

# D.C. Cheat Sheet



## *Quick Updates from Your HF Team*

### **China Extends Hardwood Tariff Exclusions Thru November 30**

In some good news for hardwood exporters, the Chinese government announced late last week that it would continue to exclude U.S. hardwoods from tariffs for an additional six-month period, through November 30, 2022. The American Hardwood Export Council received initial confirmation of the extensions late Friday, April 15. The latest extension effectively means that business will carry on as usual with no Chinese tariffs on U.S. hardwood lumber and log exports for the next six months.

### **President Biden Reverses Moratorium on Oil and Gas Leases**

In a move that may be a response to growing concerns about climbing energy costs, on Friday the Biden Administration announced that it would move forward with the sale of oil and gas leases on approximately 144,000 acres of public land. Although the parcels are a fraction the size of those proposed by the Trump Administration, the Department of Interior aims to maximize their potential impacts on domestic supply by focusing on acreage with existing energy infrastructure. This [announcement](#) reverses the

moratorium on new leases imposed by the Biden Administration during its first days in office.

## **Retirement Wave Crashes Through Congress**

The high number of lawmakers heading for the exits this cycle guarantees dozens of new faces on the Hill in 2023. As of April 6, 30 House Democrats and 17 Republicans have announced their retirements. On top of that, five Democrats and seven Republicans have otherwise resigned or died in office, adding to the turnover. This number could grow as we get closer to the election.

**REMINDER:** Congress returns to Washington next week after spending a two-week work period in the states.