



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

2ND QUARTER 2025

2025 TEACHERS TOUR

Teachers Are Students of SC Sustainable Forestry

By Crad Jaynes
SC Timber Producers Association
Retired

The 2025 SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour was held June 24 – 27 based out of the Hampton Inn in Newberry, SC. The four-day Teachers Experience, as I like to call it, had 19 teachers from around the Palmetto State come to learn about sustainable forestry, public and private forest management, timber harvesting, forest products manufacturing and seeing and experiencing the industry firsthand.

This was my 28th Teachers Experience and was my last since I retired from SC Timber Producers Association effective June 30th. I have had a great time doing the Teachers Tour meeting and helping educate teachers about

sustainable forestry and forest products industries.

Tuesday after checking in for the experience, the tour headed to the Newberry College Teacher Education Center for the opening statements and instructions.

As I told the teachers when I opened the tour, we are not here this week to brainwash you but provide you with the facts and the science so you will see and experience our industry to form an educated opinion about our industries. I also told them,

“We are going to treat you like kings and queens, and not a bunch of dang ole teachers. You’ll learn a lot and have fun and eat well on the teacher experience.”

Matt Schnabel, SC Forestry Commission Education Coordinator con-

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ducted a Project Learning Tree activity, so the teachers could introduce themselves and get to know each other.

After the introduction session the tour headed to the Sumter National Forest Enoree office where U.S. Forest Service personnel explained the multi-use forest management of our National Forests. The tour learned how the Forest Service manages wildlife, timber production, clean water, recreation, animal and plant species biodiversity, aesthetics and other multi-use objectives.

After a tour of the Sumter National Forest site, the tour headed to Tidewater Equipment Company's Newberry store. Tidewater Equipment is a dealer for Tiger-cat logging equipment. Kevin Wright, the store manager, talked about Tidewater Equipment Company's history and how they operate. He explained the various logging equipment machines like the grapple skidders, feller bunchers, knuckleboom loaders with pull through delimbers, log trailers and how they operate harvesting and transporting timber to various forest products mills. The teachers toured the service shop where machines are repaired and serviced. Then the teachers headed to Newberry to Legends Steakhouse where Tidewater Equipment Company sponsored supper. Thanks to the Sumter National Forest and Tidewater Equipment Company for their assistance.

In the evenings after returning from a full day's experience, SC Timber Producers Association and I hosted what I call "our daily evening review." This is time to socialize, relax and enjoy a beverage, I won't say what kind of beverage, but you can guess it I'm sure and ask questions about what they saw that day. I've always made sure to answer questions after each day.

Wednesday was a busy day. The tour left early to visit Blake Kibler, Blake's Timber Incorporated, to visit his active logging jobsite on Mike Meetze's property outside of Newberry. Blake explained his logging operation and the teachers viewed the operation in action. The teachers were fascinated watching the machines operate and saw how the job works as a team. Property owner Mike Meetze and Blake's dad Russell Kibler was on the job too. I have had the pleasure of knowing Blake's dad Russell for over 40 years as he too has worked running logging jobs and driving log trucks.

The tour then headed to Mike Meetze Tree Farm outside Newberry where Mike discussed how he man-

ages his Certified Tree Farm. He described how he manages timber production, wildlife, recreation and aesthetics. When he has his timber harvested, Mike replants trees himself. Mike showed his portable sawmill and sawed a few cedar boards. After lunch, sponsored by Michael Kantz, Kantz Land Management, Matt Schnabel taught a Project Learning Tree activity about forest products. Thanks to Mike and his family for hosting the tree farm visit.



Mike Meetze shows off his portable sawmill

The teachers then headed to Beal Lumber Company in Prosperity for a tour of the hardwood lumber sawmill. Skipper Beal and Taylor Gibbs provided the details of the sawmill, their markets and how they manufacture their hardwood lumber products. Yes, it was a hot day, but the teachers braved the heat and toured the sawmill. With a pending thunderstorm, the teachers headed back to Newberry for supper sponsored by Beal Lumber Company instead of staying at the sawmill.

Thursday was an exciting day for the teachers. The tour visited the West Fraser Oriented Strand Board (OSB) mill in Joanna. Chris Gordy and his team welcomed the teachers to their mill. West Fraser's team of foresters, engineers and mill staff explained the processes for making OSB. What starts with debarking timber and creating flakes, the final product is OSB. The teachers toured the mill in groups and were fascinated to see and learn about the manufacture of an engineered wood product. Thanks to West Fraser for their hospitality and a great see and learn visit.

The Joe Adair Outdoor Center in Laurens was the next stop. Tanya Towne is the Center's Director and welcomed the teachers. She explained the Outdoor center's goal of being an education center for teachers, students and public to learn about nature and the outdoors. West Fraser sponsored lunch at the Center. Then the teachers headed outside to do a Project



Teachers at Joe Adair Outdoor Center in Laurens

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Learning Tree workshop headed by SC Forestry Commission's Leslie Wilson, Assistant Education Coordinator. After the workshop, the tour headed back to Newberry to freshen up for the Sponsors dinner at SC Department of Natural Resources Belfast Wildlife Management Area.

Sponsors came for dinner, met the teachers and talked to them about their learning experience. Dobbs Equipment in Grovetown, GA sponsored and cooked a low country boil. After dinner, I asked the teachers to introduce themselves, give their school's name and location, and provide remarks of their week's learning



Teachers Tour Sponsors Dinner

and seeing experience. Great comments were heard so the sponsors could understand how this experience educates and changes perceptions about our industry. The sponsors introduced themselves and thanked the teachers for attending the tour. Several teachers mentioned how close our industry's people are and how amazed they were about the many job opportunities, technology and science involved in the industry.

Much to my surprise, Emily Oakman, Forestry Association of South Carolina and director of the tour, presented me with some gifts recognizing my 28 teacher tours and my retirement. Of course, I got emotional and just said how much the tour means to me along with all the teachers I met, sponsors, tour staff, tour stops, steering committees and how proud I am to have been a part of the tours. It's one of the most important educational experiences we do in SC.

Friday was the tour closing, wrap ups, graduation and my final comments at the Newberry College Center for Teacher Education. Leslie Wilson led the Project Learning Tree 400 Acre Wood Activity, which is my favorite. Emily made her closing remarks, and I closed the tour.

I just said, many of you may have come with preconceived notions about our industry, and now I hope we have shown you the facts, the science, the technology and have provided you with the knowledge to teach your students and others about our industry. I said, "I told you we were going to treat you like kings and queens and not like a bunch of dang ole teachers. Have

fun seeing and learning and making new friends." It was unanimous by their response we did just that. I closed by telling them, "You are now a stakeholder in the sustainable forestry industry, go and spread the gospel about our sustainable forestry industry."

A great four days and I told the teachers I grade the days based on enthusiasm, asking the most questions and hanging out with me for the evening social review. My Enthusiasm Award went to Jalavender Clowney, My Most Asked Questions went to Troy Green and Evening Social Review went to Carolyn Dudley. On a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 the highest grade, I said I had never given a tour a 5. So, congratulations to this year's class for scoring a Big 5. A wonderful and great group for this year's tour.

My great thanks to Emily Oakman, Forestry Association of SC for being the tour director/coordinator, Bo Cason, Swiss Krono USA, Teachers Tour Steering Committee Chairman and tour sponsor, Matt Schnabel and Leslie Wilson of SC Forestry Commission for the PLT activities, Phillip Rabon, Steering Committee member and advisor and Traclynne Perkins, Domtar Paper Company forester, for being on the tour all week.

And my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who attended the tours, worked on the tours for all these years. I will miss it but will never forget it. It was a great experience for me and all the teachers. As I say... Love You...Mean It!

Crad



Michael Campbell, Blake Kibler, Russell Kibler

More Teachers Tour
photos on next page ...

