



665 Rodi Road Suite 305  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
Phone: 412.244.0440  
Fax: 412.244.9090  
[www.HMAmembers.org](http://www.HMAmembers.org)

---

## 2016 Hardwood Federation Legislative Update

Among the presenters at HMA's National Conference and Expo was Hardwood Federation (HF) Executive Director, Dana Lee Cole. Her "**Washington Update**" included a brief recap of HF 2015 activities and then detail on what to expect from Washington for the remainder of 2016. During her presentation, Dana said ...

"I'm sure you are all very aware that this is a Presidential election year and that will impact policy and legislative development in Washington!

- Control of the Senate will be as important as control of the White House.
- **Republicans** have more seats to defend and according to pundits, there are challenges. (New Hampshire (Kelly Ayotte), Illinois (Mark Kirk), Pennsylvania (Pat Toomey), Rubio's seat in Florida, Ron Johnson's seat in Wisconsin)
- **Democrats** need a net gain of **five** to win back control of the Senate.
- Much will depend on who the Presidential candidates are, because a strong candidate can pull a Senate Candidate over the finish line."

As HF charges ahead into 2016, "we recognize that legislation is going to be very difficult to pass, because in such a divided country, every vote is considered a campaign point. Also, the Congressional calendar will be front loaded for the first six months of the year. After the Republican and Democratic Conventions in the last two weeks of July, Congress will only be in session for a few short weeks. However, this does not mean that progress on our issues cannot be made."

The "hardwood specific" issues that HF will be focusing on include:

- **Forest Management** issues - specifically appropriate allocation of funds to meet Forest Service harvest goals; reasonable reform of NEPA and ESA, and flexible administration for forests across the country.
- **Northern Long Eared Bat** – monitoring the final rule and implementation. If the final rule is significantly different from what is expected, HF will look at legislative and legal options. And also protect a positive final rule from legal challenges.
- **Biomass** - **specifically** offering comments on how the President's Clean Power Plan considers biomass and be looking for other vehicles, including legislation, to force EPA to recognize the benefits of biomass.
- **Regulatory Reform Efforts** - monitoring an effort in the House to form a Commission that would identify and recommend for elimination burdensome business regulations

In closing, Dana thanked HMA for its ongoing support of the Federation, and she encouraged all in attendance to reach out to their **local, state** and **federal** officials for an up-close and personal discussion regarding the issues critical to the hardwood industry.

Among the presenters at HMA's National Conference and Expo was Hardwood Federation (HF) Executive Director, Dana Lee Cole. Her "**Washington Update**" included a brief recap of HF 2015 activities and then detail on what to expect from Washington for the remainder of 2016. During her presentation, Dana said ...

"I'm sure you are all very aware that this is a Presidential election year and that will impact policy and legislative development in Washington!

- Control of the Senate will be as important as control of the White House.
- **Republicans** have more seats to defend and according to pundits, there are challenges. (New Hampshire (Kelly Ayotte), Illinois (Mark Kirk), Pennsylvania (Pat Toomey), Rubio's seat in Florida, Ron Johnson's seat in Wisconsin)
- **Democrats** need a net gain of **five** to win back control of the Senate.
- Much will depend on who the Presidential candidates are, because a strong candidate can pull a Senate Candidate over the finish line."

As HF charges ahead into 2016, "we recognize that legislation is going to be very difficult to pass, because in such a divided country, every vote is considered a campaign point. Also, the Congressional calendar will be front loaded for the first six months of the year. After the Republican and Democratic Conventions in the last two weeks of July, Congress will only be in session for a few short weeks. However, this does not mean that progress on our issues cannot be made."

The "hardwood specific" issues that HF will be focusing on include:

- **Forest Management** issues - specifically appropriate allocation of funds to meet Forest Service harvest goals; reasonable reform of NEPA and ESA, and flexible administration for forests across the country.
- **Northern Long Eared Bat** – monitoring the final rule and implementation. If the final rule is significantly different from what is expected, HF will look at legislative and legal options. And also protect a positive final rule from legal challenges.
- **Biomass** - **specifically** offering comments on how the President's Clean Power Plan considers biomass and be looking for other vehicles, including legislation, to force EPA to recognize the benefits of biomass.
- **Regulatory Reform Efforts** - monitoring an effort in the House to form a Commission that would identify and recommend for elimination burdensome business regulations

In closing, Dana thanked HMA for its ongoing support of the Federation, and she encouraged all in attendance to reach out to their **local, state** and **federal** officials for an up-close and personal discussion regarding the issues critical to the hardwood industry.