

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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IAM SUPPORTS REFORM THE H-2A VISA PROGRAM AND ENFORCING FEDERAL CABOTAGE LAWS

The Machinists Union and Woodworkers Department supports U.S. Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) and Maine Senate President Troy Jackson's (D-Allagash) efforts to reform the H-2A visa program and address loopholes that have enabled Canadian truckers in the logging industry to exploit and take jobs in the state of Maine unfairly.

“What we’re seeing is companies misusing the H-2A program in an effort to circumvent federal law,” stated Golden and Jackson in a press statement. “Canadian truckers are abusing the H-2A program when they make daily commutes into northern Maine to participate in the American domestic logging market, competing directly with Mainers for jobs and depressing wages. H-2A visa cannot be used for the domestic transport of harvested timber. By enforcing federal law and holding companies accountable for misusing the H-2A program, the federal government can protect these jobs.”

Golden has consistently pushed the past White House administration and his colleagues in Congress to take action on this issue. In addition to proposing an amendment to the Department of Labor funding bill last year, Golden also called on all three relevant agencies to conduct an investigation into allegations of Canadian truckers operating illegally in Maine. Golden also proposed two amendments the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019 to exclude logging activities from the definition of “agricultural labor or services” in the bill. Rep. Golden tried again in 2021 to amend the bill but again, was unsuccessful.

H-2A VISA— Continued, Page2

KOPPERS PLANS FOR A NEW STATE OF THE ART FACILITY

On April 8, 2021, Southern Territory General Vice President Rickey Wallace and Chief of Staff Craig Martin, Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose and Grand Lodge Representative Bob Walls, District 171 DBR Ben Moody and Business Representatives Roger Betz and Melone Wey had a team's meeting with Koppers in N. Little Rock, AR to view plans for the new state of the art treating plant that will be located in N. Little Rock.

This treating facility will be the largest in the world, all under one roof. Koppers was recently awarded a large contract with Union Pacific. Under this contract Koppers will be able to fulfill their obligations for treating the rail ties by doing it safer and faster. Construction will begin this year while simultaneously running the old treating facility. The IAMAW looks forward to working with Koppers to increase production while doing it safer and providing our members with the possibility of more Union jobs in the N. Little Rock facility.

The Machinists
Wood, Pulp & Paper Council
presents

2nd Annual
Chillin' & Grillin'
September 25, 2021



Fundraiser for:



Guide Dogs
of America



Tender Loving
Canines

CALLING ALL GRILL MASTERS

Our Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Virtual Chillin' & Grillin' BBQ Competition to raise money for Guide Dogs of America. Join us for our Live Announcement and Registration Website launch on Monday, June 7th on Facebook at:

[Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council on Facebook](#)

Or, be a MWPPC BBQ Competition sponsor and donate now to GDA at: <https://give.guidedogsofamerica.org/BBQ2021>

Thank you to our sponsors for this year's competition:



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H-2A VISA—Continued from Page 1

Jackson has repeatedly sought action on both the state and federal level to end this unlawful practice and hold violators accountable. He even brought Gov. Paul LePage up to Fort Kent to hear directly from the affected truckers in 2017. In the Maine Legislature, Jackson has introduced several pieces of legislation to protect Maine trucking jobs and penalize offending companies for breaking the law. In addition, he has written to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the Department of Labor. This past summer, he filed a complaint against the Department of Labor for failing to enforce federal cabotage laws. AUGUSTA – On Monday, Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) for repeatedly failing to enforce H2A immigration law with regard to the practice of cabotage by Canadian H2A workers in Maine's logging and trucking industry.

“When Mainers are on a level playing field, they can compete head-to-head with workers anywhere. Unfortunately, over and over the U.S. Department of Labor has failed to enforce federal H2A immigration laws, leaving Maine workers at a disadvantage,” said President Jackson. “The law is clear. U.S. drivers from Canada are not allowed to pick up a load in the U.S. and deliver it to somewhere else within the country before returning to Canada. This isn't about the Canadians; it's about the U.S. allowing companies to violate the law and leaving American workers to pay the price. I am asking the department something very simple: enforce the law and protect logging and trucking jobs for hard-working people in our state.”



Preliminary Determination in Antidumping Duty Investigations of Thermal Paper from Germany, Japan, South Korea, and Spain

On May 6th, the Commerce Department announced its affirmative determination that manufacturers in Germany, Japan, South Korea and Spain had illegally dumped thermal paper on the US market. As a result, anti-dumping duties between 2.78% and 41.45% will be levied on US imports of thermal paper from manufacturers in those countries.

HOUSE LAWMAKERS PRESS FOR SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT



U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai

A bipartisan group of more than 90 House lawmakers, led by [Kevin Hern](#) (R-Okla.) and [Brian Higgins](#) (D-N.Y.), have asked U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai to negotiate a new softwood lumber agreement with Canada. As Tai prepared to meet her Canadian and Mexican counterparts on May 17, 2021 to review progress in the new North American trade agreement, she was under pressure from home builders and lawmakers to cut U.S. tariffs on Canadian lumber.

