

Member News!

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PSC Commissioner Parker Rallies for Rail Reform

Alabama PSC Commissioner Susan Parker spoke at CURE's (Consumers United for Rail Equity) Annual Rail Customer Day on May 5th in Washington D.C. rallying a packed room of U.S. Senators and stakeholders. "I want to say that the nation's State utility regulators stand with all of you today to bring some real reform and competition to the freight rail industry," Com. Parker said.



Commissioner Parker speaks at Rail Customer Day in the Senate with CURE Executive Director Bob Szabo

Parker is the Second VP of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). This issue is important to NARUC members because many electric utilities rely on rail shipments of coal to fuel their generating plants. Since the cost of rail transportation is included in the all-in price for power, higher rail rates are eventually passed through to retail ratepayers. "I'm here to tell you that this issue isn't just limited to

chemical manufacturers, utilities, and other large customers," Com. Parker said. "As a regulator of

electric utilities in Alabama I can tell you first hand that the price of shipping coal via rail is hurting retail residential customers, people like you and me." Although NARUC is not a member of CURE, it supports CURE's legislative goals such as reforming the STB to make it a stronger agency, and removing the railroads' antitrust exemption. Time is tight on the legislative clock, but Com. Parker said NA-

RUC remains fully engaged in the debate. "I am here today because I am optimistic that this is the year Congress acts," Com. Parker said. At the Rally, Com. Parker shared the stage with Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Rockefeller, who authored the STB reform legislation, S.2889, and Sens. Herb Kohl, leading sponsor of the antitrust exemption legislation, S.146 Amy Klobuchar, and the retiring Byron Dorgan. In addition, several rail customers spoke as well, representing the chemical, agriculture, and electric utility industries. MA would like to thank

Com. Parker for standing up for rail shippers in Alabama and across the nation. Once again, CURE's initiative will be a top issue on the agenda at MA's annual Fly-In in D.C. next month. To continue following MA's and CURE's efforts go to the MA website at www.manufacturealabama.org and follow the CURE link or visit CURE's website at www.railcure.org.

Manufacture Alabama Board of Directors:

Allen Sanders, Chairman
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David Carroll, Secretary
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Don Forst,
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Terry Patterson,
Toray Carbon Fibers America, Inc.

Paul Vercher,
U.S. Steel

Annual Fall Meeting

Mark you calendars! MA's annual Fall Meeting is scheduled for September 16-17, 2010, at the Marriott Grand Hotel Resort in Point Clear, Alabama.

We will keep you posted as more details unfold.

Welcome New Members

Partners:

- **Eagle -SWS**
- **Emergency Response Services**
- **Jedson Engineering**
- **The MAT Group**
- **Trinity Consultants**

Legislative Session

The 2010 Legislative Session came to an end on April 22nd. Below is an end of the session wrap-up:

\$1 Billion Road and Bridge Program

The people will vote on a \$1 billion dollar road and bridge program in November. **SB121** by **Sen. Lowell Barron (D-Fyffe)**, proposes an amendment to the Alabama Constitution to provide for a ten year road and bridge construction program to be funded from the Alabama Trust Fund. The Alabama Trust Fund is a savings account that is supported with monies from royalties made from companies that pump natural gas from the Gulf of Mexico. The people will vote on allowing \$100 million dollars to be removed from the trust fund for 10 years, beginning in 2011, with 75% of the monies distributed to the Alabama Department of Transportation for construction, maintenance and repair of state and local highways, roads and bridges and the remaining 25% to be distributed among the state's county and municipal governments.

Alabama Strengthens Its Trade Secrets Statute

HB102, by **Rep. Jack Williams (R-Vestavia Hills)**, provides protection to employers and businesses by expanding the penalties for violating the trade secrets act. Misappropriation of trade secrets is a Class C felony. **HB102** increases fines from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for each separate act and criminalizes recruiting an individual for the purpose of misappropriating trade secrets.

Firearms in Parking Lot

Efforts were made during the last few years to pass legislation that would strip an employer's right to restrict possession or storage of a firearm in a motor vehicle while on the premises of the employer's facility. MA, along with a business coalition, has opposed the bill and was able to defeat the bill each session, including the 2010 session. MA would like to thank **Chairman Frank McDaniel (D-Albertville)** and the members of the House Commerce Committee for standing up for the manufacturing community. MA believes employers should have the right to disallow gun possession for the health, protection, safety of employees and of the physical plant.

