

Highlights of 2010 Legislative and Regulatory Activities

- ✿ PFPA was able to ensure that the recent revision to state Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment/Stormwater Management regulations will have a minimal impact on most timber harvesting operations. A key item was our ability to keep the current earth disturbance threshold at 25 acres before a timber harvest E&S Permit is required by DEP, meaning that most timber harvests will not be impacted by additional regulatory requirements, such as mandated stream buffers. Forestry and timber harvesting will be one of the few activities allowed in mandated riparian stream buffers required for construction projects and other permitted activities. Finally, trained loggers and forestry practitioners will continue to be able to complete new requirements of the updated E&S plans without additional professional assistance. PFPA and PA SFI will be working with DEP during the next year to update the Timber Harvesters Action Packet.
- ✿ PFPA again prevented the introduction of legislation that would mandate the licensing and regulation of foresters and forestry operations in the state.
- ✿ PFPA has worked with other groups to block passage of legislation that would require the use of licensed interior designers for most residential and commercial remodeling and build-out projects, which has the potential to restrict market opportunities for many PFPA members and their customers.
- ✿ PFPA efforts helped secure continued state funding and staffing of the Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council during difficult state budget conditions, allowing the HDC to maintain its market promotion and industry support activities. The HDC recently released a state action plan for sustaining Pennsylvania's hardwood industry. This was developed with substantial input from PFPA and industry.
- ✿ We worked with AF&PA and others to secure adoption of a Resolution by the State House of Representatives and numerous other bipartisan communications by Pennsylvania elected officials in opposition to proposed federal EPA Boiler MACT regulations. Such efforts helped to convince EPA to propose a delay in implementation of these erroneous regulations so that additional review can take place.
- ✿ PFPA's participation and comment on EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Pennsylvania's Phase I Watershed Implementation Plans helped to ensure that these upcoming pollution reduction requirements will not unfairly target forestry activities.
- ✿ We have obtained favorable changes to legislation and state economic development lending policies related to green buildings to ensure that these policies recognized a wide range of green programs and lessened the chance of discriminatory practices against the use of wood.
- ✿ PFPA worked with PennDOT and local legislators to implement relief for loggers and sawmills who are facing an explosion of state road postings related to Marcellus Shale. Positive changes have been made in PennDOT District 3 and we seek to implement this favorable treatment of logging trucks across the entire Marcellus Shale region.
- ✿ PFPA continues to advocate for increased access to timber on state-owned lands, emphasizing the importance of these lands to support industry recovery. Both DCNR's Bureau of Forestry and the Game Commission are harvesting above their 10-year average.

- ✿ PFPA has sought to protect industry interests by providing input to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry and the Game Commission on timber contracting, forest planning, green certification and various other policy issues.
- ✿ We continued to educate our members and work closely with state and federal agencies to minimize the industry impacts from the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and related ash quarantine rules. We also participated in public outreach efforts, including "Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week".
- ✿ PFPA worked with the Jt. Legislative Conservation Committee and the House Timber Caucus to hold hearings and informational meetings on important forest topics and policies necessary to aid recovery of the wood industry.
- ✿ PFPA monitored and made relevant comments on a variety of other legislation and policy proposals impacting forest product companies, including business taxes, state housing stimulus, stream buffers, Clean and Green changes, timber theft penalties, Marcellus Shale issues, biomass energy promotion, and use of state forest roads.
- ✿ Acting as industry spokesperson, PFPA fielded media inquiries, issued press releases and submitted letters to the editor on a variety of issues impacting our industry. PFPA was quoted in major newspapers of the state, as well as a number of national hardwood publications. PFPA is also a regular contributor to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association quarterly magazine and has provide updates and issue presentations to a number of other outside groups.
- ✿ PFPA provides financial support to the Hardwood Federation, which conducts lobbying on federal hardwood industry issues.
- ✿ PFPA was appointed to Governor-elect Corbett's Transition Team, to work on Ag-related issues.