



FOREST RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

POLICY PRIORITIES

The **Forest Resources Association (FRA)** promotes the interest of forest products industry members in building federal public policy engagement, enhancing supply chain relations, and addressing forest operations challenges. It is the only national association to represent all sectors of the wood supply chain, and members are represented in 49 states and 387 Congressional Districts.



EXPERTISE

FRA connects the entire wood supply chain, from forest to mill, fostering collaboration and sharing technical expertise. Members rely on FRA for real-time insights into policy, operational improvements, and best practices to drive innovation and efficiency.



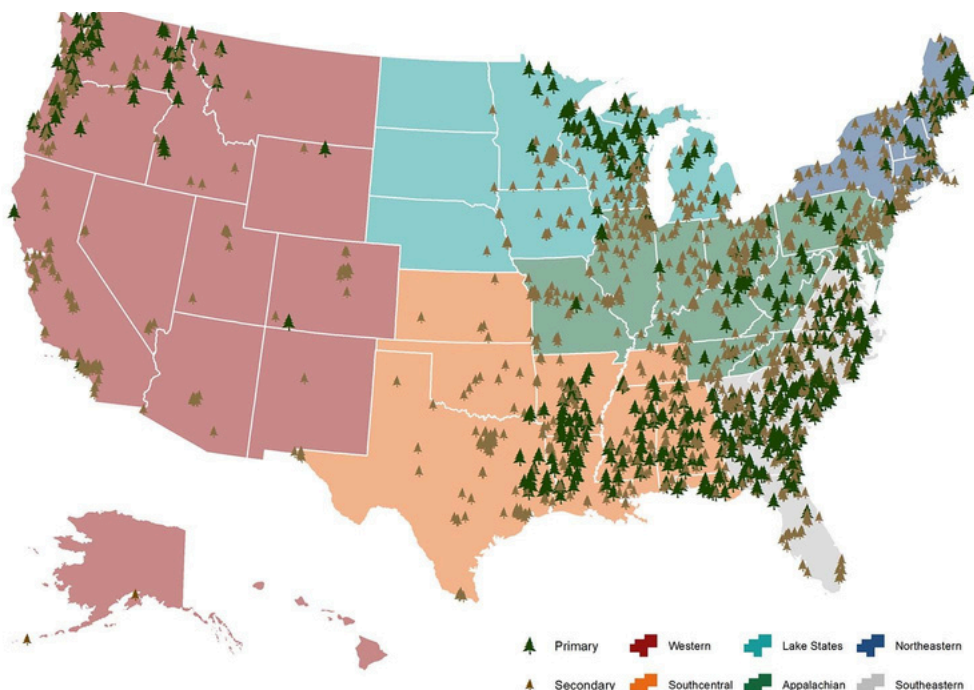
ADVOCACY

FRA champions effective public policies on Capitol Hill, advocating for less regulation and a stronger, more efficient wood supply chain. Members value FRA's ability to identify challenges, build consensus, and represent the industry's critical issues.



SAFETY

Safety is a core value of the forest products industry. FRA promotes best practices and safety improvements to ensure a safe work environment across the wood supply chain.




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49 states and 384
Congressional
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THE 119TH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Transportation

Transportation is a key vector in the movement of raw forest products from the woods to the mill. Every year, more than 17 million truck loads transport logs, pulpwood, biomass, and chips from the point of harvest to a mill or storage area. FRA will actively work to improve the safety and efficiency of transporting raw forest products and improve the availability of drivers.

Actions Include:

- Reintroduce the Safe Routes Act
- Work with allied associations to address driver shortage through policy or regulatory actions
- Continue to educate members of Congress on the safety and efficiency benefits of allowing log trucks access to the interstate at legal state limits
- Monitor and comment on rulemaking that may impact the wood supply chain.



Workforce

The sustainability and competitive viability of the forest industry relies on an intact, healthy wood supply chain, which includes skilled labor. The industry faces challenges in finding a trained and skilled workforce at all levels, leading to labor shortages that limit modernization and investments in rural communities.

Nonimmigrant labor through the H-2B visa program provides a critical workforce for essential forest health activities, including tree planting, fire suppression, timber stand improvement, and nursery tree seedling production.

Independent contractors are essential to the wood supply chain. They provide a diverse logging trucking workforce who make their own business decisions and operate under contracts or agreements to provide fiber to mills.

