

Maryland Takes the Lead: Governor Moore's Executive Order Promotes Locally Sourced Wood in State Construction Projects

Not since the enactment of Maryland's Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009—acknowledging the vital link between healthy, sustainably managed forests and a thriving Chesapeake Bay watershed—has Maryland garnered such national recognition as it has with Governor Moore's June 1, 2026, EXECUTIVE ORDER titled “Use of In-State Wood for Publicly Funded State Construction Projects.”

Take, for example, the statement from the American Loggers Council on June 22, 2026:

“The U.S. government should follow Maryland's lead and require that all wood products for government procurement be sourced and manufactured domestically.”

This EXECUTIVE ORDER positions Maryland as a national leader in promoting the use of locally sourced wood for publicly funded construction projects. Only Alaska has implemented a more comprehensive policy encouraging the use of locally harvested wood.

How did this initiative come to fruition?

The Association of Forest Industries (AFI), representing Maryland's forest industry, collaborated with members of the General Assembly and the Moore Administration for months to develop this initiative. Through persistent advocacy, AFI illustrated the economic, environmental, and public policy advantages of prioritizing Maryland-grown and Maryland-manufactured wood products in state-funded projects.

The EXECUTIVE ORDER not only strengthens Maryland's forest economy but also supports rural jobs, encourages sustainable forest management, and sets a precedent that other states—and even the federal government—are beginning to recognize.

The next challenge lies in effectively implementing the EXECUTIVE ORDER.

As major state-funded construction projects arise, Maryland's forest products industry has a unique opportunity to showcase that locally sourced wood can provide economic value, environmental benefits, and high-quality performance. Ongoing collaboration among state agencies, the forest products industry, and organizations like the Maryland Forests Foundation and AFI will be crucial in ensuring that the EXECUTIVE ORDER fulfills its promise and becomes a lasting model for the nation.