



December 1, 2022

Hardwood Federation Industry Tidbits

by Dana Lee Cole, Executive Director, Hardwood Federation

Post Mid-Term Elections 'Good News'

Many key industry partners and Hardwood allies will be returning to Washington to kick off the 118th Congress and help shape the agenda next year. Senate champions include Ag Committee leaders Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and John Boozman (R-AR). The party leaders on the Natural Resources Committee offer another win-win scenario, with either Joe Manchin (D-WV) or John Barrasso (R-WV) poised to take the helm next year.

On the House side, longtime ally GT Thompson (R-PA) will serve as Chair or Ranking Member of the Ag Committee. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), also a good friend, has chaired the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) will play a leadership role on Ways and Means. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), will have the one or two spot on the Natural Resources Committee. Also returning are influential members Suzanne DelBene (D-WA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Jim Costa (D-CA).

We look forward to working with them and with the new members of Congress that will be joining Senate and House committees important to our industry.

As 2022 Winds to an End...

For the lame-duck session that will close the 117th Congress, important issues are topping the priority list:

- **Federal Spending** | Funding for the federal government runs out on December 16. To prevent a partial government shutdown, lawmakers must kick the can for an additional amount of time or agree on a final budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.
- **Energy Permitting** | Senate Democratic Leadership have struck a bargain with Sen. Manchin to address energy permit streamlines impacting projects in West Virginia.
- **Tax Package** | Every year several tax credits reach their "sunset dates" and must be either dropped or renewed. This year there's a push for renewal of

100% depreciation of industrial equipment, which the industry supports. Specifically, on November 14, the Federation sent a letter to the Hill's key tax writers urging Congress to extend the tax credit for 100% bonus depreciation as they consider an end-of-year tax package. The industry relies on the credit to bolster investments in new dry kilns, boilers, forklifts, trucks and other equipment essential to producing hardwood products and moving them to end customers. Although Congress generally pulls together a "tax extenders package," as the legislation is generally known, at the end of each year, the timing and scope of a tax deal in December is not yet known.

And from All of Us at the Hardwood Federation...

Here's to a joyful Holiday Season followed by a New Year of good health and prosperity.