Actions Include:

- Reintroduce the Jobs in the Woods Act
- Support legislation to establish regional workforce training programs for individuals interested in a career in the forest products industry.
- Inform members of Congress on the workforce challenges of the forest products industry and propose proactive actions to address labor shortages throughout the supply chain.
- Work with the Logging Workforce Coalition to identify policy opportunities to improve the viability of the logging and log hauling sector.
- Protect and defend independent contractor status
- Advocate for enactment of legislative language that would provide the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security authorization to release supplemental H-2B visas
- Work with our allies to introduce legislation that provides meaningful H-2B cap relief
- Monitor broad immigration legislation and seek opportunities for H-2B forestry workers
- Continue to inform members of Congress about the importance of nonimmigrant labor to restore forestlands, fire suppression, and improve forest health.



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Carbon Neutrality of Biomass / Bioenergy

The forest industry is the primary producer and major consumer of a renewable, sustainable material derived from tree residuals known as biomass. This material takes many forms, including limbs and small branches generated at a harvesting site, bark and sawdust produced as a byproduct at sawmilling operations, and lignin extracted during the pulp and papermaking process. For pulp and paper facilities, upwards of 80 percent of a mill's heat and power needs are self-fulfilled using renewable forest-based biomass energy. FRA, along with governmental bodies ranging from the local to international level—including the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—view sustainably produced forest biomass energy as carbon neutral. Forest biomass does emit carbon when it is combusted for energy, but the carbon released is that which has been sequestered over the growing life of the tree. Sustainably managed forests, where forest growth exceeds removals, ensure that the continual cycle of carbon uptake and release remains in balance.

Actions Include:

- Include language in final spending bill that directs federal agencies to recognize the carbon-neutrality of forest-based biomass
- Monitor and comment on rulemaking that provides permanence to the recognition of forest-based biomass
- Work to include an inclusive definition of forest-based biomass in renewable energy legislation
- Monitor legislation that expands the utilization of biomass energy



Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides protection for those species that are threatened or endangered. The listing of a species has the potential to significantly impact forest operations. FRA will continue to monitor and provide comments on proposed species listings and work with our allies to ensure the most recent research is used to determine a species' ESA status.

Actions Include:

- Continue to monitor and provide comments on the implementation of proposed listings of species that may affect FRA members
- Support legislation that provides flexibility to the Endangered Species Act
- Engage federal agencies to ensure conservation measures for bat species have minimal impacts on timber management and transportation of raw forest materials.



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Farm Bill 2025

The Farm Bill provides funding for a variety of programs that include forestry, biomass energy, conservation, forest product inventory and research, and rural development. The current Farm Bill has been extended until Congress can pass a final bill.

Actions Include:

- FRA will work with members of Congress to include priorities of the Forest in the Farm Bill Coalitions
- Include provisions of the Jobs in the Woods Act
- Include a definition of carbon-neutral forest-based biomass that benefits the entire wood supply chain



Use of Wood Products in Multi-story Buildings

Improved technologies in the development of cross-laminated timbers have the potential to provide expanded markets for the solid wood product sector. FRA will provide support and monitor policies and regulations that provide a pathway for market growth in this area

Climate Change Legislation

FRA will monitor climate change legislation and outline potential impacts to the wood supply chain. The FRA Public Policy and Advocacy Committee will review and make necessary corrections to our position on climate change policies.

Trade Policy

U.S. trade policy has the potential to benefit and harm the forest products sector. FRA will work with our allies and monitor and report on trade policies that may impact the forest products industry. FRA will also review and comment on trade policy to assist Congressional leaders in making informed decisions on how policies may benefit or harm FRA members.

Federal Lands

The U.S. Forest Service is an important fiber supply source for the forest products industry in most regions of the United States. FRA will work with allied associations to ensure the Forest Service receives adequate funding to maintain and grow timber management on federal lands. FRA will support or oppose legislation that may have an impact on our members.

Tax Reform

FRA will work with our champions on Capitol Hill and association allies to preserve favorable business tax treatment that was delivered under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) in 2017. Many of those favorable provisions are beginning to phase down. Most notably, full expensing of business equipment - otherwise known as 100 percent bonus depreciation - will be fully phased out in 2027. Full expensing, which allows businesses to write off the full purchase price of machinery and equipment in the year in which it was purchased, is a critical tax benefit for small and medium-sized businesses. FRA will be working to restore the 100 percent bonus depreciation provision under TCJA and apply it retroactively to equipment purchased after January 1, 2023.