

January 1, 2021

Hardwood Federation Update

By Dana Lee Cole

Hardwood Federation Executive Director

Thank you HMA! By your actions, especially your outreach efforts to our policy makers, and your contributions to the Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee (HFPAC), it is clear that you recognize and support the Federation's efforts in Washington as we defend against policies that hurt the U.S. hardwood industry, and work to enact federal laws, regulations, and policies that support our industry.

About HFPAC

The Hardwood Federation Political Action Committee (HFPAC) - financed by personal contributions from hardwood industry leaders, not company dollars - is one of the most important tools we use in our efforts to make our industry interests heard. These funds are contributed to the campaigns of the Senators and Congressmen who understand, support and defend the hardwood industry, at the federal level.

Bottom line: Washington is a town built on relationships. The more tools we have to build strong foundations, the more successful we will be. **HFPAC dollars open doors** and help us establish and maintain long term relationships with Members of Congress and their staff.

In the 2019-2020 election cycle ...

HFPAC supported 12 Senators and 96 House Members. The funding was carefully distributed based on the candidates' understanding of the hardwood industry; how they have supported the industry in their state and in federal policy initiatives; which House/Senate Committees they sit on, and how those Committees impact hardwood related legislative measures. We are pleased to report that the monies were well spent, and as you will see, most of the campaigns we contributed to were successful.

We also look closely at individuals who serve as leaders on important committees - having friends of the industry in high positions goes a long way - and we have used the PAC to educate these Members, and support them over the years, as they have supported us.

Heading into the 117th Congress ...

A robust bi-partisan group of HFPAC supported and hardwood-helpful Senators and Representatives will soon be wielding significant clout on Committees of importance to the Hardwood industry. In the Senate:

- Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) – Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee
- Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) – potential Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee.
- Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) – potential Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) – outgoing Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee
- Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) – potential Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee

Note: Senate positions are dependent on outcome of January runoff races in Georgia

And in the House:

- Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC, 6) – House Majority Whip
- Rep. James Comer (R-KY, 1) – incoming Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
- Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT, 3) – incoming Chair of the House Appropriations Committee
- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR, 4) – Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC, 5) – Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee
- Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO, 6) – Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
- Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD, 5) – House Majority Leader
- Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK, 3) – Ranking Member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
- Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO, 3) – Ranking Member of the House Small Business Committee
- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA, 5) – incoming Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ, 6) – Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA, 1) – House Minority Whip
- Rep. David Scott (D-GA, 13) – incoming Chair of the House Agriculture Committee
- Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA, 7) – Chair of the House Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee
- Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS, 2) – Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee
- Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-PA, 15) – incoming Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee
- Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR, 4) – incoming Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee
- Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY, 3) – Chair of the House Budget Committee

It is very satisfying to see our supported members retain their seats in Congress. And our goal continues to be that they, and others, understand our businesses; acknowledge the impact we have on local communities; and recognize the environmental benefits of our products so that they can help, promote and defend our industry, at the federal level.

We look forward to working with them—and you—in 2021. Thank you for your support of the HFPAC over the years. You are vital to our efforts on Capitol Hill.