More Teachers Tour photos ...



Matt Schnabel, SCFC, conducts a Project Learning Tree program



Teachers Tour at Tidewater Equipment Company



Blake Kibler explains his logging job



Teachers Tour at USFS Sumter National Forest Office



Timber Talk

*Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

Contact Michael Campbell at
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My Last President's Message

By Crad Jaynes
SCTPA Retired

As I write My Last President's Message, I am reminiscing about the great journey of my forty-eight-year career in and around the forestry, wood supply, forest products and logging segments.

I have such wonderful memories of my career and all the wonderful friends I have been able to make all over this nation. At seventy-two years of age now, it was time for me to move on in my life. I have devoted the last twenty-six years to the SC Timber Producers Association.

I am proud of the association's accomplishments and proud to have had the honor and privilege to serve and work for SC's logging, wood supply and timber transportation segments as well as work the many people in our forestry and forest products industry.

I want to thank the partners and friends who worked with me and the association such as the Forestry Association of SC, SC Trucking Association, SC Forestry Commission, SC State Transport Police, American Loggers Council, Forest Resources Association to name a few. Because of our relationships we were able to meet challenges and get things done.

Thanks to all past and present SCTPA members and board of directors. With members support and the board of directors' leadership, the association was able to make strides to improve our segment in SC.

I want to thank our SCTPA Communications Director Kathy Fudge for her dedication of twenty-five years to helping the association grow and assist me so I could focus on the tasks at hand.

Of course, I and the association would not be successful without the support and love of my family. My wife Brenda, son Jason and daughter Erin were always my rocks to help enjoy my career and support me through good times and not so good times. I can't express enough my appreciation and love for my family and their support.

I am confident the board of directors has hired the right person as my successor, Michael J. Campbell. He has a forestry degree from Clemson, started as a wood buyer for Stone Container, worked for Caterpillar in the forestry equipment division and worked for John Deere in the Waratah forestry and logging equipment division. He knows and understands the forestry, logging, wood supply and forest products businesses. He knows many people that I know and have known. I feel he will lead the association to grow and accomplish more. My best wishes are extended to Michael.

So, it is time to move on and enjoy my life as a father, husband and granddaddy. It's been a great journey and it's all because of the support, love and help of many people. Thank You!

And as I always say... **Log On & Truck Safe! Love Ya ... Mean It!**



SCTPA INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members, Supporters, and Colleagues,

I am honored and excited to serve as your next President and CEO of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association. Thank you to the board for entrusting me with this vital role representing our state's timber harvesting professionals.

I also want to sincerely thank Crad Jaynes for his remarkable 26 years of dedication to our association and 48 years of working with loggers throughout the industry. Crad has built a solid foundation that I'm committed to strengthening and expanding.

Over the past 30 years, I've dedicated my career to helping loggers and mills worldwide improve their productivity. In this new role, I'll bring that same commitment home, focusing specifically on the producers and loggers in South Carolina.

I understand the uncertainty and concern many of you feel given recent mill closures and stagnant markets. While our community has weathered challenges before and will face them again, I'm confident that together we can overcome these obstacles and create a stronger business environment.

Our success depends on uniting the entire timber harvesting community behind our mission. I challenge each of you to help bring more people from our industry into our organization so we can elevate SCTPA to the next level. When we work together and support one another, we create the conditions we all need to thrive.

While I'll continue to maintain and grow SCTPA's relationships with other organizations and businesses, my primary focus will remain creating a better business environment for South Carolina's loggers. Your ideas and participation will shape our association's future, and my door is always open to your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions.

Let's work as one team to support each other's growth.

Looking forward to serving you,

Michael J. Campbell

Michael J. Campbell

President/CEO

South Carolina Timber Producers Association



Hampton Lumber to Build New Sawmill in South Carolina

June 24, 2025

Today, Hampton Lumber announced plans to build a new, state-of-the-art sawmill in Allendale County, South Carolina. This facility will expand Hampton's presence in the U.S. and support the company's long-term vision to become North America's preferred source of wood solutions. The new mill will specialize in producing high-quality Southern Yellow Pine framing lumber. This will be the company's first new sawmill on the East Coast and once fully operational, will provide 125-140 new jobs in the area.

"Hampton Lumber's new operation in Allendale County will be a notable addition to our state's forestry industry, while also providing opportunities for our people and contributing to the local economy," said South Carolina Governor, Henry McMaster. "We are proud the company recognized South Carolina as the ideal home for its first East Coast mill and look forward to supporting its success in our state."

Hampton Lumber is committed to operating one of the most efficient dimension lumber mills in the region. The facility will help meet the growing demand for housing materials while creating high-quality jobs and fostering long-term economic growth in the area.

"The enthusiastic, heartfelt support from the state and local community helped us come to the conclusion that this is the right location," said Hampton Lumber CEO, Randy Schillinger. "We look forward to building partnerships in the area and supporting the communities of Allendale County."

Hampton Lumber brings over 80 years of experience in the sawmill business to this new venture. A fourth-generation, family-owned company, Hampton currently operates nine sawmills in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. The new mill will complement these existing operations and help the company diversify its product offerings.

"Our deep roots in the Pacific Northwest have shaped our values of integrity, sustainability, and community engagement—principles that will guide how we operate in Allendale County," said Schillinger.

Construction of the mill is expected to begin later this year, with operations slated to commence in early 2027.

"We're excited to be part of the community," Schillinger added. "The area is home to a healthy wood products industry and there is ample, high-quality timber available to support this new mill for years to come. We are exceedingly grateful to the state of South Carolina, and the county and community partners who helped make this project possible."

About Hampton Lumber

Hampton Lumber is a fourth-generation, family-owned company headquartered in Portland, Oregon. With over 80 years in the sawmill business, Hampton operates sawmills in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia and markets wood products all over the world. Hampton also manages a wholesale and lumber export division and numerous reload, remanufacturing and advanced wood manufacturing facilities throughout the U.S. through affiliates, Idaho Timber and RedBuilt. All of Hampton's forestlands are certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), an independent, non-profit organization that promotes sustainable forest management. SFI certified forests play an important role in water conservation, wildlife habitat, and climate solutions.

SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION AND SOUTH CAROLINA TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION PARTNER TO ESTABLISH A NEW PORTABLE BRIDGE PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) has received funding from the US Forest Service and is partnering with the South Carolina Timber Producers Association (TPA) to establish a new portable bridge purchase assistance program. The SCFC and TPA are now accepting applications for the new program to improve stream crossing BMP compliance and help protect the waters of South Carolina.

Funds will be available to eligible forest products operators for the purchase of portable bridges. To be eligible for the program, applicants must reside in South Carolina and be certified under the TOP Logger Program administered by the Forestry Association of South Carolina or an acceptable equivalent. In addition, applicants must not have any tracts with unresolved BMP compliance issues.

Funding is based upon actual expenses incurred. Program funding will pay 75% of the total costs to purchase a portable bridge up to a maximum payout of \$15,000. The applicant will be responsible for paying the remaining amount. Applications must be approved before the purchase is made to be eligible for reimbursement payments.

The initial application period will open on Monday, July 7, 2025, and close on Friday, August 1, 2025. If the applications received exceed the available funds, a lottery system will be used to select which applicants receive funding. A \$300 processing fee will apply to all applicants selected for funding. However, this fee will be waived for current and new TPA members. If there are funds remaining after the initial funding period, they will be available on an open-enrollment basis. Program information and the application form can be found on the SCFC website (bit.ly/SCTPAbridge). If you would like to be considered for funding, complete and submit the application form by August 1, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact:

Environmental Program Manager
Holly Welch
(803) 667-0815
email at hwelch@scfc.gov





FOR THE PORTABLE BRIDGE PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) has received funding from the U.S. Forest Service and is partnering with the South Carolina Timber Producers Association (TPA) to establish a new portable bridge purchase assistance program.

