

**From:** "americanlogger@aol.com%inter2" <americanlogger@aol.com>  
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Email: americanlogger@aol.com

FirstName: Daniel

LastName: Dructor

Address1: PO Box 966

Address2:

City: Hemphill

State: Texas

zipcode: 75948

Question1: Should consider timber production (including harvesting activities) on an equal footing with other agricultural commodities. If there is going to be a next generation of timber harvesters, they should be able to enjoy some of the same benefits as the farmer and/or rancher, including but not limited to cooperative agreements, low interest ag loans and grants.

Question2: Need parity in markets. Concerns about costs of regulations (labor laws, OSHA, EPA, CWA) here in US vs. off-shore corporations need to be addressed. Level playing field for imports and exports.

Question3: Need crop insurance for tree farmers. Natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita along the Gulf Coast this summer have devastated many of the non-industrial private timberland owners. Include tree farmer and definition of tree farmer in the Tree Assistance Program (Title X;Subtitle C;Sects. 10210-10203).

Question4: From a forestry perspective, keep Title VIII intact. Continue with the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and give more emphasis on the third program objective which is "reducing the risks and helping restore, recover and mitigate the damage to forests caused by fire, insects, invasive species, disease, and damaging weather." Also more detail and attention to Types of activities to be conducted as found under item H, "the conduct of other management activities, such as the reduction of hazardous fuels, that reduce the risks to forests posed by, and that recover, and mitigate the damage to forests caused by, fire or any other catastrophic event, as determined by the Secretary."

Question5: Invest in woody biomass technologies, including the use of woody biomass for energy, transportation fuels and other value added products. This would help to recover much of the lost infrastructure in logging and timber communities throughout the United States, while at the same time promoting healthy forests, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, creating jobs, and most importantly providing for national security.

Question6: Value-added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants:

Under Subtitle E - Miscellaneous, Sect. 6401 (a) (2) Inclusion, reword to state:

The term 'value-added agricultural product' includes farm-, ranch- or forest-based renewable energy.