



Maryland Forestry Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2026

Maryland Governor Wes Moore Signs Executive Order to Promote In-State Wood for State Construction Projects

Annapolis, MD – In a landmark move to bolster the state's economy and promote sustainable forestry practices, Governor Wes Moore has signed **Executive Order 01.01.2026.10**, directing state agencies to prioritize the use of in-state wood for publicly funded construction projects across Maryland. The Maryland Forestry Foundation applauds Governor Moore's decision, as this order will impact both the state's leadership in environmental sustainability in maintaining healthy forested land and potentially encourage landowners to increase the percentage of their forested acreage. Multiple programs championed by the Maryland Forestry Foundation dovetail with the impacts the state will benefit from this new Executive Order, including our inclusive Ecological Services Strategy to strengthen landowner stewardship of Maryland forest resources.

Maryland Forestry Foundation President Gary G. Allen stated, "This executive order marks a pivotal step in promoting the sustainable use of the state's natural resources while strengthening local businesses' employment. By prioritizing in-state wood, the governor has not only supported local communities but also ensured that the state's construction practices are environmentally responsible."

The Maryland Forestry Foundation is dedicated to fostering the sustainable use of our forest resources, educating the public about the benefits of forests, and advocating for the protection and expansion of forest cover across the state. "Healthy Forests, Healthy Waters" is Maryland's largest tree-planting program on privately owned land. The initiative is a partnership among the Maryland Forest Service, the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the Maryland Forestry Foundation. As of spring 2025, it has planted more than 730,000 trees at more than 530 private landowner sites across 19 counties. Governor Moore's Executive Order is also expected to help Maryland achieve its 5-million-trees goal.

Key Highlights of the Executive Order:

- **Commitment to Sustainability:** The order aligns with Maryland's Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, emphasizing the ecological significance of sustainably managed forests to the Chesapeake Bay watershed's health.

Continued on Next Page



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Page Two - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2026 – Continued -

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- **Economic Impact:** The forest products industry contributes an estimated \$4 billion annually to Maryland's economy, supporting between **13,000 and 18,000 jobs**. This new directive aims to fortify this vital sector, which faces challenges from global market pressures.
- **Resource Management:** Maryland's forests, covering approximately **41%** of the state's land, exhibit a growth rate that consistently exceeds timber harvests, ensuring a sustainable supply of timber.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** By increasing reliance on in-state wood, the state aims to lower overall project costs, ensure sustainable management, and maximize taxpayer dollars while supporting local market economies.

Next Steps:

The **Department of General Services**, in collaboration with the **Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Natural Resources**, will implement the necessary measures to ensure this directive is integrated into all publicly funded construction projects.

This initiative is expected to enhance Maryland's commitment to sustainable development while ensuring that the state's rich forest resources are utilized effectively and responsibly.

For more information, please contact Gary G. Allen, President of the Maryland Forestry Foundation at info@marylandforestryfoundation.org or email gallenbay@gmail.com.

For more on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' role and next steps, contact Public Information Officer Sam Crane at DNR, email: sam.crane@maryland.gov or phone: 443-679-7510.

For details about Governor Wes Moore's Executive Order, contact Elizabeth Gray, Deputy Director of Communications, at elizabeth.gray@maryland.gov or phone (443) 995-4785.

The Maryland Forestry Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. To learn more, visit www.marylandforestryfoundation.org.

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