Unemployment Compensation

MA, along with a business coalition was successful for the second year in a row in lobbying against an unemployment compensation bill that would broaden Alabama's unemployment compensation laws to obtain funding from the federal stimulus package. **SB11** by **Senator Rodger Smitherman (D-Birmingham)** would have allowed Alabama to automatically receive \$250 million, with no strings attached, for a temporary \$25 a week increase in unemployment benefits. An additional \$99 million is available, but the state would have to broaden its unemployment compensation laws. According to the Department of Industrial Relations, the \$99 million is likely to run out in about 4 years. The state would then be liable to make up

the difference in the trust fund more than likely raising unemployment contributions.

Workers Compensation Bill

MA lobbied against **HB21** by **Representative Joseph Mitchell (D-Mobile)** that would have removed the \$220 cap on partial disabilities and removed the schedule on injuries not affecting the body as whole. This type of legislation has been introduced in each session throughout the quadrennium and Manufacture Alabama along with a business coalition was successful in defeating the legislation.

The end of the session also marked the end of the legislative quadrennium meaning that this November, Alabama will elect the state's constitutional officers and the state's legislators.

New ADEM Director

The Environmental Management Commission has named Lance LeFleur as Director of ADEM. LeFleur's appointment was to be effective June 1, however, due to the recent Deepwater Horizon tragedy, Mr. LeFleur assumed office on May 6th. Mr. LeFleur has a business background in materials recovery and energy management. Mr. LeFleur replaces Trey Glenn who resigned in December, 2009. John Hagood, who served well as Director in the interim period, will stay aboard as Executive Counsel.

Washington Fly-In

Manufacture Alabama's annual Washington Fly-In is scheduled for June 8-10. The Fly-In is a great opportunity to meet our Congressmen and Senators and discuss issues that are presently affecting business and Alabama's manufacturers. On Tuesday, June 8th Manufacture Alabama will host a dinner for our members and our Congressional Delegation. This dinner is widely attended by our Congressmen and Senators Sessions and Shelby and/or their staff. On the morning of Wednesday, June 9th, we will hear a 2010 election and political land-

scape update from one of the most highly regarded campaign watchers in D.C., Bernadette Budde. We will also receive an update on the Deepwater Horizon tragedy and its potential effects on offshore drilling, energy, and Alabama from Senator Sessions. After hearing from the Senator, MA will tackle Capitol Hill and visit with our Delegation and Senators finishing up our visits on Thursday, June 10th. The Fly-In is an action packed trip designed to keep you informed and allow you to network with your leaders. This year's Fly-In will be held at

the Hamilton- Crown Plaza, located at 1001 14th Street NW. You may register for the Fly-In online at www.manufacturealabama.org. To reserve a room at the Hamilton-Crowne Plaza please call the Hamilton Crowne Plaza at (800) 263-9802 or (202) 682-0111. The deadline to reserve a room with the hotel is May 24th. For more information, please contact Rebecca Camerio at rebecca@manufacturealabama.org. We hope you can join us!

2010 Safety & Security Conference A Success

Awards for outstanding worker safety records during 2009 were presented on April 22, 2010, to 40 Alabama manufacturing facilities from the State Department of Industrial Relations and Manufacture Alabama. The achievement awards were presented at a Manufacture Alabama Safety & Security/HR Conference featuring instruction and presentations for industries on how to improve safety programs.

“No element of the manufacturing process is more important than worker safety, and this Manufacture Alabama awards program and safety conference is in line with our association’s commitment to helping our member companies achieve competitive excellence in all



Tom Surtees, Director, Department of Industrial Relations, and Randy Rogers, Evonik Degussa

areas,” said George Clark, Manufacture Alabama president.

Speakers at the Safety & Security Conference included **Teresa Harrison**, OSHA Region IV; **Shawn Blenis**, Intertek USA, Expert Services; **Ron Flowers**, Burr & Forman; **Gordon DeLashmitt**, Shaw Industries Group; **Kaitlin Tysinger**, Toray Carbon Fibers America; **Matt Hollub**, University of Alabama; **Eddie Sorrells**, DSI Security Services; **Steve Johnson**, Safety Training & Consulting Services.

A total of 55 plants participated in Manufacture Alabama’s Achievement Awards program. Listed below are this year’s winners.

Major NAICS Code Group 238 Specialty Trade Contractors Division 1

1st Place Standard Taylor Industries

Major NAICS Code Group 313 Textile Mills Division 3

1st Place Mohawk Industries, Inc.

Major NAICS Code Group 322 Paper Manufacturing Division 2

1st Place MWV-MeadWestvaco

Division 3

1st Place Boise Paper

Division 4

1st Place International Paper

Major NAICS Code Group 324 Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing Division 2

1st Place ExxonMobil

Major NAICS Code Group 325 Chemical Manufacturing Division 1

1st Place INEOS Nova

2nd Place Occidental Chemical –Muscles Shoals

3rd Place Southern Ionics-Chickasaw

Division 2

1st Place Toray Carbon Fibers America, Inc.