Who is eligible?

- ▶ Funds will be available to eligible forest products operators.
 - Applicants must reside in South Carolina and be certified under the TOP Logger Program.
 - Applicants must not have any tracts with unresolved BMP compliance issues.

How much is reimbursed?

- ▶ Program funding will pay for 75% of the total costs to purchase a portable bridge up to a maximum payout of \$15,000.

When to apply?

- ▶ Application period will open on July 7, 2025, and close Aug. 1, 2025.



For more information or to apply, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/SCTPAbridge



A Message to the Logging Industry from Rick Quagliaroli: Senate Bill 244 Is Just the Beginning

To the South Carolina's logging industry,

As a longtime advocate for responsible reform and the future of our industry, I want to share some personal insight on Senate Bill 244 (S.244)—a major tort reform bill recently passed by the South Carolina Senate. While this bill marks progress, it is by no means the final solution to the challenges we face.



Why S.244 Matters

South Carolina has become increasingly litigious, and the logging industry—along with trucking, hospitality, and small businesses—has shouldered the burden. Insurance costs are rising, and companies are being held liable far beyond their actual level of fault. S.244 begins to correct some of these imbalances:

- **Proportional Liability:** Prevents businesses from being held fully liable when their fault is minimal, helping ease insurance premiums.
- **Comparative Negligence Reform:** Prevents plaintiffs who are more than 50% at fault from collecting damages.
- **Inclusion of Nonparties:** Allows juries to fairly assess responsibility across all contributing parties.
- **Alcohol Liability Reforms:** Ensures that businesses are only responsible for damages that match their share of fault.

These are positive developments, and we applaud Senator Shane Massey and others who have worked to bring this forward

But Let's Be Clear — This Is Only the Start

S.244 is not a silver bullet. It doesn't solve the deeper issues of inflated jury verdicts, inconsistent judicial outcomes, or the growing influence of social inflation on insurance pricing. For loggers, haulers, and mill operators, the financial pressure remains. And while S.244 provides some relief, it is now up to us to continue the work.

What You Can Do

We are calling on every member of the logging and timber community to get engaged:

- **Start Conversations:** Reach out to your local senators and representatives. Thank them for supporting S.244—and tell them where the law still falls short.
- **Share Your Story:** Let lawmakers hear the real-world impact these rising insurance costs and liability issues are having on your business and employees.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep up with future legislative efforts. Tort reform is evolving, and we need your voice at the table. [The Senate's Lawsuit Reform Bill: Here's What You Need to Know About S.244](#) : Palmetto Promise Institute [2025-2026 Bill 244: Tort Reform - South Carolina Legislature Online](#)

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Final Thoughts

Senate Bill 244 is a step in the right direction—but it's only a step. The logging industry cannot afford to sit back now.

Let's make sure lawmakers understand that if they want to protect South Carolina's forests, economy, and working families—they must continue working with us to create a fair and sustainable legal environment.

Sincerely,

Rick Quagliaroli

Swamp Fox Agency

Advocate for the Logging Industry



The Coalition for Law Suit Reform in South Carolina Holds Meeting

By Rick Quagliaroli, Swamp Fox Agency, LLC
June 19, 2025

Coalition for Lawsuit Reform South Carolina held a meeting in Columbia on June 19, 2025. The meeting was well attended with 100 attendees. Attendees from our industry included Cam Crawford, Reg Williams, Jake Scott, Rick Quagliaroli, Jeremy Barclay and Sarah Stansell.

The meeting had two sessions:

- A legislative panel
- A Coalition issues meeting

The legislative panel included Senators Ross Turner, 8th District, Sean Bennett, 38th District, Representatives Mark Smith, 99th District, and Gary Brewer, 114th District. All members of the panel are business owners. There were not attorneys on the panel. All were active supporters of tort reform.

They reviewed the recent legislative success involving Senate bill 244 and the House counterpart HB 3430. The ultimate tort reform based as HB3430. They characterized the bill as a step forward. While compromises from the original 244 were made the ultimate legislation achieved some victories for tort reform. There was agreement that many more steps are required to affect real tort reform.

Representative Brewer is Chairing an ad hoc

committee on insurance reform. He will be holding hearing to address availability, the number of insurance carriers operating in the state for commercial auto and other lines of business and seeking what type of rate reductions can be achieved.

The Coalition issues were the second part of the agenda. Here the focus was upon the activities necessary to continue the momentum. Russ Dubisky who leads the Coalition went through the strategic plan to lead to change.

The Coalition is developing a plan to become an increasing part of the discussion. Russ outlined how the Coalition sees the future and what it will take to change the current environment. The Executive Committee and Board will set up a series of next steps including identifying candidates for office. A House race costs \$40,000 to \$100,000. Industry support is required to make this happen. It is critical that candidates be identified in 2024 to be ready for the next house election cycle.



SCTPA members & supporters at Tort Reform Bill Press Conference March 5th at SC Statehouse



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Monument Advocacy Bi-Monthly Report

January – April 2025

Report Date: May 15, 2025

Over the past several months, Monument Advocacy has worked with Scott Dane, Mike Albrecht, and the broader American Loggers Council to elevate forestry issues in Washington – in particular through advocating for the Fix Our Forests Act, for tax provisions which will increase end markets and demand for woody biomass and forest products, and through early and consistent engagement with the Trump Administration.

Over the past two weeks, Monument Advocacy and ALC have met with:

- Staff from the Senate Agriculture Committee, to discuss the Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Program, including potential extension of the program, which addresses a key issue in maintaining healthy forests – keeping them clear of excess material that can contribute to forest fires.
- Staff from USDA's Office of the Secretary, to discuss tax revisions to Sections 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit & 45Y (Clean Electricity Production Credit), which would incentivize domestic biomass energy production, promoting healthy forests.
- Tax staff for Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA), to discuss Sections 45Z & 45Y.
- While ALC President Mike Albrecht was in town, meetings were held with Senator Cassidy's staff to discuss incentivizing domestic biomass energy production. We met with the Environmental Protection Agency's Agriculture Advisor to discuss including biomass as eligible energy production under the Renewable Fuel Standard – which would be a significant driver in biomass demand. We are working to secure a meeting with Speaker Johnson's Energy staffer as well.
- Staff from four other congressional offices to discuss moving our preferred changes through for Sections 45Z & 45Y including staff for Senator Barrasso (R-WY); Representative Carter (R-GA); Representative Stauber (R-MN); and staff from the Senate Finance Committee.

Earlier in April, Monument Advocacy supported the ALC/American Biomass Energy Association joint fly-in, organizing a meeting with White House officials to cover a range of pressing issues for ALC – including restrictive regulations on endangered species, urging more proactive federal management in forestry, and pushing for tax changes in support of the biomass industry – helping promote healthy forest management. We also coordinated with Congressional Offices



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to bring in speakers for the group, including Representative McClintock (R-CA) and Representative Westerman (R-AR), a Congressional leader on forestry issues.

Earlier still, we facilitated early engagement with the White House – helping raise the profile of issues facing ALC members and the forestry industry, and position ALC as a valuable resource for Administration Staff. President Trump subsequently signed an Executive Order to increase domestic timber production, and the White House has pushing Executive Agencies to follow through on delivering clear improvements in federal forest management and timber sales.



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2

LUMBER MILL PLEDGES 125 NEW JOBS IN RURAL ALLENDALE COUNTY

By: Jessica Holdman - June 26, 2025
South Carolina Daily Gazette

Alumber company plans to make rural Allendale County home to its first East Coast sawmill, employing 125 South Carolinians.

Oregon-headquartered Hampton Lumber announced it will build the new \$225 million mill near the town of Fairfax. The 375,000-square-foot mill is expected to make framing lumber used in home construction, with production scheduled to begin in 2027.

