

Logger Relief Program Talking Points

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Logging is a critical part of the supply chain for forest products – ranging from home construction material to paper. This sector has been deemed critical by the US government during the COVID pandemic.

Logging companies are generally small, family-owned businesses. They have high operating costs and are more susceptible to prolonged periods of economic decline.

That means when the economy recovers, there simply won't be the loggers to do the work and respond to demand. That raises costs for everyone, including the consumer.

HOW HAS COVID AFFECTED LOGGERS?

Lumber and paper mills across the country have reduced production (or ceased production) to respond to drops in demand. That leads to lower prices for log delivery to the mill.

Loggers in some regions are experiencing 40% losses. (Insert local numbers/observations)

DON'T OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS HELP LOGGERS?

The Payroll Protection Program is limited to a percentage of actual payroll and didn't take into consideration fixed costs such as monthly payments on expensive equipment (give example). Those costs are like your mortgage: you have to pay them whether you're working or not.

WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING?

We're asking Congress to send a life-line to logging and log hauling businesses. We need something for these businesses to weather the storm this year.

The program would provide limited payments to logging/trucking businesses who've experienced losses (over 10%) compared to this time last year.

We are seeking parity with other agricultural commodity producers that have already received assistance in other stimulus funding packages.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS?

Based on the dire situation facing loggers in so many parts of the country, we believe that this legislation will have broad, bipartisan support. We are working to get it included in the next COVID-relief package that is currently under development.

WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO TO HELP?

Call your Congressman! Ask them to support this legislation sponsored by Representative Rouzer (North Carolina) in the House and Senator Collins (Maine) in the Senate.