

Mary Weaver

From: Farrell, Robert <rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov> on behalf of Farrell, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:58 AM
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject: The Branch
Attachments: 2022-02-21 Branch.pdf

Hello everybody,

Check out the Branch for upcoming training opportunities as well as reasons to celebrate members of the VDOF family starting new adventures. Lots of action in the General Assembly, much of it good news for us. It looks like there will certainly be raises and maybe a bonus for state employees in the new budget, as well as some version of tax cuts.

There are a couple of other items in the GA that I want to call attention to. One is proposed legislation from Delegate Adams from Pittsylvania County to provide a tax credit to landowners for their costs associated with good hardwood management or hardwood tree planting. The second is creation of a Forest Sustainability Fund that would help localities offset the tax revenue that they forgo due to forest land-use taxation. These two pieces of legislation would be very beneficial for forestry management and conservation in Virginia and they didn't come from VDOF. The Virginia Forestry Association proposed the Forest Sustainability Fund and has been very involved in championing the hardwood tax credit. I have recommended before that anyone in Virginia that is involved in forestry should support our state forestry association. What's good for forestry is good for you and VFA is doing some good work for forestry.

VDOF is fortunate to have multiple budget amendments being considered this year that would address critical needs for additional resources within the agency. We are very fortunate to have the state associations advocating on behalf of forestry including VFA, and the Forest Products Association, the Loggers Association, Farm Bureau and the Agribusiness Council. Their support for our agency is due to the value that they see in the work that each of you do in service to their members. As always, your work is recognized, valued, and appreciated. Thank you

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