



Mississippi Forestry Association

The Voice of Forestry

Legislative Bulletin

Volume 2009 Number 5

March 12, 2009

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High school students Rebecca Neely, Shelby Fountain and Alanna Ferguson shadowed MFA Executive Vice President Bruce C. Alt to the Capitol for one day. Activities included watching both the house and the senate, meeting various legislators, and speaking with House Forestry Committee members who were unable to attend the MFA/CFA Legislative Luncheon. These students were honored by being recognized by Rep. Greg Holloway in the House chamber. These students were able to observe discussion of the tanning bed bill. Neely is a sophomore at Florence High School. Fountain and Ferguson are seniors at Clinton High School.

MFA/CFA Legislative Luncheon



Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA) and affiliated county forestry associations (CFA) hosted their annual Legislative Luncheon at the Jackson Marriott on March 4th. The MFA Government Affairs Committee and representatives from county forestry associations from around the state attended to

discuss current forestry issues with their state legislators. This year, the 230 luncheon attendees reviewed the report card and found that the Mississippi forestry community gets an A+.

Forestry earned an A+ in 2008 with legislative victories in which MFA and partners worked with legislators to protect private property rights relative to eminent domain; to improve trespass protection for private forest and farm landowners; to prevent discrimination against wood building

products in the application of building rating systems adopted by state government; and to protect water quality in the state's public waterways. Also earning A+ were MFA's partners in the Mississippi Forestry community: Mississippi Project Learning Tree, the Tree Farm Program, the



Senator Cindy Hyde Smith with Pat and Lynn Davis, Lincoln CFA.

Mississippi Forestry Foundation scholarship program, Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources, and the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

The Legislative Luncheon was organized by MFA's CFA Committee, which represents the 64 county associations that are working in every forested county in Mississippi—72 counties in all. There are more than 5,000 members of these local county forestry associations in Mississippi.



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Links: MFA Government Affairs

[http://
www.msforestry.net/
governmentaffairs.php](http://www.msforestry.net/governmentaffairs.php)

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MFA's mission is leading diverse forestry groups to promote landowner rights, environmental stewardship, member prosperity, and community understanding.

CFAs Present Letter to Gov. Barbour

MFA and all CFAs are taking advantage of an unprecedented opportunity to work as one voice – the “Voice of Forestry” to encourage Governor Haley Barbour, key legislators and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) to lead a state-wide effort to attract more timber/wood product enterprises to Mississippi; support expansion of existing forest enterprises and to help existing forest enterprises remain competitive.

Initiated by the Marion County Forestry Association, this effort is an example of how the 64 county forestry associations and MFA can work together to make a major impact on Mississippi forestry.

All CFA presidents and their boards were asked to add their signature to a letter to Governor Barbour, making the following recommendations:

1. Enhance and develop capacity within the Mississippi Development Authority and other appropriate state agencies to more effectively promote Mississippi's forest-based enterprises. This includes both traditional forest products manufacturing plants for domestic and export sales as well as diverse renewable energy businesses that convert woody biomass to a variety of energy products;
2. Develop a blue-ribbon commission to investigate factors limiting the development of forest-based enterprises in Mississippi and recommend potential legislative, regulatory, or other remedies to encourage forest-based enterprises;
3. Examine the transportation infrastructure in Mississippi for limitations on cost efficient and effective transport of forest products and raw materials; and
4. Work with federal, state, and local officials to enhance Mississippi's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

The letter was delivered to Governor Barbour's office, key legislators and MDA March 3rd as part of the 2009 MFA/CFA Legislative Luncheon activities in Jackson on March 4th.

“This letter is another action in our ongoing effort to promote forestry business and industry in Mississippi,” said Bruce Alt, MFA executive vice president.

Special thanks to all CFA presidents and to MFA's Government Affairs and CFA Committees.



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2008 MFA Forestry Bills Tracking List

Note: As of March 12, 2009. Bills will be added and deleted as necessary throughout the Legislative Session. Recommended MFA Positions: M = monitor, S = support, O = oppose

House Bills

HB15 Harvest permits; extend repealers on Department of Transportation's authority to issue to certain hauling vehicles. Committee recommendation: S, 02/12 (H) Died On Calendar

HB 503 Beaver control programs; increase amount that counties may expend for. Committee recommendation: M, 03/10 (S) Passed As Amended

HB 803 An Act to amend section 11-27-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, to prohibit use of the power of eminent domain except for a public use; and for related purposes
Committee recommendation: S, 03/11 (H) Concurred in Amend From Senate.

http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2009/html/sam/Amendment_Report_for_HB0803.htm

HB 881 An act to amend section 29-3-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, to grant local school boards the option, during the final year of any additional five-year lease on an agricultural Sixteenth Section Lands that the Board intends to reclassify, to again re-lease the land for an additional five-year term or to proceed with the reclassification; and for related purposes. Committee recommendation: O, 03/06 (S) Returned For Concurrence

http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2009/html/sam/Amendment_Report_for_HB0881.htm

HB 1132 Harvest permits; extend repealer on law authorizing and revise maximum weight limit and vehicles for which may be issued.

Committee recommendation: S, 03/02 (H) Decline to Concur/Invite Conf, 03/11 (H) Conferees Named McBride, Walley, Ward

HB 1381 Scenic streams; designate a certain portion of the Escatawpa River.

Committee recommendation: S, 03/10 (H) Enrolled Bill Signed

HB 1733 Sales tax; revise rate on certain sales of tractors, farm implements, logging/pulpwood equipment, repair parts and labor. 03/02 (S) Referred To Finance

Senate Bills

SB 2230 An act to amend section 11-27-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, to prohibit use of the power of eminent domain for certain private, nongovernmental purposes; to provide exemptions; and for related purposes.

Staff recommendation: S, 03/04 (H) Returned For Concurrence

http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2009/html/ham/Amendment_Report_for_SB2230.htm

SB 2606 Sales tax; revise rate on sales of farm tractors and certain farm equipment and parts and labor. Committee recommendation: S, 01/20 (H) Referred To Ways and Means

SB 2659 State-funded buildings; energy performance regulations shall apply to buildings constructed with CDBG funds. Committee recommendation: M, 03/11 Approved by Gov.

SB 2947 Sixteenth section forest lands; authorize management services by private forester subject to approval by the Secretary of State and Forestry Commission.

Committee recommendation: M, 03/11 (H) Returned For Concurrence

SB 3278 Taxation; provide certain incentives to facilities that generate electricity through biomass or cogeneration.

02/26 (H) Referred To Ways and Means