

## ~~THE ALC~~ ~~Mr. Smith~~ Goes to Washington.

BY: SCOTT DANE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL



The National Voice for Loggers, the American Loggers Council has opened an office in Washington DC, one block from the White House.

The iconic movie, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, depicts a "common-sense", "small town", albeit naïve and politically unsavvy, Washington outsider going to D.C. In a sense perhaps the American Loggers Council can be likened to that Jimmy Stewart character, "Mr. Smith", who quickly discovers many of the shortcomings of the political process but remains steadfast in his values as he stands alone in an inspired fight against corruption and greed, ultimately succeeding in his political quests. It is likewise our intent to prevail.

Some may view the American Loggers Council, and the people that we represent, as “naïve” to the inner workings of the DC machine, but like Mr. Smith, in my 17 years of state and federal legislative work, I have found one simple formula for political success – forthright honesty. If elected and non-elected officials know that they can trust you and your message, then they are willing to work with you. Furthermore, for the most part loggers are respected within the halls of Congress, both right and left. Loggers represent hard working, "boots on the ground", "salt of the earth", "last of a breed" men and women who are admired within the denizens of the Capitol.

Additionally, relationships are the basis for both business and politics. **The American Loggers Council represents the politics of business, particularly at the federal level. To establish and build these relationships you must be “where” this business of politics is conducted – Washington DC, not Gilbert, Minnesota.**



***"The famous bank robber Willie Sutton was asked, "Why do you rob banks?" He replied, "Because that's where the money is."***



## AS WE SEE IT: NOV 2021

Washington DC is where the money is, (at least you'd think so the way it is thrown around sometimes), but that is not actually why the American Loggers Council is establishing an office in DC. More importantly, Washington DC is where the laws, policies and decisions are made that affect your business and your "money".

***It has been said: "If you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu."***

The American Loggers Council wants to make sure that the timber industry has a seat at the table and is not on the menu, that is why we have opened an office in DC. **This American Loggers Council office will be available to use for the members during their visits to DC as an additional benefit of membership** (Please contact the Council in advance to schedule use of the office and its amenities during your visit in Washington DC).

Some may believe that the timber industry is Mr. Smith, but like him, naïve as it may seem, the American Loggers Council believes that those in Washington DC still work for us, those who elected them. Therefore, the Council is prepared to be in DC: working to address the challenges and threats to the timber industry, establish relationships and solve problems. After all, the timber industry is a vital economic and environmental partner:

- Post-Pandemic Recovery
- Rural Job Development
- Healthy Forest Management
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Carbon Sequestration
- Renewable Energy & Fuel
- Forest Products Production

Absent a stable and sustainable timber industry, none of these economic and environmental benefits are achievable.

Healthy forests should not be a partisan issue. The American Loggers Council looks forward to working with our elected officials and government agencies in Washington DC to address the shared objectives and take advantage of the opportunities that the timber industry represents in achieving these benefits.