"This investment will benefit not only our state's timber farmers but will also offer quality jobs in a largely rural and agricultural part of the state," state Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers said in a statement.

And State Forester Scott Phillips called the mill a "welcome boost to the industry and to communities that rely on forestry for economic opportunity."

The mill is expected to buy southern yellow pine common in South Carolina, a potential shot in the arm to a state timber industry that has been struggling amid closures of major paper mills.

"We're happy to join the healthy wood products industry already present in the region, and we look forward to building

partnerships in the area and supporting the communities in and around Allendale County," Hampton Lumber CEO Randy Schilling said in a statement.

It's also a boost for Allendale County, among the state's poorest counties with historically high jobless rates. The county's 4.8% unemployment rate last month ranked 10th highest, according to the State Department of Employment and Workforce.

Southern Carolina Alliance President Danny Black, the head of the region's economic development agency, said Allendale County Council is considering a deal that would lower Hampton Lumber's property taxes to a 4% rate for 40 years in exchange for the company's investment.

By state law, manufacturers without such an arrangement pay a 6% rate. (Industrial property owners previously paid a 10.5% rate, but state laws passed in 2017 and 2022 effectively lowered it to 6%.)

The state also approved the company for income tax credits worth \$25,000 per new job annually.

"Hampton Lumber's new operation in Allendale County will be a notable addition to our state's forestry industry, while also providing opportunities for our people and contributing to the local economy," Gov. Henry McMaster said in a statement.

Those interested in working at the lumber mill can learn more on the company's careers webpage.





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If it Ain't Broke, Why Fix It?

That seems to be a common sentiment amongst a number of logging business owners when it comes to considering how they can improve the way they handle a fundamental part of their logging operation: tracking, receiving revenue for, and paying for the loads they produce.

The problem is: often they don't even know their methods are broken until they try another method.

And then they see the **time they were wasting** with their old methods, and **the money they were leaving on the table** from loads that were paid incorrectly, and the **ticket errors** that their old methods never allowed them to catch. I can say these bold comments because our clients have repeatedly made these observations to me over the years— all because they were willing to embrace a new way of doing things.

Sometimes the most positive outcomes in our lives - and our businesses - come from "making improvements" rather than just "making do." And those improvements allow us to get ahead instead of just get by.

The last time you bought a new machine for the woods, chances are, your old one was probably still working. Yet you embraced the change because you believed a new machine would help you be more productive.

In the same way, doesn't it make sense to consider making a positive change to enhance productivity in the office?

Not only will it enhance productivity, it can even help you make more informed decisions about where your business is most in need of positive change.

Call Caribou today to learn how our software solutions can help you enhance your productivity and your professionalism in the office, and help you get a better handle on the economics of your business so you can stay in business.

Whether you run a 2-person operation or a 20+ one, our **StumpGeek system** and our **Logger's Edge system** have you covered. We invite you to join over 300 logging contractors across the US and Canada who rely on our solutions every day to do their businesses better. Contact Teresa Hannah at 850-532-6206 x1 to schedule a consultation to determine which solution is best for your business.



Braveheart, Billboards, and the Truth

We've all seen the movie or at the very least heard of it. Claymore swords and kilts vs. mounted knights in armor. Blue face paint, bagpipes, and nudity vs. stuffy English villains in large castles. The age-old tale of the fight for freedom against a seemingly invincible oppressor. Mel Gibson butchering a Scottish accent. The movie "Braveheart" has reached levels of fame that put the film into the category of commonplace and most viewers assume, understandably so, that the facts presented in the movie are at least somewhat historically accurate. They'd be wrong. In fact, "Braveheart" is for me the leading example of what I call Hollywood-ized history. Films "based on a true story" that are in fact not based on anything historical save one event or, in this case, a general time-period.

So how does this relate to legal advertising and company materials like training and safety manuals? Simple: personal injury attorneys bending the truth in advertising to create a more interesting narrative and companies failing to match up a story to the facts both have negative impacts in the short and long term. By misconstruing characters, events, and details, advertising and company materials can trend away from useful resources to information that misleads the public and potentially harms the corporation's image.

However, before the correlation can be drawn, it's important to understand just what it is that a history nerd like myself takes issue with in the film and for the sake of brevity, I've picked two broad topics that embody the orchestra of errors throughout: character misrepresentation and ignoring the details.

The character misrepresentation is best represented by the title, which is in and of itself wrong. "Braveheart" was not the nickname for William Wallace but the nickname for King Robert the Bruce, a much cooler version of Wallace, who actually defeated the English at Bannockburn and actually unified a divided, warring Scotland, AND actually confirmed one of the first modern Scottish independent states via the Treaty of Northampton. We're talking about a guy who got the nickname "Braveheart" because he was so upset he didn't get to go crusading with his buddies during the Reconquista that before he died, he made one of his knights swear to take his literal heart from Scotland to Spain and throw it at his adversaries in battle, not for the effect but on principle. Devoted guy. Serious about his religion. Loved Scotland. Used a warhammer. Awesome. Yet, people credit Wallace with most of these achievements and assume you confused Robert Downey Jr. and Bruce Banner when you say "Robert the Bruce." Through the lens of a law student, this problem can be seen in legal advertising today. Exaggerated advertising that plays on the fears of the general public leads to a misconception about the "characters" at play in your typical lawsuit.

The second major problem with the film is the issue of attention to detail. Things like depicting the film's climactic battle, the Battle of Stirling Bridge, but forgetting to include a bridge anywhere in the battle. Or having the Scots in the movie wear belted tartan (a plaid design unique to Scotland) when such designs didn't exist until hundreds of years after the real Wallace died. Or the fact that the Scots are wearing kilts and belted tartan at all when the real Scottish army at the time fought armored and with

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massive spears in an incredibly stubborn, static, but awesome formation called a “schiltron.” That’s right, the Scots decided the best way to combat cavalry at the time was to stand completely static in circles made up of groups of 20-30 armored men holding a bunch of pikes like an army of bad-tempered giant, autonomous, medieval nightmare hedgehog-tanks and basically beg the English to charge at them full speed. I don’t want to meet the person who thinks Mel Gibson and Co. dressing up as the Blue Man Group in kilts and attacking armored knights with farming tools is a better story. It simply does not hold a candle to what really happened. Anybody doubting this is welcome to grab a few buddies, suit up in armor, and play chicken with a herd of stallions. The lack of attention to detail seemingly produced a silver screen classic but a very real argument exists that the true story of “Braveheart” would have been even better. Such is the case with attention to detail in company materials.

Just as familiar as “Braveheart” is to the general public, so too are the billboards and advertisements showing trucks plowing into totaled vehicles or ominous visuals of eighteen wheelers intended to scare the viewer. They usually feature a suit-clad attorney angrily glaring at the camera or onto the highway with the fill-in-the-blank slogan: “Injured in [type of accident]? Call [law firm number] and we’ll fight for you!” These types of ads are easy to poke fun at but are incredibly effective at communicating the general point that big vehicles that transport goods sometimes can be scary. The results speak for themselves as juries are more and more willing to return astronomical verdicts for minor injuries. Personal injury lawyers then take those verdicts and portray themselves even more so as a protector of the people from the supposed danger of trucks. This is not to say that all plaintiff’s advertising is misleading - it’s not. In fact, some of this plaintiff’s work is both good and necessary. The problem arises when intentions shift more toward the outcome of telling a story and away from making sure that story is true and accurate. Just like with “Braveheart,” the danger is a public equipped with preconceived notions that are somewhat misleading if not entirely inaccurate.

