



LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
Serving Dealers. Supporting Builders. Since 1886.

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LAT ANNOUNCES 2021 TEXAS POLICY PRIORITIES

State policy work supported by coalition of members.

AUSTIN, Texas (January 21, 2021) – The Lumbermen's Association of Texas (LAT), a non-profit trade association that represents lumber and building material dealers and suppliers, has announced its 2021 Texas Public Policy Priorities.

"The Texas Legislature gaveled in last week for its biennial session, one with unprecedented challenges and opportunities for our industry," said Meagan McCoy Jones, Co-Chair of LAT's Legislative Committee and President & COO at McCoy's Building Supply. "LAT has identified a set of priorities with the goal of strengthening Texas' building materials industry and supporting our members' significant efforts to operate as essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic."

"LAT has a long history of engagement at the Texas Legislature," said Tim Moore, Co-Chair of LAT's Legislative Committee and General Counsel at Cassity Jones Building Materials. "With leadership from LAT's Legislative Committee we have identified three focus areas—the budget, COVID-19 response and Texas' business climate—and we will need every member's engagement to support our requests of legislators during a session that will operate different than we are all used to."

LAT's 2021 Texas Policy Priorities include:

- Budget

Texas has a projected \$950 million budget shortfall but must balance the state's budget for the next two years. LAT members support an approach that supports Texas' business climate and provides the ability for the Texas building materials industry to thrive.

- COVID-19

LAT will engage in the policy debate to address current pandemic and preparedness for future events, prioritizing the continuation of Texas' building material suppliers essential business designation. LAT also supports employer liability protections for businesses that make a good faith effort to protect the health and safety of employees and customers during a pandemic, as so many have done and continue to do.

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- **Business Climate**

LAT has partnered with Texans for Lawsuit Reform in support of legislation addressing trucking accidents and abuses in the courts. We will also continue to oppose any legislation that compromises the payment protections provided to our Dealers under Texas' mechanic's and materialmen's lien laws.

LAT will host a virtual briefing on its priorities and information on how members can support this work on Wednesday, January 27th. Members interested in joining the meeting should contact LAT for additional information.

"LAT is doubling down its advocacy efforts to ensure a Texas business climate that allows our industry to prosper during this pandemic and in the future," said Greg Evans, President of LAT's Board of Directors and President at Redwoods, Inc. "We are able to devote significant resources to this work because of the tremendous support of our government affairs sponsors that understand how powerful our collective voice and actions are in Austin."

LAT's Government Affairs program is sponsored by Boise Cascade, DW Distribution, Georgia-Pacific, Great Southern Wood Preserving, Hampton Lumber, Hixson Lumber Sales, James Hardie, Johns Manville, McCoy's Building Supply, RoyOMartin and Weyerhaeuser.

About the Lumbermen's Association of Texas

Founded in 1886, the Lumbermen's Association of Texas (LAT) is a non-profit trade association that represents lumber and building material dealers, the majority independent, multi-generational family-owned businesses. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, LAT staff engages its volunteer membership in advancing public policy at the state and federal level, educational and networking opportunities, and in developing the next generation of industry leaders. LAT also hosts an annual convention and expo, the largest gathering of CEOs/Principals of Texas' building material industry. LAT's mission is to create unity, strength, and a spirit of cooperation among building material suppliers to advance the industry. To learn more about us visit lat.org.