2nd Place INEOS Phenol-Theodore

3rd Place E.I. DuPont-Mobile

Division 3

1st Place BP-Decatur Works

2nd Place UOP LLC– Mobile Plant

3rd Place 3M-Decatur Materials Plant

Division 4

1st Place Evonik Degussa-Mobile

Major NAICS Code Group 326 Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing Division 1

1st Place Hawk Plastics Corp.

2nd Place EFP LLC, Corp

Division 4

1st Place 3M-Film Plant Decatur

Major NAICS Code Group 327 Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing Division 2

1st Place Holcim (US) Inc.

Major NAICS Code Group 331 Primary Metal Manufacturing Division 1

1st Place Worthington Steel

Division 2

1st Place U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co.– North Birmingham

Division 3

1st Place U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co.-Bessemer

Division 4

1st Place Nucor Steel– Decatur

Major NAICS Code Group 423 Wholesale Trade Division 2

1st Place Sabel Steel

Alabama Pulp & Paper Council Report

The Alabama Pulp and Paper Council has experienced an active 2010 thus far. On the Environmental side, in addition to Lance LeFleur being named as the new ADEM Director, the Water Division consolidated its department. This is a positive for industry in that mills can again deal with one group and one individual for permitting, inspections, and enforcement.

The APPCO Environmental Committee has met four times. Guests have included Brian Atkins, OWR (Office of Water Resources) Chief, Ashok Jain, Southern Region Manager for NCASI (National Council

for Air and Stream Improvement), ADEM’s Water Division Leadership Team including the Industrial Division Chief and the engineer responsible for pulp and paper mills and ADEM’s Air Division personnel.

Major concerns for the pulp and paper industry are mostly on the air side. EPA issued Boiler MACT standards on April 29. While we are still reviewing them, it is obvious that they are onerous and will be expensive for our industry. We have discussed our concerns with ADEM and will continue these discussions. APPCO and the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA)

will comment and hope to add some rationality to the rules. Also on the air side, an Air Toxics Study Committee was appointed by ADEM. Roy McAuley and Tony Owens, MeadWestvaco, will represent pulp and paper and manufacturing interests on the study committee.

Other activities included comments on Florida’s proposed nutrient standards, ADEM’s proposed recycling rules, and Fish and Wildlife proposed critical habitat designation on the Coosa River for endangered/threatened mussels.

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"Making the Best in Alabama"

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Workforce Development

The Workforce Development video "Let's Make a Choice" is scheduled to be released in June. The video has been a working project for MA's Workforce Development Committee for the past two years. The video is designed to educate students about manufacturing career opportunities in Alabama. MA members will receive a copy of the DVD by mail within the next few months. To preview the video you may visit the MA website at www.manufacturealabama.org and follow the "Let's Make a Choice" link.

Summer/Fall Mill Visits

Once again, Manufacture Alabama plans to spend the summer and early fall months visiting its members and prospective members throughout the state. George Clark, President, and Blake Hardwich, Director of External Affairs, will be updating members on state and federal issues and listening to concerns relevant to specific plant needs.

If you have a potential prospect that you would like MA to meet with or would like us to drop by your plant, please contact Blake Hardwich at (334) 386-3000 or blake@manufacturealabama.org. We are looking forward to meeting with as many members as possible!

Upcoming Events

- **Washington Fly-In**
June 8-10
- **Fall Annual Meeting**
September 16-17
- **Decatur Reverse Trade Show**
November 9
- **Environmental Conference**
November 17

2010 Spring Golf Tournament

The 2010 Spring Golf Tournament was a great success! Our members, their business colleagues, and members of the legislator were able to interact and network. Congratulations to the tournament winners: 1st Place—**Larry Wilson**, CMC Steel; **Kenan Boswell**, Sabel Steel; **Art McCollough**, CMC Steel; **Keith Sabel**, Sabel Steel; 2nd Place—**Norman Lewis**, Rock Tenn Company; **Terry Randall**, Rock Tenn Company; **Woody Collins**, Rock Tenn Company; **Rep. A.J. McCampbell**; 3rd Place—**Mike Martin**, Lt. Governor's Office, **Jason Davis**, Alabama Power; Rep. **Mike Curtis**; Closest to Pin—**Art McCollough**, CMC Steel; Longest Drive—**Rep. Harry Shiver**.



MA Golf Tournament
Pictured (l) to (r) are Sen. Zeb Little, Paul Vercher, Stephen Schaaf, Franky Griggs