



# TFA's Legislative Blast and News & Notes

Monday, August 10 , 2020

Volume 16, Issue 27

## MEET THE TFA STAFF

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## DOMTAR KINGSPORT MILL TO BE REPURPOSED

Domtar Corp. announced today it will permanently close the Kingsport mill to repurpose the facility. Plans are for the company to enter the linerboard market by converting the Kingsport paper machine. Conversion should be completed by first quarter, 2023. Linerboard is the facing material used in the production of corrugated and solid fiber shipping containers. Domtar estimates the conversion cost to be between \$300-\$350 million. Once

fully operational the mill is expected to be a very low-cost, first quartile recycled linerboard mill in North America. The converted mill is expected to directly employ approximately 160 employees.

In the past, the Kingsport mill had an estimated regional economic impact of \$714 million, according to the Tennessee Dept. of Economic and Community Development.

### **Tennessee Forestry Association** "THE VOICE OF FORESTRY"

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**Do you have any News & Notes Comments or Suggestions?** Please email Lisa Lynn at [llynn@tnforestry.com](mailto:llynn@tnforestry.com)

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## COVID Related Liability Legislation to Be Heard in Special Called Legislative Session

Governor Bill Lee has called an Extraordinary Special Legislative Session to be convened on August 10. This session will specifically address COVID related liability issues. TFA will be supporting legislation that has been drafted by several business and agricultural related organizations. The "Tennessee COVID-19 Recovery Act" will be introduced during the Special Session and addresses liability protection for business and industry. For a copy of the legislation, please call/email Candace at TFA.



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## REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON D.C.

### Great American Outdoors Act

On August 4, President Trump signed the Great American Outdoors Act, which would provide \$900 million annually in oil and gas revenues for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF provides money to protect endangered species habitats, develop parks and outdoor recreation sites, and protect sensitive forests. It was permanently authorized last year, but its funding was never guaranteed. The bill would also provide up to \$1.9 billion annually for five years for national park maintenance. "President Trump has just enacted the most consequential dedicated funding for national parks, wildlife refuges, public recreation facilities and American Indian school infrastructure in U.S. history," U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said in a statement. Rep. Bishop from Utah, the top Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, criticized the measure as putting money for new parks ahead of taking care of existing national parks since the LWCF funding would be prioritized.



### Rural Forest Markets Act

Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Mike Braun (R-IN) introduced the Rural Forests Markets Act, S.4451. America's forest owners have a vital role to play in addressing climate change. The Rural Forest Markets Act will encourage family forest owners to voluntarily participate in emerging carbon markets that reward family and small landowners for adopting conservation practices that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases.

### Healthy Forests Restoration Act

On August 5, Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Diane Feinstein (D-CA) introduced bipartisan forest management reform legislation. The Healthy Forests Restoration provisions would increase the active forest management of federal forests, and will aim to reduce litigation of U.S. Forest Service decisions. The goal of the legislation is to improve forest health and lessen wild-fire risk, which includes establishing a grant program to encourage biomass removal from National Forests.