



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Executive Department

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE 2 (2026)**

#### **DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY TO ESTABLISH THE VIRGINIA WOOD COUNCIL**

Virginia's forests are major economic drivers for the Commonwealth. Forestry currently generates more than 108,000 related jobs and contributes \$21 billion annually to Virginia's economy. As much as 25% of revenue received from forest product sales is returned to the localities where the forests are located.

Federal tariffs and related market challenges are creating uncertainty for this vital Virginia industry. It is critical that Virginia proactively address these economic risks and ensure that all relevant stakeholders understand the challenges and have the opportunity to propose solutions.

#### **Directive**

Accordingly, I hereby direct the Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce & Trade and the Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources, to form the Virginia Wood Council. The Council will serve as a strategic advisory body to align key stakeholders in Virginia's wood and forest products industry and address current and future market challenges. The Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry, or her designee, shall be the chair of the Virginia Wood Council.

The Virginia Wood Council membership shall include representatives from across the forest economy, including:

- Department of Forestry;
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
- Virginia Economic Development Partnership;
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; and
- Other relevant government agencies, and key industry associations.

The Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry shall encourage the following groups to participate as members of the Council:

- Primary and secondary wood manufacturers;
- Forest landowners;
- Virginia-based academics;
- Virginia Farm Bureau;
- Virginia Forestry Association;
- Virginia Forest Products Association; and
- Virginia Loggers Association.

The Virginia Wood Council shall:

1. Support the retention, expansion, and recruitment of wood-based businesses, including sawmills, manufacturers, and secondary processors, within the Commonwealth;
2. Provide technical expertise and strategic guidance on domestic and international market development for Virginia-made wood products;
3. Identify and promote opportunities for investment, innovation, and competitive enhancement in the sector;
4. Collaborate with public and private partners to ensure that Virginia's forests remain both a sustainable resource and a driver of economic opportunity;
5. Support workforce development and training programs to address labor and skill needs in wood manufacturing and forest operations;
6. Recommend policies to strengthen supply chain infrastructure and logistics that benefit forest landowners, wood manufacturers and timber producers alike; and
7. Assess the success and further expansion of the Virginia Grown: Forest Products program.

The Council shall meet no fewer than three times annually and may advise on the use of public and private funds to support initiatives that modernize operations, build new markets, and align the forestry sector with Virginia's broader economic development and branding priorities.

On or before November 1, 2026, and each subsequent year, the Council shall submit an annual report to the Governor's Office detailing the progress made toward the goals and objectives outlined in this directive.

**Effective Date of the Executive Directive**

This Executive Directive shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 17th day of April 2026.



*Abigail D. Spanberger*

Abigail D. Spanberger, Governor

Attest:

*Candi Mundon King*

Candi Mundon King, Secretary of the Commonwealth