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# HARDWOOD FEDERATION

## Hardwood Federation Newsletter Nov./Dec. 2008

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*Hardwood Federation*

*“Maintaining a Healthy  
Hardwood Community!”*

### Message from the Executive Director

The incoming 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and Obama Administration will be, as advertised, attempting to bring wide-scale change to Washington and addressing many issues of importance to the hardwood industry. The large-scale turnover expected at federal agencies and the freshman class of nearly 60 in Congress mean there will be no shortage of educational and outreach opportunities for the Hardwood Federation. As the industry’s voice in Washington, DC we will remain vigilant to ensure these new Members of Congress and leaders in the Administration know of our industry’s policy priorities. We need to maintain our strong united voice on Capitol Hill as we are a viable contributor to the economy and a solution to many of the challenges facing the nation. We will do our best to keep you informed of what is happening here in Washington, and we will need you to help us make our industry’s voice heard, so please, stay informed, stay involved.



*Deb Hawkinson,  
Executive Director*

### Senate Reaction to ITC Competitiveness Report

In reviewing the Section 332 ITC report on competitive conditions for the U.S. wood flooring and hardwood plywood industry Senator Ron



Wyden (D-OR) said he believes the report is a good first step, but that it “barely scratches the surface when it comes to the problems caused by illegal logging and unfair competition from foreign wood products.”

“To tackle the problems the ITC found, I believe vigorous enforcement of the new Combat Illegal Logging law I sponsored is necessary to ensure a level playing field in the international trade of hardwood plywood and flooring,” Wyden said.

The Senator also saw clear indication in the report that China illegally subsidizes its domestic industry and said he would like the U.S. to monitor this closely as it violates China’s commitments to the WTO.



*Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)*

The Hardwood Federation looks forward to working with Senator Wyden and the Obama Administration to address these and other important issues in the new year.

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## 111<sup>th</sup> Congress Leadership Landscape

The Hardwood Federation has several key supporters returning to leadership positions in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Among them are Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Senate



Republican Conference Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and the Democrats' Chair of Rural Outreach, Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR).

Important committee leadership for the industry has shifted. For example, the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee which had been chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI-15) is now led by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA-30) who will head up this important committee come January.

Additionally, in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) was stripped of his sub-committee chairmanship in retaliation for his support of the McCain-Palin ticket. Lieberman has received HFPAC support in the past.



*Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT)*

## HF Interviews with Key Legislators

### *Rep. Shuster on small businesses and the International Trade Commission Report:*

Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA-9) will begin his fifth term in January 2009. Congressman Shuster will serve as the Deputy Republican Whip and as the Ranking Member on the vital Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and

Hazardous Material and named to the House Committee on Natural Resources serving on the Subcommittee for Energy and Mineral Resources.

The HF Political Action Committee was once again a supporter of Congressman Shuster's reelection bid this year.

"I am proud to represent one of the leading hardwood districts in the United States Congress. Hundreds of people in my region of central and western Pennsylvania depend upon this critical industry for their livelihoods, and because of this I am well aware of the challenges facing hardwood lumber in the current economic climate.



*Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA-9)*

"The majority of hardwood producers in my district are small business owners and like other small businesses across the country, they are looking to maintain or expand their business. Far too often these entrepreneurs are caught between their business plan and increasing pressure in the form of red tape and regulations from the federal government. In this economic climate, Congress must make every effort to support our small business owners by enacting legislation to keep their tax rates low, creating incentives for investment and protecting hardwood producers from predatory trade practices.

"I have been especially interested in the recent study conducted by the International Trade Commission directed at hardwood flooring and hardwood plywood. I believe we took one important step in addressing the current inequitable trade conditions by passing amendments to the Lacey Act last year. My office will be monitoring this situation closely and welcome input from our constituents on this matter.

“I am especially proud to have earned the support of the Hardwood Federation PAC since its inception. The industry should be proud of the political activism represented by this successful PAC program, and I am always aware that personal, individual contributions make up this fund. I applaud the industry for maintaining this active voice in our election process. I thank the industry for having confidence in me and helping me return to the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress with your endorsement. I look forward to working with each of you again in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.”

*Rep. McIntyre on the importance of small businesses*

Another influential returning House Member is Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-NC-7). McIntyre is a member of the Blue Dog and New Democrat Coalitions, both conservative Democratic groups. He sits on the House Agriculture Committee, and is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Specialty Crops, Rural Development and Foreign Agriculture.

Congressman McIntyre was also supported this election cycle by the HF Political Action Committee.

“Small businesses are an important component of our rural communities, and as the Co-Chairman of the Blue Dog Business and Technology Task Force on Capitol Hill, I have continued to work with my colleagues on measures that promote their interests. It is essential that we provide our small businesses, entrepreneurs and job creators with the necessary resources to enable them to continue to thrive in our smaller communities.

“In addition to being a continuous supporter to repeal the estate tax, which is particularly punitive on family businesses such as those which dominate the hardwood industry, I am a cosponsor of the Timber Revitalization and Economic Enhancement (TREE) Act, legislation that was included in the Farm Bill to correct the competitive imbalance in the U.S. tax system towards timber businesses.

“I have also cosponsored the Small Business Health Fairness Act, which would reduce health-care costs for small businesses and allow small businesses to come together and purchase quality insurance at much lower costs.



*Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC-7)*

“I understand the demands on family incomes in N.C. and appreciate the fact that so many individuals continue to help support candidates for office through contributions to groups such as the Hardwood Federation PAC. I am proud to be a strong supporter of hardwoods and pleased to have earned the support of the industry.”

**Hardwood Federation PAC**

During the 2008 elections, the HFPAC contributed to 15 Senate races and 63 House races. While one of those races in the Senate remain undecided as we go to press, the HFPAC notched impressive statistics – 73% of our Senate candidates were victorious and 90% of our House candidates were. Following are some comments we have received from candidates we supported.

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN): “Your generous support made a difference in my re-election to the United States Senate. Thank you very much. It is a privilege to represent Tennesseans in such serious times...I will work across party lines to get results on the big issues.”



Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

Congressman John Larson (D-CT-1): “Thank you for your generous contribution to my campaign for re-election. I am grateful to know I have friends like you on whom I can depend for support.”

Congressman Howard Coble (R-NC-6): “For a political candidate, perhaps the most daunting challenge is fund raising. The outpouring of support that we have experienced has truly made a difference in helping us to victory in our campaign. Thank you again for your trust, confidence and willingness to invest in our campaign.”

Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV-3): “Thank you for your very kind and generous contribution. I greatly appreciate your support for my campaign. Knowing your support is behind me will be a tremendous boost to my campaign. I know we will have many more opportunities to work together.”

Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-MI-8): “The HFPAC donation sends a strong signal that the good work we are doing will not be drowned out by national party politics. Once again, I thank you for your support and I am proud to have you by my side as we continue to work together to put people before politics.”



Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MI-8)

For more information on the HFPAC please visit [www.hardwoodfederation.com](http://www.hardwoodfederation.com) or contact Deb Hawkinson at 202-463-2705.

*Happy Holidays. We look forward to working with you in the New Year.*

