

The Cope...



INCMA's Monthly Fax Newsletter

April 2008

AFS WASHINGTON MEETING WRAP-UP

Fourteen Hoosiers representing nine foundries plus other related businesses participated in this year's AFS Conference in Washington DC on April 9-11. Attendees went to Capitol Hill and met with key staff from both Senate offices as well as six Congressmen and their staff on the House side. Specific issues discussed included the continuing need to address China's currency subsidies, and opposition to the expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act, and Employee Free Choice Act. Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions was also touched upon with many offices. While many of the issues remain the same from year to year, it is difficult to estimate the value of these visits given the slow pace of the process in DC and the possibility of action on some key items particularly given an election year. Thanks to all who participated on behalf of the entire industry!

CHINA CHEATS

AFS simplified the trade issue message down to China Cheats building from the American

Manufacturing Alliance message. This new alliance encourages citizens to ask Presidential candidates how they will stop China from cheating in the future. Their website: www.americanmanufacturing.org is an excellent source of information including an estimate of



the jobs lost to China. Indiana is estimated to have lost 45,200 jobs as a direct result of our trade deficit with China.

HOMELAND SECURITY/ IMMIGRATION

Ron Shelkey, an agent with the Dept. of Homeland Security's Immigration & Customs Enforcement also address attendees at the AFS DC conference. Agent Shelkey reviewed their most recent efforts to address immigration concerns focusing on increased penalties for employing illegal immigrants. He also encouraged attendees to apply for their new "IMAGE" program designed to work more

closely with employers to enhance their hiring practices and limit illegal immigrant issues through use of the federal e-verify system and other methods. Readers may recall that the E-Verify system was a central point of discussion during the recent legislative debate in Indiana on the immigrant bill. Use of the system would give employers protection from knowing violations should they be found with illegal immigrants in their employ.

FEDERAL OSHA UPDATE

During the AFS Conference in DC, Jim Maddox, Director of OSHA Directorate of Standards & Guidance addressed attendees on the new PPE requirements for employers to pay for some protective clothing and gear effective for employers on May 15, 2008. Call INCMA at 317-974-1830 for a copy of his presentation.

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING

In late December, Congress inserted a last minute provision in a budget bill that

requires EPA to establish a mandatory program for businesses to report their greenhouse gas emissions by June 2009. New rule for June 2009. While AFS is working on the issue, INCMA is considering formation of a task force. Stay tuned....

SCRAP UPDATE

While there was little focus on HB 1062 during Indiana's recent legislative Session, many believe the Scrap oriented bill will help limit future theft of scrap metals by putting new record keeping and other requirements on architectural salvage dealers. It also allows law enforcement to inspect a range of merchants who deal with second hand materials. The full digest is available online at INCMA.org along with final legislative reports on all bills tracked during the Session.

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