

IFA Legislative Report
May 14, 2009

Yesterday, SB 1413 passed the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Governor!!! HB 1087 is on third reading in the Senate. Rep. Myers (R), from McComb picked up SB 1413 and Sen. Sullivan has HB 1087. We have called the Governor's office to ask that he sign the bill and that we would like to be invited to be a part of the signing ceremony if there is one.

We need to get a list of the names that we would like appointed to the Forestry Commission once the Governor signs the bill. We will need to share those names with the Director of DNR and the Governor's office.

On May 4th, Dave Gilliespie, Jenni and I met with Director Marc Miller. We had a good discussion about our concerns on the Forestry Development Council and increasing the number of foresters at DNR. The Director was agreeable to our concerns but also needs resources to get additional staff hired. We stated that IFA was interested in working with the Director to move forestry issues forward.

The budget for 2009-10 is still up for grabs. We have a little over 2 weeks left in this legislative session and the budget will hopefully, be completed by May 31, 2009. If it is not done we will probably be in for a long summer. If a budget is passed with a tax increase, we might be able to look for some additional foresters to be hired in the next year. If a budget is passed with no tax increase and major cuts, foresters could continue to be lost.

Paula & Jenni Purdue