



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AWFS® Participates in National Legislative Fly-In**

Thirteen AWFS® members and association officers participated in the Second Annual Woodworking Equipment and Wood Processing (WEWP) Public Policy Fly-In to Washington, DC, meeting with congressional representatives from California, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Utah, North Carolina and Oregon. Contingents from the WMIA and WMMA also attended.

The whirlwind of meetings included an AWFS Public Policy Committee meeting; a WMMA sponsored luncheon featuring their legislative analyst, John Satagaj; a Wood Industry Leadership (WILF) meeting and a dinner featuring Emily Stover DeRocco, president of The Manufacturing Institute and senior vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers. The Senate was voting on the Stimulus Bill at the time, allowing AWFS members to discuss the industry's needs in a very timely fashion.

The group also learned that the Manufacturing Institute is embarking on a three-part strategy to raise awareness about modern manufacturing, hopefully generating far more favorable government policies and spurring greater interest in manufacturing careers.

TMI's program will include:

- A communications and advertising awareness campaign utilizing print, radio and television designed to change public attitudes about manufacturing;

- New research initiatives designed to dispel outmoded notions of manufacturing to educate government on the new, high-tech realities of our industry;
- Among young Americans, making manufacturing careers a priority by 2010 through a campaign called “**Dream It. Do It.**”

One of the key points participants took away was that getting the ear of Congress should be more than a once-a-year event. Various groups told members that contact with local offices, weighing in on the issues via email, invitations to tour your facilities and political support all make it more likely that when votes come up that affect an industry, your representative knows the issues important to you, or at least AWFS’ position.

Any AWFS member can join other manufacturers in DC next year.

“We invite all members to become part of our group,” said Angelo Gangone, executive director, AWFS. “The three days will prove quite worthwhile to you and your company and benefit our industry. You don’t have to be on the board or on a committee – you just have to have a desire for your voice to be heard. With a new administration, the time is ripe to put manufacturing concerns in the face of our representatives. We need to let them know how the economy is impacting each of our companies.”

The full-scale international AWFS®Fair, scheduled for July 15 – 18, in Las Vegas, will also feature exhibitors from the entire home and commercial furnishings industry and includes manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, lumber, construction, materials, and other supplies to furniture, cabinet manufacturers and custom woodworkers.

**About AWFS:**

The Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers® (AWFS), founded in 1911, is a non-profit organization that wholly owns and produces the biennial AWFS®Fair. The largest trade association serving the entire home and commercial furnishings industry, AWFS has more than 400 members, including manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, software, tooling, lumber, components,

wood products and supplies for the woodworking industry including cabinet, furniture, millwork and custom woodworking products.

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