Hiring and firing processes, training and safety manuals, and a corporation’s public image are about as important to the longevity and success of a transportation company as a good business plan. In the current climate where juries are willing, if not eager, to deliver a nuclear verdict, staying true to the details is essential. It can be easy to start idealizing training and safety processes in the sphere of transportation due to the risk involved with operating in that same sphere. It can be easy to “forget the bridge” and leave out aspects of the hiring or firing process because it doesn’t look great in writing. It can be easy, almost tempting, to inflate the corporation’s approach to business for the purposes of public consumption. These practices, however, only serve to put a company at greater risk by articulating a standard that should be adhered to and then failing to meet that standard. There is no quicker way to admit fault or guilt than by admitting it and while this sounds simple, it can be a bit harder to see in practice. No matter what legalese a judge or attorney may use during a trial, juries will always look for discernable language that helps them determine the standard by which to hold a defendant accountable. They don’t speak the alien language lawyers speak. They speak like normal people. Thus, it becomes exponentially harder to defend yourself from a “bad company” narrative when you’ve given the jury a plain-English standard that isn’t being met. There are no guarantees in the law but generally people appreciate the truth, unvarnished and are less inclined to listen when they feel they are being misled. Just make sure that truth is one you don’t mind telling. Take a look at your daily operations and if there are problem areas, fix them. Ask questions, self-audit, and take the extra step necessary to make sure that when and if the story has to be told about your company, it’s a story you want told.

In summary, this article should serve as a fun reminder that over-analyzation can be a good thing. Yes, Braveheart is a movie. And yes, this may sound like a history nerd’s over-analysis. But the point stands: the truth, even when it’s messier, is often more compelling—and certainly more defensible. Whether in a courtroom or on a billboard, stories have power. The real characters and the real details

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matter. Companies, like individuals, are judged not just by their intentions but by their actions. When the story gets too far ahead of the facts, it becomes a liability. So take a moment. Revisit your materials. Re-examine your practices. And make sure the story you're telling is the truth—because that's the one that holds up best, on screen or in court.

If you have questions about this article, contact Caleb Setliff (csetliff@setlifflaw.com) or Steve Setliff (ssetliff@setlifflaw.com) at 804-377-1261. Caleb clerked for the law firm last summer and graduated from Liberty University School of Law in May - he will sit for the bar in July.



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Lumber company announces closure of 2 SC sawmills

By: Jessica Holdman - June 27, 2025, South Carolina Daily Gazette

Some 290 South Carolinians will lose their jobs as a pair of lumber mills close in the Pee Dee and Lowcountry.

Canfor Corp. announced Friday it would shutdown two of its South Carolina sawmills — one in Darlington and another in rural Hampton County, near the small town of Estill.

"We understand the significant impact this difficult decision will have on our employees," Canfor Southern Pine President Lee Goodloe said in a statement.

The Darlington plant employs about 120 people, and the Estill plant employs about 170 people. Layoffs will start Aug. 25 and continue over the next six months, according to filings with the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.

Canfor attributed the closure to "persistently weak market conditions and sustained financial losses."

The company, which operates in the southeastern United States, western Canada and Sweden, suffered a \$942 million operating loss in 2024 and \$29 million of

losses in the first three months of 2025, according to earnings statements. Much of that loss came from U.S. operations and low demand for the southern yellow pine common to South Carolina.

"Looking ahead, North American lumber markets are anticipated to experience continued volatility and uncertainty throughout the second quarter of 2025. Ongoing affordability challenges and tariff-related disruptions to traditional trade flows are projected to result in tepid demand in the near term," the company wrote in its latest financial report.

Canfor had already curtailed one shift at its Darlington facility and reduced operating hours in Estill.

In Hampton County, the Estill mill was one of just six employers with more than 100 workers, according to the state employment agency.

But with one loss comes a different gain.

The Estill mill sits just across the county line and less than 15 miles away from a new sawmill planned for Allendale County.

Hampton Lumber announced Tuesday that the town of Fairfax would become home to its first East Coast sawmill, employing 125 South Carolinians. Production is scheduled to begin in 2027.

Canfor continues to operate mills in Camden and Conway, as well as a smaller facility in Marion and a corporate office in Myrtle Beach, according to its website.

Friday's announcement follows the 2023 closure of Westrock Co. paper mill in North Charleston, which had operated more than 86 years, and last year's closure of International Paper in Georgetown, an 87-year-old paper mill.

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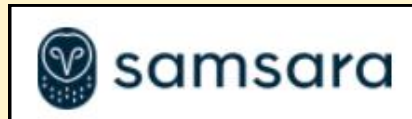
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Christian Houston-Floyd is the Samsara Account Executive. His direct contact is 470-502-6900 extension 3 or online at christian.houston@samsara.com.

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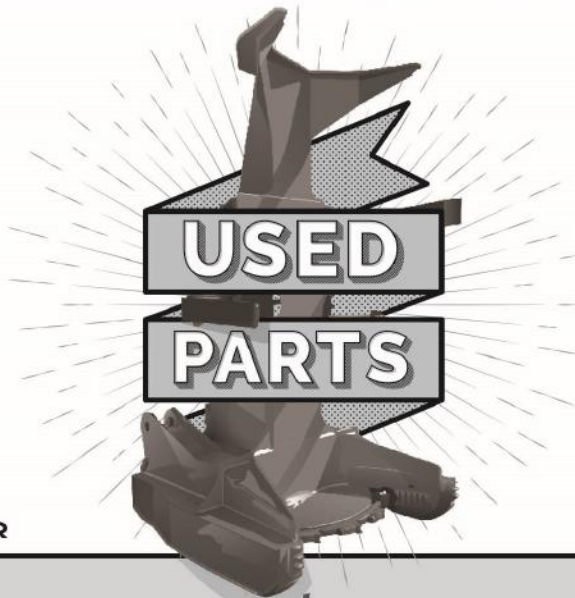
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Team Safe Trucking Driver Safety Training Modules Outline (additional modules available covering various subjects)

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association Educational Sponsor Website

southcarolinatimberassociation-teamsafe.talentlms.com - (31 courses) Driver Refresher Training Program Courses
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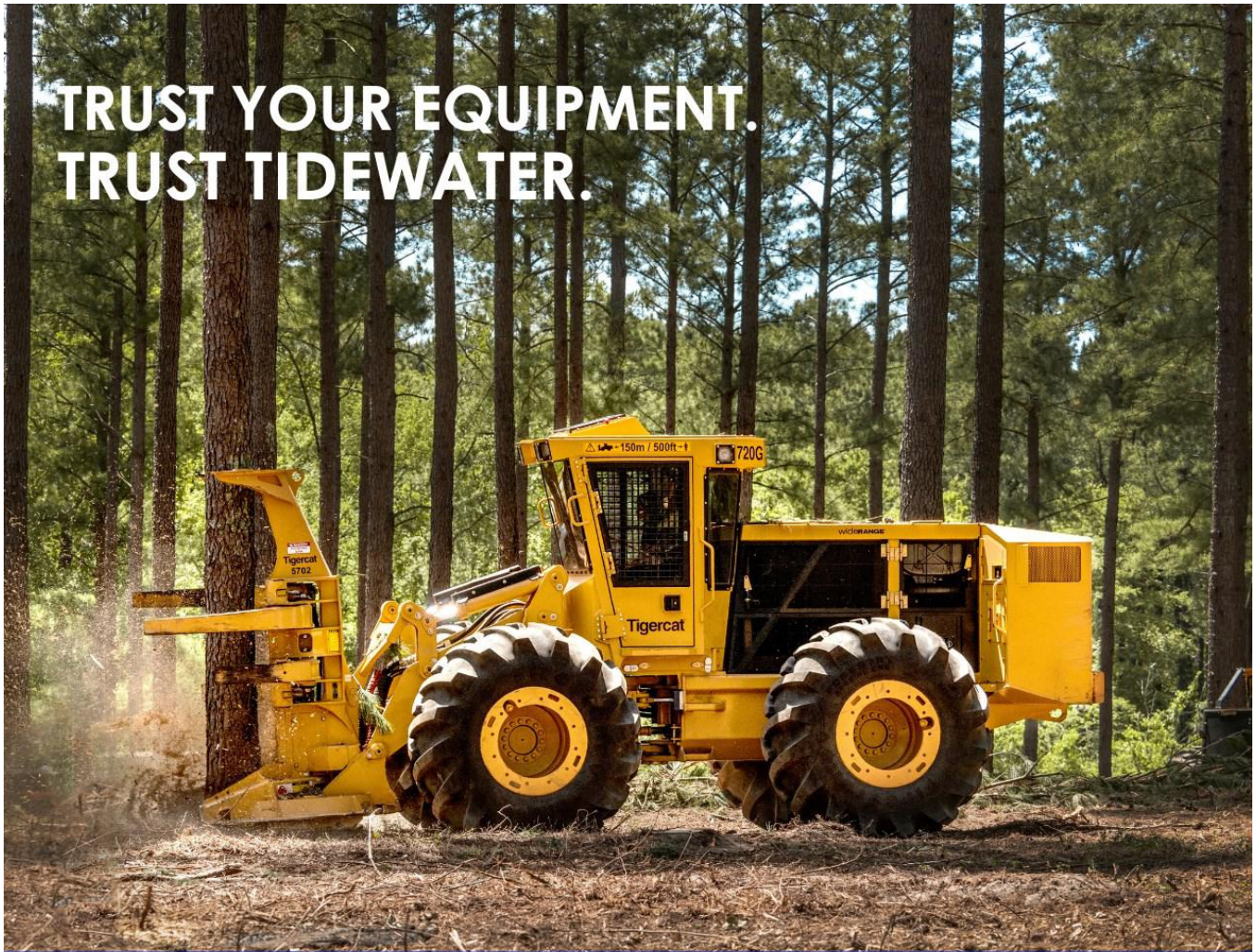
Driver Refresher Training Courses:

