



JULY 2023

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## Government Affairs Meeting

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### Chairmans Message:

Your Texas Delegation journeyed to Washington DC to attend the 2023 AFS Governmental Affairs Fly-In held June 20-21. Our delegation was composed of Eric Meyers, Jr. – Oil City Iron Works , Connie Chaplin – OCIW, Owen Daniels – Midland Manufacturing, Stan Bass – Fort Worth Aluminum Foundry, and Brett Morehead – Porter Warner.

We were treated to an excellent line up of speakers each providing valuable insights to current events and how their efforts impact foundry's:

**Economic & Energy Outlook** presented by Dean Foreman, Chief Economist, Texas Oil and Gas Association. Stated that at every level, global, U.S. and Texas the economic growth has weakened but not collapsed suggesting continued resilience. Texas economy has achieved notable milestones in terms of record high GDP predominantly driven by oil and gas. However oil prices and U.S. drilling remain muted.

**Permitting Reform Overview** presented by Chad Whiteman, VP of Environment and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Reviewed the negative impact of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) the most litigated environmental statute for failure to meet requirements for EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) leading to permitting delays in holding up legitimate investments in energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing projects for 4 to 7.7 years. The single biggest obstacle to building the infrastructure of the future is a broken permitting system. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is bringing together organizations from across the country and economy in calling on Congress to Permit America to Build by enacting meaningful, durable legislation to modernize America's permitting processes before the end of summer 2023.

**DoD** – Overview of the IBAS program presented by Bryan Mitsdarffer, Technology Director, Office of the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) Program, U.S. Department of Defense. The statutory base to this program is 10 U.S. Code § 4817. The DoD must act now to position itself to replenish and maintain its stock of cast and forged items..

**Trade Enforcement** presented by Dustin Painter, Partner, Kelley Drye. Circumvention of Tariffs has become the standard, so Congress is working on two bills to a comprehensive approach. Enhance Customs enforcement tools to penalize bad actors and strengthened trade remedy tools to help domestic interests fight back. Fighting Trade Cheats Act (S. 805 / H.R. 2667) and Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (S. 1856 / H.R. 3882).

**Luncheon with Keynote Address 2024 Elections & Politics in America** by Kellyanne Conway. Ms. Conway is a political consultant and pollster, who served as the Senior Counselor to the Trump administration from 2017 to 2020. She ultimately became the first woman to run a successful U.S. presidential campaign. She has held roles as campaign manager and strategist in the Republican Party and was formerly president and CEO of the Polling Company/Woman Trend. She was an amazing speaker with many President Trump campaign and White House stories through the changes in government through these post Trump years and the concerns facing our nation today.

**EPA** – Impact of PM2.5 Proposed Rule on U.S. Foundries presented by Peter Tomasi, Partner, Foley & Lardner. The efforts here are to communicate to Congress that they should require the EPA to deny reconsideration. Reconsidering PM2.5 standard now will; block permitting of new manufacturing, prevent build out of infrastructure funded under transportation bill, require costly controls, and force businesses to relocate or move offshore.

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## Government Affairs Mtg. Cont.

In the evening we headed to the Metalcasting Industry Reception at the Capitol Hill Club to honor this years Metal Casting Industry Congressional Champion Award recipients; Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) and our own Rep. Kay Granger (R-12-TX). The American Foundry Society honored them for their steadfast support of the U.S. metalcasting industry during a June 20 presentation at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, D.C. as part of the 2023 AFS Government Affairs Fly-In. The Congressional Champion Awards recognize lawmakers who have demonstrated strong support of U.S. metalcasters and an understanding of the important role foundries play in our economy and industrial base. Granger and Young have consistently championed policies that promote growth and competitiveness for metalcasters across the country. Our very own past Chairman – Owen Daniel did the honors of Introducing and Presenting the award to Rep. Granger. Rep. Granger has served Texas’ 12th congressional district since 1997, when she became the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the U.S. House. She also chairs the House Appropriations Committee.

Educated through the presentations your Texas Delegation headed to Capitol Hill this year focused on communicating our four main messages to our Senators and Representatives:

1. Support Tax Policies that promote Investment, Development, and Expansion.
2. Fix the Broken Permitting Process
3. Strengthen U.S. Trade Laws and End Offshoring Loopholes.
4. Oppose harmful Air Regulations Impacting U.S. Metalcaster.

The Governmental Affairs Fly In continues to be a well-organized event that is both rewarding and productive. We sincerely appreciate all the planning and work that Doug Kurkul, Stephanie Salomon, and the entire 2023 AFS Governmental Affairs Committee and Staff put into this Fly-In events success.

Brett Morehead  
TCMA Chairman

## AFS / GAC Fly In 2023 Perspective from a Family-Owned Foundry

I attended my third GAC FLY IN this year, first one in about 10 years or so. The program was the best one that I have attended. Speakers concerning the economy, oil and gas industry, taxes, and of course environment, were all excellent. All issues that are important to every foundry, large or small.

The highlight of the program for me was our lunch speaker Kellyanne Conway and she was outstanding. She spoke for over an hour and was very interesting and insightful. Her talk was pretty much 100% politics and Republican, mostly about Donald Trump, both positive and negative. She did mention the other Republican candidates all of whom she stated would make excellent Presidents. Her talk by itself was worth the price of the trip.

The most beneficial part of the program for me was my 5 minutes with Kay Granger. She is a former Mayor of Fort Worth and is my representative in Congress. She is the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee and a “high ranking” member of Congress. She is someone who Fort Worth should be very proud of. She received the AFS Champions Award and I am sure she will remember the meeting with our group every time she looks at that 100 pound Cast Iron Elephant, supplied by Oil City Iron Works.

I would suggest that every foundry person would get something positive and negative out of this trip. It is worth at least one visit.

Stan Bass  
President  
Fort Worth Aluminum Foundry

## Upcoming Events

August 4th: Texas AFS Planning Meeting  
at Midland Manufacturing Company

September 8th: TCMA Board Meeting (Location TBD)  
Texas AFS Meeting

## Welcome

This TCMA newsletter is developed by the association to improve communication and provide members with the latest news and legislative action concerning their companies and the cast metals industry.

## Let us hear from you!

Please send company news, legislative inquiries, product updates and employee highlights to [TCMAINC.ORG](http://TCMAINC.ORG).

## Visit our website

[WWW.TCMAINC.ORG](http://WWW.TCMAINC.ORG)

TCMAINC.ORG serves as a valuable resource for our members. Go online to read about our newest members to the association, members’ achievements, the latest updates on our bulletin board and the latest news in the foundry business.

## TCEQ is to Schedule Pollution Prevention Waste Management Workshop

This workshop will provide up to date information for businesses, governments, and other entities managing hazardous waste and toxic chemicals. Information provided will address programs and resources to assist facilities with waste management. The workshop is scheduled for September 20th.

Go to <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/pollution-prevention-waste-management-workshop> for more information.

## Pictures from Chairman's Article



The AFS Texas delegation and Rep. Kay Granger pose for a photo on June 20.



A closer look at the Metal Casting Industry Congressional Champion Award featuring a beautiful casting from Oil City Iron Works.