



Update – Logger Relief Funds

As of this writing, August 3, 2020, Congress has yet to approve the next stimulus package to provide financial assistance to businesses during these unprecedented financial times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the American Loggers Council are pushing hard to seek a relief package that would help logging and log trucking businesses to cope with loss of markets, quotas and other Coronavirus related issues that are dragging down their businesses.

What began as a request for a low interest loan to assist logging and log trucking businesses during these hard times has morphed into a bill, the Logger Relief Fund, House Resolution 7690 and Senate Bill 4233 that would allow logging and log trucking businesses to compare revenues for the first 7 months of 2010 to those of 2019. If revenues are down by more than 10% in 2020 as compared to 2019, then a logging or log trucking business would be eligible to apply for funds not exceeding more than 10% of the gross business revenues for the period between January 1, 2019 and July 31, 2019. These funds are not intended to make businesses whole, but rather to allow them the opportunity to reorganize as markets around them continue to recover.

The American Loggers Council has secured support from both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate and are looking to try and push this legislation in the next COVID-19 or CARES-2 Act as soon as this week. Other trade associations are lending their support in these final days of negotiations between the House and the Senate, but **we still need as many of you to e-mail, or call your House and Senate members offices and request that they cosponsor the legislation, this week!** You can go online at www.congress.gov and track both of the bills and also see a list of the cosponsors that have already signed on. If you do not see your Congressman or Congresswoman on the list of cosponsors under H.R. 7690, or your Senators on the list of cosponsors under S. 4233, then you should reach out to their staff immediately and request that they sign on.

Quoting a message recently sent to this office from a former staff member, “The art of the blow-off is highly refined on Capitol Hill.” Do not allow them to simply send you a form letter that has been disguised with a blue ink signature that vaguely mentions your request for them to sign on to the legislation. Let them know that you are one of the folks back home that votes for them and that you are requesting that they represent you as one of their constituents. Be original and be firm.

To quote another mentor in the logging profession and long-time advocate for our industry, Bruce Vincent, “The world is run by those who show up.” Have you shown up yet? Have you taken the time to respond to action alert requests that have gone out over social media sites and web sites? If not, and you wish to see the relief fund move forward, you must do so now.

Thanks to all of you who have already made your voices heard, and thanks in advance to those who will reach out this week to help push this legislation across the finish line.

The American Loggers Council is an 501(c)(6) not for profit trade association representing professional timber harvesters throughout the United States. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council at 409-625-0206, or americanlogger@aol.com, or visit our website at www.amloggers.com