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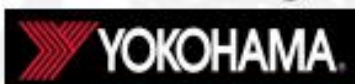
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...BREAKING NEWS...

After months of hard work, we have launched our new website. Members will now have access to their SLC invoices 24/7 with a member login! Amongst the new features are the "find the nearest station" to my location feature, an approved national tires and parts dealers with location info, fill out an application on-line and other features that will assist in the improved communication with our members. The SLC's founding "Cost-Cutting Mission" continues!



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June 26, 2025

Safety – An Important Element of Forestry Transportation SCHNEIDER



Transporting logs from remote forest tracts to mills involves managing complex logistics through difficult terrain. At Schneider, a trusted leader in transportation and logistics, we promote and teach safety in all aspects of our operations, ensuring our drivers transporting logs are supported with reliable systems and responsible practices.

Specialized Training for Forestry Environments

Forestry transportation presents unique challenges: rough terrain, heavy equipment, and unpredictable weather. To meet these demands, Schneider emphasizes comprehensive driver training. From the first day, drivers undergo hands-on onboarding, defensive driving courses, and continuous education to help provide them with the skills and knowledge they desire to operate safely.

Some of the safety areas that Schneider focuses on include:

Logging-specific protocols:

Drivers are trained in how to work safely around heavy machinery, navigate unpaved roads, and maintain situational awareness in woodyards. Each new hire is paired with a certified trainer for on-the-job instruction at active logging sites and mill woodyards and receives training focused on securement, speed management, following distance, and maneuvering with treelength log overhangs.

(Continued on page 29)

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Emergency preparedness:

All forestry drivers are CPR and first aid certified before assignment and receive training in in-woods communication and emergency response procedures. Because forestry operations often take place in remote areas, Schneider partners with local vendors for breakdown support, all of which is coordinated through Schneider Emergency Maintenance.

Effective communication:

Communication is critical in forestry operations. Our trucks are equipped with CB radios for coordination with loaders and mill personnel. New trailers feature onboard suspension scales with handheld readouts, allowing drivers to monitor load weights from a safe distance.

Vehicle operation and maintenance:

Drivers receive extensive training on pre-trip and post-trip inspections, including specialized instruction on folding landing gear and the coupling/uncoupling process. All forestry drivers must pass a Qualification Road Test with a loaded trailer. Our new trailers also feature auto-tensioners on two-strap winches to secure loads and minimize the risk of log displacement.

Regulatory compliance:

Schneider conducts thorough research into state-specific weight and length regulations for forest product transport. We obtain all necessary permits to ensure full compliance with environmental and road use guidelines.

A Culture of Safety:

Schneider's core value, "Safety First and Always," drives our decisions. This culture ensures that drivers are not only trained but also supported with tools and systems to operate safely. In-cab navigation aids, regular vehicle inspections, and a strong communication network all contribute to minimizing risks on the road and in the woods.

Reliable Support in the Field:

Safety doesn't end with training. Ongoing support, real-time communication, and a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating hazards are essential. Whether it's through FRA-sponsored safety research or legislative efforts like the Safe Routes Act, we are continuously looking for ways to improve safety.

Your Trusted Forestry Logistics Provider:

Schneider delivers more than transportation—we provide a reliable, responsible, and safety-focused solution for your entire forestry supply chain. From the first mile to the last, we're here to help you move forward with confidence.

Talk to a Schneider expert to learn how our full-service transportation solutions can bring consistency, safety, and productivity to your operations.



Wood paneling manufacturer pledges \$250M investment, 300 jobs in rural SC

By: Jessica Holdman - May 21, 2025 – South Carolina Daily Gazette



A German wood paneling maker plans to open a \$250 million manufacturing plant in South Carolina's rural Clarendon County.

Homanit announced Wednesday it will build its first United States manufacturing facility on 140 acres near the small community of Alcolu — population 425.

The company pledged to employ 300 people in the area located off Interstate 95, about 40 miles north of its intersection with I-26.

"This investment marks a significant milestone for our company, and we're proud to become part of such a vibrant and forward-looking region," Homanit Managing Director Fritz Homann said in a statement. "The area's skilled workforce, strategic location and strong infrastructure make Clarendon County the ideal foundation for our next phase of growth in North America."

The announcement marks the largest single investment in Clarendon County economic development history, according to Central SC Alliance President Jason Giulietti.

"Homanit's announcement to establish such a large operation in Clarendon County represents a tremendous vote of confidence in our state's forestry and manufacturing industries," Secretary of Commerce Harry Lightsey said in a statement. "This significant \$250 million investment and the opportunities it brings to a rural area will have a lasting impact."

When it begins operations in 2028, Homanit will make wood paneling for furniture, vehicles and doors. Its product line is of particular importance to a state timber industry that has been struggling

amid closures of major paper mills.

"Homanit's sizable investment — the largest forest products manufacturing announcement in the state in more than three years — is welcome news, particularly for our pine pulpwood markets," State Forester Scott Phillips said in a statement.

The company currently operates production facilities in Germany, Lithuania and Poland.

In exchange for Homanit's investment, Clarendon County officials approved a deal offering the company a reduced property tax rate of 4% for 40 years.

By state law, manufacturers without such an arrangement pay a 6% rate. (Industrial property owners previously paid a 10.5% rate, but state laws passed in 2017 and 2022 effectively lowered it to 6%.)

Clarendon County Council also approved \$2.1 million in grants and \$2.2 million in reimbursements for the company. And the agreement includes additional credits allowing the company to further buy down its property tax bill, according to County Administrator Lynden Anthony, but the details of those credits was not immediately available.

The county, through its economic development organization, has been developing the site for more than a decade, Anthony said, using state-funded grants to build out water and sewer and expand roads in the area. The state also approved the company for income tax credits worth \$20,250 per each new job.

"The economic impact of a project of this magnitude will be felt throughout our community for generations to come," Clarendon County Council Chairman John Johnson III said in a statement.