The Trump administration imposed anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Canadian softwood lumber in 2017 after efforts to reach a negotiated agreement failed. Before that, the two governments had negotiated a series of three agreements to govern cross-border lumber trade between the 1980s and 2015, when the last one expired.

[In a letter being sent this morning](#), the lawmakers said a new agreement was needed because “lumber prices have skyrocketed more than 300 percent since last spring.” That helped push home prices 10 percent higher in 2020, despite the pandemic, they said.

Canadian softwood lumber: Tai must also contend with antidumping and anti-subsidy duties that the Trump administration imposed on Canadian softwood lumber.

That issue has been relatively quiet in recent years, after efforts to negotiate an agreement with Canada failed in 2017. That would have been the fourth such agreement between the two countries since the 1980s.

In recent months, numerous lawmakers have called for a new agreement to remove those duties because of a steep run-up in lumber prices that have increased the cost of home-building and other construction.

Tai told lawmakers she was willing to look at negotiating a new agreement that hopefully would put the decades-old lumber frictions to rest.

“This is such a long standing issue between the United States and Canada, I’d be willing to sit down with my Canadian counterpart and think, ‘Hey, is there anything else that hasn’t been tried before that we could try?’” Tai said.



BIO-CORNER



Jeff Hoopman is the Local Lodge W33 Shop Steward at Packaging Corp of America (PCA) in International Falls, MN. Jeff has been with PCA since October 2010 as an Equipment Operator in the Process Center and later moved on to become a Line Operator and Spare Chip Plant Operator.

*Jeff Hoopman, Shop Steward
Local Lodge W33*

Brother Hoopman took on his union leadership roles in 2020 as Local Lodge W33 Shop Steward and a member of the Negotiations Committee. In 2021 Brother Hoopman also became Local Lodge W33 Trustee.

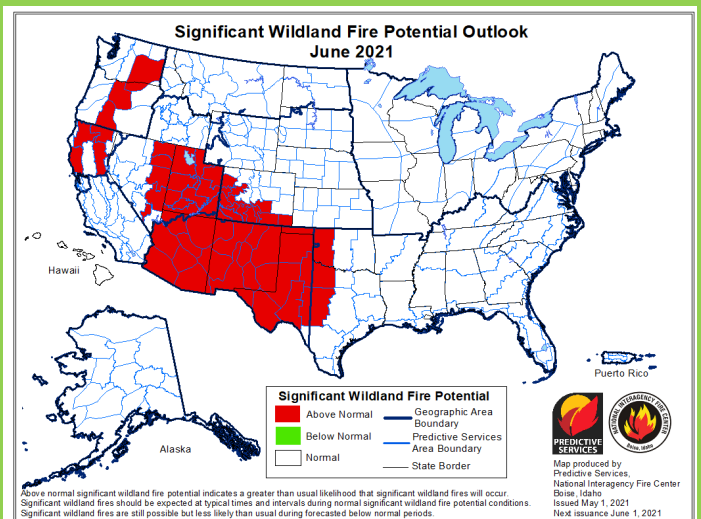
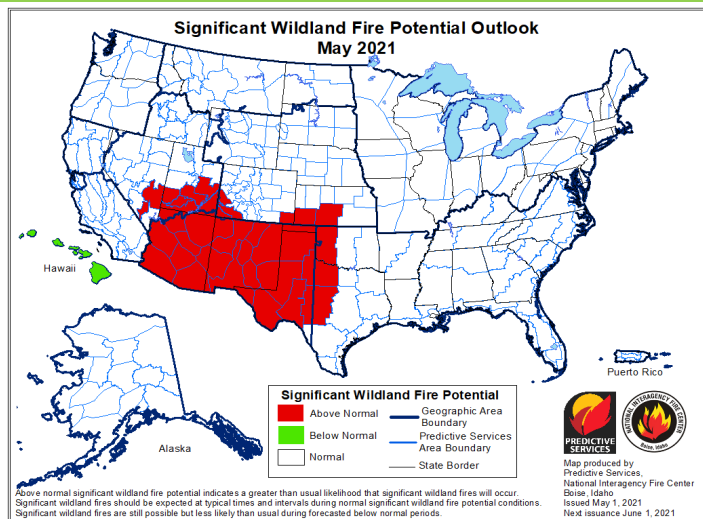
Before working at PCA, Jeff graduated with a Carpentry Degree from Northwest Tech. He and his wife have 2 kids—a 11 year old daughter and and 17 year old son. They love snowmobiling, hunting fishing and camping.

WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB



Mt. Saint Helens in the back ground blowing steam, about 2 months prior to the eruption



For more information, go to:
<https://www.unionplusfreecollege.org/>

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