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Good morning everyone,

Not much new to report this morning, the General Assembly conferees are busy hammering out the final agreements on the budget and the most difficult legislative issues. This is the last week so we will know soon how it all works out. The Virginia Forestry Association has been providing really good summaries of the General Assembly issues that affect DOF, and forestry, and Virginia businesses in general in their Friday email updates. This is another great benefit of VFA membership and I would encourage anyone connected with forestry in Virginia to consider being a member. VFA and all of our partners have been advocating hard for DOF budget initiatives and they are continuing to do so. They support us because their members value the work that you do and the service that you provide.

Last week I attended my first meeting of the American Forest Foundation Woodlands Operating Committee. I am the new liaison to AFF from the National Association of State Foresters which makes me a member of this committee. I don't really need any more meetings to attend but this looks like a good group, made up mostly of private forest landowners from around the country. This group advises AFF leadership on their programs that deal with private landowners such as Tree Farm, their Family Forest Carbon program, and the White Oak Initiative. If you have any questions or suggestions about AFF programs let me know and I will carry them forward.

Have a good week.

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