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Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 6:14 PM
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject: The Branch
Attachments: 2020-01-20 Branch.pdf

Hello everybody;

While the public were filling the streets around the Capitol yesterday, the business of the General Assembly went on indoors. I was on the phone throughout the day yesterday discussing legislation language. We are watching a number of bills as usual. Last week, John Colligan and I met with the appropriations staff for the House and Senate to go over our budget amendments. So far, so good.

Tomorrow we have the Virginia Forest Industry legislative breakfast hosted by VFA, VLA and VFPA. This is an opportunity to meet with legislators and their staff and increase awareness of forests and forestry. Corey Conners, the new executive director for VFA visited the office last week. We are looking forward to working with him in the years ahead. He talked about demonstrating the value of membership and I look forward to seeing more about that. Please pay attention to what is happening at VFA and consider becoming a member. Partner groups like VFA provide critical support for VDOF and can advocate for things that we cannot. The stronger those groups are, the more we stand to benefit as an agency and as employees.

Speaking of benefits, look at the Policy section of the Branch to see the announcement of the new VDOF tuition assistance and educational paid leave programs. This is another way for the agency to invest in our employees and help you to achieve your career goals.

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