In this photo, a man holds wood chips. (File photo by Getty Images)



USDA Press Release

Secretary Rollins Rescinds Roadless Rule, Eliminating Impediment to Responsible Forest Management

Published: June 23, 2025

(Santa Fe, N.M., June 23, 2025) – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced during a meeting of the Western Governors' Association in New Mexico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule. This outdated administrative rule contradicts the will of Congress and goes against the mandate of the USDA Forest Service to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands. Rescinding this rule will remove prohibitions on road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest on nearly 59 million acres of the National Forest System, allowing for fire prevention and responsible timber production.



This rule is overly restrictive and poses real harm to millions of acres of our national forests. In total, 30% of National Forest System lands are impacted by this rule. For example, nearly 60% of forest service land in Utah is restricted from road development and is unable to be properly managed for fire risk. In Montana, it is 58%, and in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the largest in the country, 92% is impacted. This also hurts jobs and economic development across rural America. Utah alone estimates the roadless rule alone creates a 25% decrease in economic development in the forestry sector.

"Once again, President Trump is removing absurd obstacles to common sense management of our natural resources by rescinding the overly restrictive roadless rule," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "This move opens a new era of consistency and sustainability for our nation's forests. It is abundantly clear that properly managing our forests preserves them from devastating fires and allows future generations of Americans to enjoy and reap the benefits of this great land."

This action aligns with President Trump's Executive Order 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation to get rid of overcomplicated, burdensome barriers that hamper American business and innovation. It will also allow more decisions to be made at the local level, helping land managers make the best decisions to protect people, communities and resources based on their unique local conditions.

Of the 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas covered under the 2001 Roadless Rule, 28 million acres are in areas at high or very high risk of wildfire. Rescinding this rule will allow this land to be managed at the local forest level, with more flexibility to take swift action to reduce wildfire risk and help protect surrounding communities and infrastructure.



U.S. Lumber Coalition and American Loggers Council Disappointed by CNBC Inaccurate Reporting on U.S. Softwood Lumber Cost, Import Duties and Housing Affordability



News provided by
The U.S. Lumber Coalition; American Loggers Council
May 22, 2025

U.S. Lumber Coalition and American Loggers Council Disappointed by CNBC Inaccurate Reporting on U.S. Softwood Lumber Cost, Import Duties and Housing Affordability

- Assertions that lumber price volatility and import duties on lumber are pricing consumers out of the market are false.
- Lumber accounts for a very small share of the sales price of a newly constructed home, typically 1-2 percent.
- Enforcing the U.S. trade laws helps ensure that there is a healthy and growing supply of domestically produced lumber to build American homes, all without impacting the cost of a new home

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- "The coverage by CNBC entitled 'Why The U.S. Might Increase Duties On Canadian Lumber Again' is disappointingly one-sided reporting from a business news network. The claims made in the piece asserting that lumber price volatility and import duties on lumber are pricing consumers out of the market are false," stated Andrew Miller, Chair/Owner of Stimson Lumber Company and Chairman of the U.S. Lumber Coalition.

The CNBC reporting included views of Canadian analysts and U.S. homebuilding representatives but, crucially, did not include input from U.S. lumber producers nor U.S. loggers who are supplying the vast majority and growing share of the softwood lumber needed to satisfy U.S. home building demand.

"Lumber accounts for a very small share of the sales price of a newly constructed home, typically 1-2 percent. Lumber prices are currently low by historical standards and have not kept pace with inflation. So the idea that import duties on a fraction of the cost of new home is pricing buyers out of the market as reported by CNBC is nonsensical," stated Mr. Miller, adding that "the focus should be on the devastating Canadian unfair trade practices that are continuing to harm the stability of the U.S. softwood lumber supply."

"The enforcement of the U.S. trade laws against Canada's unfair trade practices has been an incredible success, adding over 8.7 billion board feet of U.S. lumber capacity and the production of over 30 billion board feet of lumber cumulatively since 2016 – enough to build two million U.S. homes," added Miller.

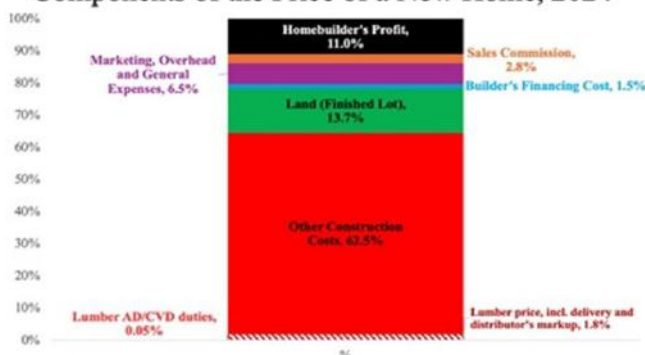
"For decades I have watched railcar after railcar transit south daily through Minnesota loaded with Canadian lumber, only to return empty. The U.S. can produce more lumber domestically and loggers are prepared to provide the additional timber to make that lumber, while at the same time improving the health of U.S. forests," said Scott Dane, Executive Director of the American Loggers Council.

And the U.S. industry has room to grow. For seven of the last nine years, U.S. capacity growth exceeded the growth in U.S. consumption. There are certainly sufficient timber resources to supply U.S. demand for softwood lumber. In the U.S. South, harvestable forest growth exceeds harvest volumes by 40 percent. Access to harvestable timberlands is not a binding constraint on U.S. lumber capacity as a whole. The U.S. Forest Service confirms that across the United States, average annual net growth continues to exceed removals.

While lumber is a small share of house's cost, in general, lumber has made an even smaller contribu-

(Continued on page 33)

Components of the Price of a New Home, 2024



Source: NAHB, Cost of Constructing a Home – 2024; Random Lengths Midweek Report, May 7, 2025. For lumber, assumes delivery costs of \$70/mbf and a distributor's markup of 18 percent over the delivered price.

(Continued from page 32)

tion to the increase in house prices that has occurred in recent years. From 2015 to 2024, the average sales price of a new home increased by \$157,214 while the cost of the lumber in a typical home increased by \$901 per house. Thus, the increase in lumber prices was the equivalent of 0.57 percent of the increase in U.S. home prices over the past decade.

By contrast, since 2019, the net income margin of the five largest homebuilder companies expanded profit margins by 49 percent. An index of stock prices for the 16 largest publicly traded companies more than doubled from 2019 to 2024. While homebuilder stock prices have declined to some extent in the spring of 2025, they remain at elevated levels.

"Commodities other than lumber have seen much larger price increases, including building materials such as iron & steel and cement & concrete," stated Zoltan van Heyningen, Executive Director of the U.S. Lumber Coalition.

"One must look elsewhere for a solution to new home prices -- land, labor, regulatory restrictions, and the free market reality of homebuilding demand has boosted many homebuilding input prices. Simply put, it is not credible to blame softwood lumber for increases in U.S. house prices," added van Heyningen.

"We support President Trump's plan to further increase the supply of Made in the U.S.A. softwood lumber to build U.S. homes," concluded Miller.

Enforcing the U.S. trade laws helps increase the U.S. supply of lumber to build American homes, all without impacting the cost of a new home, as demonstrated by data from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and Fastmarkets Random Lengths.

About the U.S. Lumber Coalition

The U.S. Lumber Coalition is an alliance of large and small softwood lumber producers from around the country, joined by their employees and woodland owners, working to address Canada's unfair lumber trade practices. Our goal is to serve as the voice of the American lumber community and effectively address Canada's unfair softwood lumber trade practices. The Coalition supports the full enforcement of the U.S. trade laws to allow the U.S. industry to invest and grow to its natural size without being impaired by unfairly traded imports. Continued full enforcement of the U.S. trade laws will strengthen domestic supply lines by maximizing long-term domestic production and lumber availability produced by U.S. workers to build U.S. homes. For more information, please visit the Coalition's website at www.uslumbercoalition.org.

