

Legislative Action Plan

Illinois Forestry Association

Part 1: 2009 Legislative Session Goals

GOAL: Increased awareness with Illinois legislators and policy makers of IFA presence and mission

GOAL: Fill vacant urban and forest landowner seats on the IL Forestry Development Council

These goals will be addressed by:

- Informing the Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices and staff; key legislative committees; legislators and legislative leaders in both chambers and parties; Illinois DNR, Illinois EPA, Illinois DOA and other governmental agencies; IFA partners their lobbyists and membership about program and staffing needs for forestry and the importance and impacts of forests to the economic and social health of the state. Information will be provided through individual meetings, IFA brochures, workshop invitations, and IFA Legislative Day (March 26, 2009).
- Brainstorming ideas for funding staffing and other forestry needs across the state with appropriate legislators, coalition members, and legislative staff, and IFA legislative committee, IFA board members, and IFA membership through meeting and workshop participation.
- Monitoring and influencing introduced bills that may impact IFA members by attending legislative session days, committee meetings, and providing legislative committee testimony as needed. Lobbyists will lobby the bills by sharing IFA concerns and information about IFA issues.
- Continue to seek and build coalition partners on a broad range of topics concerning carbon credits, IDNR forestry positions, funding sources for forestry programs and other related environmental issues. IFA lobbyists will communicate with those partners and seek support for common issues.
- Providing periodic legislative updates generally to correspond with legislative deadlines or relevant activities as outlined in Part 3. These will be provided by email to the IFA and IAA Boards and a summary for posting on the IFA website. Bill lists will be sent to the Legislative Committee on a weekly basis by Friday, when legislature is in session.
- Inform IFA/IAA members on legislative activities through their respective newsletters
 - IFA newsletter article deadlines: March 8th; June 8th; September 8th
 - IAA newsletter article deadlines: June 24th; October 2nd; December 23rd

- Establish specialty license plate as funding source for public outreach & education
- Implement advocacy training for members
- Illinois River Coordinating Council

Part 2: 2009 Legislative Session Lobbying Targets

- Legislators and leadership in both chambers and parties
- Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices
- Illinois DNR, EPA, and other appropriate entities
- Coalition members and their lobbyists
- Other governmental agencies as appropriate

Part 3: 2009 Legislative Calendar Deadlines

Below is a list of deadlines that occur throughout the legislative session. These can be flexible and subject to change. The lobbyist will inform the IFA Legislative Committee as the schedule changes and deadlines revised.

Deadline Descriptions:

An *LRB* deadline means that the *legislative reference bureau* can not release any new language to become legislation. All bills must go through the legislative reference bureau before introduction. The *deadline for the Introduction of Bills* is the last day to introduce any new legislation. Bills can still be amended after this point, so there is still some flexibility in submitting new language if a bill with similar subject matter can be found. Any bill that does not get voted out of committee by the committee deadlines is considered a "dead" bill. Likewise, a bill will have to be voted (yes) on before the 3rd reading deadlines or it is considered "dead" as well. No bill is really dead until the end of session, but only those that are supported by the various leaders have any chance of becoming "un-dead". Each chamber has its own deadlines, and there are separate deadlines depending on which chamber the bills originate.

Deadlines for the January – May, 2009 96th IL General Assembly Legislative Session

- February 6 – House Deadline - LRB Request
- February 20 – Senate Deadline – Introduction of Bills
- February 27 – House Deadline – Introduction of Bills
- March 12 – House Deadline – House Bills Out of House Committees
- March 13 – Senate Deadline – Senate Bills Out of Senate Committees

- April 3 – Senate & House Deadline - 3rd Reading of Bills
- May 8 – House Deadline - Senate Bills Out of House Committees
- May 8 – Senate Deadline – House Bills Out of Senate Committees
- May 22 – House & Senate Deadline - 3rd Reading of Other Chamber Bills
- May 31 – House & Senate Deadline – Session Ends

Part 4: Legislative Plan of Action for IFA/IAA Members

- Attend Advocacy Training workshops. Stay informed on legislative issues on the IFA website www.ilforestry.org, through the newsletter and through contact with your Board members.
- **Invite your legislators to visit your forested areas.** Make sure that certain legislators who can be of assistance, visit the areas that do not have forestry personnel. We need to plan these events when the legislators have had a few weeks to recover from the budget mess.
- **Invite legislators to join you at the various events you are planning.** Legislators are interested in their constituents' issues. *If the legislator cannot join you for the whole day* make sure that they are welcome for whatever time they can attend. *When a legislator joins you* make sure that you introduce them to all in attendance of the meeting and thank the legislator for taking time out of their busy day.
- **Attend IFA Legislative Day (March 26, 2009).** The importance of a strong showing on this day by the IFA membership cannot be overstated. This is an extremely important opportunity to increase awareness of the Association and the issues that are important to IFA. In addition to being able to meet and greet the legislators from your district, IFA members are able to make important contacts with other key legislators and make them aware of the Association and our issues. This type of exposure greatly increases favorable legislative responses to bills that will advance our goals. This will help establish the IFA as the organization legislators come to when there are questions or concerns on forestry related issues.
- **Respond and follow up to Legislative Committee alerts.** It is important to react quickly, promptly and en masse to specific situations and circumstance during the legislative session. IFA Directors will pass information and directions along to help inform members as to what can be done about specific pieces of legislation in order to be effective in influencing actions that can benefit the Associations goals. You should respond immediately to such requests and alerts in order to make IFA more effective in achieving the desired legislative outcomes for forestry.