is the time to get involved in the political process. Make your voice heard! [Click here](#) to learn how to support pro-industry candidates through HFPAC.