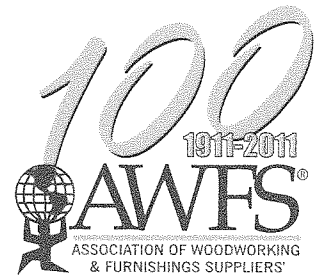


August 26, 2011



Steve Nowlan, President
Center for America
250 Willow Springs Drive
Roswell, GA 30075

Dear Steve:

On behalf of the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers® (AWFS), I am pleased to express support for the 10 By 20 Pledge for America Campaign on the eve of its launch. We represent a national membership of approximately 400 companies, ranging from small to mid-sized custom businesses to Fortune 500 companies. We couldn't be more pleased that John Ratzenberger is bringing much needed attention to the serious issue of the need for an astounding number of new skilled workers in our country by the year 2020.

The wood manufacturing and related industries are among those manufacturing segments very hard hit by the lack of a new generation of trained workers to take over as the baby boomers retire. They include cabinet, millwork and furniture manufacturing, door and window, retail fixtures and many other niches that incorporate wood into their products.

We too feel that the message surrounding manufacturing jobs needs to be updated as the job profiles have changed so drastically. The wood world utilizes computer-controlled equipment, design software and other technological developments that have created a host of modern-skill careers with good salaries.

We sponsor a woodworking competition at our industry trade show for high school and college students that is one of the few opportunities these young people have to showcase their skills—and they are amazing! Industry professionals continue to be wowed by the caliber of work coming out of the programs that DO still exist in North America.

We have also given over a million dollars in scholarships as well as supported WoodLINKS USA, a wood skills program with an industry-education partnership focus, that gets local companies involved in the curriculum of this national organization that has been growing in the U.S. in the last ten years.

This year we sponsored the World Skills competition at our July AWFS Fair. The 2010 and 2011 national Skills USA winners went head-to-head for the chance to compete in Germany in 2013. They contributed a dynamic presence to the industry event and many exhibiting companies were excited to find out more about Skills USA.

Which brings me back to your organization's mission of spotlighting the need for workers and the opportunities that do exist. The more we can work together in demonstrating the value of

manufacturing jobs to our nation and to the individuals that can fill them, the more successful we will be.

We will be sharing your message and Pledge Campaign with our members, to assist in championing your cause. Congratulations on your success to date in rallying the industries around your important goal!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angelo Gangone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angelo Gangone
Executive Vice President
Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers®