

FIA Public Policy Committee Year-End Report 2008-2009: Hudson Smith, Chairman

Review of Past year Activities:

1. The committee decided to decouple the Lobby Day Event from the January FIA Board of Directors Meeting. Several members were concerned of a fall off in attendance if Lobby Day was not held in conjunction with the Directors Meeting. The concern proved to be unnecessary as attendance at the 2009 Lobby Day was as good as in previous years.
2. The committee performed a 2008 Member Survey to assess members regarding their concerns on public issues. Twenty-three responses were received and tabulated. Issues identified as concerns were: the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), the proposed climate change “Cap and Trade” energy tax, the need for more domestic energy production, the potential elimination of the “LIFO” accounting standard, foreign currency manipulation and healthcare cost control.
3. Review of the proposal for the FIA to actively join the American Scrap Coalition with financial commitment. The committee decided that FIA would not commit FIA financial resources to the Coalition, but that we would vocally support them where we could.
4. Continue FIA relationship with The Laurin Baker Group as our lobbyist to organize and assist with Lobby Day logistics and any member fly-in days to lobby before key votes. No fly-ins were performed but Lobby Day was held on March 12, 2009.
5. Key Lobby Day issues discussed with House and Senate Members and their staffs were: opposition to EFCA, opposition to the elimination of LIFO accounting standards, and concern of and opposition to the “Cap and Trade” energy policy as proposed. FIA Lobby Day participants were generally well received by the House and Senate Members and their staff. This speaks well to the traction and recognition that FIA is gaining by members annually participating in Lobby Day and by our year round representation in Washington by The Laurin Baker Group.

The Public Policy Committee is reactive to the concerns of the members and can only be as successful as the level of the member’s participation. The decisions coming out of Washington will seriously affect the business health of our industry and Nation. Continued and increased participation by FIA members in Lobby Day, coupled with regular communication with their Congressional Offices, will only increase the probability that FIA can influence issues that are of the most importance to our members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hudson Smith  
Chairman, FIA Public Policy Committee