



NEWS RELEASE

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Freres Wood Responds to National Push to Increase Timber Production

Freres family supports Trump executive order, citing forest health and rural economies

LYONS, Ore., July 15, 2025 – Freres Engineered Wood, one of the country’s leading voices on sustainable wood products and responsible forest management, supports [President Trump’s executive order to expand U.S. timber production](#). The company maintains that increased timber harvesting is critical to restoring forest health and rural economies. Following the order, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) announced a \\$200 million investment](#) and a directive for the U.S. Forest Service to boost harvesting on national forests by 25 percent.

“We’ve spent more than a century caring for Oregon forests, and that mission hasn’t changed,” says Rob Freres, president of Freres Engineered Wood. “Responsible harvesting and salvage logging are vital tools for protecting our forests and mitigating threats such as invasive species, disease and wildfires. Thoughtful intervention—especially on federally owned land—is essential.”

Oregon’s forest sector is among the state’s top economic drivers, but decades of regulatory pressure have dramatically reduced timber supply, resulting in hundreds of mill closures and thousands of lost jobs. Yet another consequence of these regulations is American consumers have been redirected to foreign competitors like China, which [sources a significant portion of its own timber from countries with weaker—and in some cases illegal—forest management practices](#), like [Russia](#) and [Southeast Asia](#). Meanwhile, overstocked forests across the U.S. have fueled record-breaking wildfire seasons, creating what [U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Collins called “a national forest emergency.”](#)

Trump’s executive order outlines goals including improved forest health, reduced wildfire risk and renewed economic prosperity, especially in rural communities. Former [President Joe Biden shared these sentiments](#) in his 2022 executive order, which included key objectives such as “support sustainable forest management” and “expand markets for innovative wood products.” Although Trump’s order has received mixed feedback, highlighted in a recent [FOX News report](#), the Freres family and staff are hopeful that the shift signals a revived focus on active forest management and sustainable innovation.

Plans for the allocation of funds are still unfolding, but Freres Wood is collaborating with industry experts like the American Forest Resource Council and the U.S. Forest Service to ensure the investment supports long-term goals for forest stewardship, wildfire mitigation and rural job growth.

“Forest management is complex, and we know there are no easy answers,” says Freres. “However, we are encouraged by the opportunity to build collaborative partnerships over party divides. Together, we can restore forest health and strengthen rural economies, for generations.”

For more information about Freres Engineered Wood, visit www.frereswood.com.

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About Freres Engineered Wood Products

Freres Lumber Co., Inc., DBA [Freres Engineered Wood](http://www.frereswood.com), has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in Oregon’s Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres’ operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LLC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit www.frereswood.com or call 503-859-2121.