About the American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is dedicated to supporting the logging industry by advocating for fair opportunities for loggers and providing reliable information about the sector. We unite independent loggers and log truck contractors across the nation, working to improve their rights and promote sustainable forestry practices. American Wood from American Woods. For more information, please visit the American Loggers Council's website at www.americanloggerscouncil.com.

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Scott Dane

executivedirector@americanloggerscouncil.com |

(202) 627-6961

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

It's going to be a great event and one that you won't want to miss.

SAVE THE DATE

July 31st - August 1st
Auburn, AL

The 2025 Loggers Technology Summit

This year's summit features the unique opportunity to experience **autonomous trucks** hands-on during an **on-site track visit**. The event will also include engaging presentations and conversations around the latest in industry technology, and a **complimentary networking reception** and dinner to connect with peers and partners.



Registration Website Coming Soon

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Visit www.swampfoxagency.com/the-summit/ for more information on previous Summits or email events@swampfoxagency.com to register your interest.

Invasive spotted lanternfly detected in South Carolina

Jonathan Veit
July 10, 2025



The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an invasive insect known for damaging grapes, hops, stone fruits and hardwood trees, has

been detected for the first time in South Carolina. Clemson University's Department of Plant Industry (DPI) confirmed the presence of the pest in the cities of Greenville and Seneca.

The insect, originally from Asia, has now spread to at least 18 other states, including nearby North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. Although the spotted lanternfly poses no direct threat to humans or animals, its presence raises concerns for South Carolina's agriculture and forestry sectors.

Clemson officials will work with other state and federal agencies to search for and destroy the insect and may seek access to private property for surveillance and treatment.

"Success in fighting the spotted lanternfly will be built on cooperation between state and federal collaborators. South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Clemson Extension and Clemson researchers have been great partners in fighting other invasive insects, and we will continue to share information and resources as we fight this one," said Stephen Cole, executive director of Clemson Regulatory Services.

What to look for

The pest damages plants as it sucks sap from branches, stems and tree trunks. The repeated feedings leave the tree bark with dark scars. Spotted lanternfly also excretes a sticky fluid.

According to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service (APHIS), signs of the spotted lanternfly include:

- **Nymphs:** Juvenile insects are black with white spots and turn bright red with age.
- **Adults:** Approximately 1 inch long and ½ inch wide, adults have grayish-brown forewings with black spots and striking scarlet hindwings with black and white bars.
- **Egg masses:** Laid on hard surfaces such as tree trunks, bricks, stones, vehicles and equipment. Fresh egg masses appear like wet gray putty and later resemble dried mud.
- **Honeydew:** A sticky substance excreted by the insects when feeding. It promotes mold growth, attracts other insects and emits a foul, fermented odor as it breaks down.

A threat that spreads easily

The spotted lanternfly lays eggs on nearly any stationary surface, including man-made objects, making it easy for the pest to hitchhike to new areas unnoticed. The pest is believed to have arrived in the United States via imported goods from Asia, first appearing in Pennsylvania in 2014.

Since then, the insect has become a significant threat, particularly to the wine, fruit and ornamental plant industries. DPI officials urge South Carolinians to remain vigilant, inspect vehicles and outdoor equipment, and report any suspected sightings.

Report sightings

To report a spotted lanternfly sighting or learn more, visit www.clemson.edu/invasives.



The pest damages plants as it sucks sap from branches, stems and tree trunks. The repeated feedings leave the tree bark with dark scars. Spotted lanternfly also excretes a sticky fluid.

SCTPA MEMBER BENEFIT & SERVICE



MICHELIN & B. F. GOODRICH TIRE SCTPA MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

SC Timber Producers Association is proud to offer this Member Benefit Program. SCTPA has partnered with Michelin and B. F. Goodrich (BFG) to offer ACTIVE dues paid members the opportunity to save money on tires through this program.

"SCTPA is pleased and proud to partner with Michelin North America to offer this valuable and cost saving opportunity for our members. Our members are always our first priority and when our association can provide a cost saving program like this, it is a "win" for everyone. I appreciate Michelin partnering with us in this program."

This program is available to ALL active dues paid members in all SCTPA member categories. Members are able to visit any local Michelin dealer. Program requires an application be completed and the use of a credit or debit card.

MEMBER PROCESS FOR SCTPA MICHELIN & BFG TIRE PROGRAM

1. Contact SCTPA to receive active member number, membership period and member status (logger, wood dealer, etc.).
2. Must be an Active Dues Paid SCTPA Member.
3. Interested SCTPA members should reach out to your local Michelin Tire Dealer.
4. Contact Michelin's Sharon Warner, 386-479-1169, email sharon.warner@michelin.com to receive an application. Sharon will ask questions regarding number of tires to be purchased, who pays and how.
5. Sharon Warner will verify active membership with SCTPA's Michael Campbell.
6. Once application is verified, it will be sent to Michelin for approval.
7. Michelin will provide the customer with a Bill To and Ship To Number. At that time, the member will have to Register their account at **Michelinb2b.com** and upload the member's Credit or Debit Card.
8. Program available to ALL members registered as active dues paid SCTPA members.
9. Program available for Michelin and B.F. Goodrich tires. Tires available are Truck, Light Truck, Passenger Car & Agricultural, Industrial & Off Road Tires & Retreads.
10. Once a member is registered on Michelinb2b.com, member will have access to all their purchase reports and tire pricing.
11. Members can go to any Michelin dealer to purchase tires.
12. Tires cannot be ordered online or shipped to the customer. Must go through a Michelin dealer.

SCTPA is pleased to offer our members this tire discount program on the high quality tire products offered by Michelin Tire and B. F. Goodrich Tires. Should a member have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Warner or SCTPA.

9-8-23

Please contact our
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broker - Mark Snelson
(843)325-1211
msnelson@sc.rr.com

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A Revolutionary New Experience

We feel that groups in today's complex and constantly changing environment need more than simply proposals and service. We understand that you are expected to sometimes be a lawyer, accountant and human resources department all at once, and we've expanded our portfolio of services to include things to help you wear all those hats.

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We create a customized professional benefit booklets for you. They run the full gamut of all the benefits that your group offers their employees.

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Think

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employee
NAVIGATOR

Quoting Tool

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1094 Completion and Distribution

We take the burden off the HR administrators by providing all forms ready to distribute to the employees of your insured groups, as well as signature ready employer tax forms. All your customers have to do is distribute them to their employees, sign the corporate form and mail to Uncle Sam.

ACA Compliance

Our software tracks and maintains your plan to make sure that you are hitting the required governmental benchmarks.

Our Carriers



ATTENTION SC Timber Producers Association Members!! Our exclusive broker, **Mark Snelson** is here to help you with all of your Medicare needs. Please contact him at:

(843)325-1211 or msnelson@sc.rr.com

Medicare Supplement Plans from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina



Medicare alone won't pay for all your expenses. We can help you fill the gap! Call **Mark Snelson** at **(843)325-1211**. Mark is an authorized agent for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



Battling High Costs to do Business

With adverse market conditions bearing down on our logging operations it is more important than ever to find ways to cut costs. The only way to make it now days is to save it and that is just what our systems provide your operation. A way to cut out the "middle man" on your hose & fitting supply and cut out the downtime busted hoses cost your job!

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Timber Talk

Your Voice for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting

Contact Michael Campbell at
843-833-3822 or ceo.sctpa@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendar

July 2025

- 30 – 31 The Loggers Technology Summit, Auburn, Alabama, Contact Swamp Fox Agency, LLC, Sarah Stansell, 843-203-5452, sarahstansell@swampfoxagency.com

August 2025

- 21 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Hampton Inn Harbison, Columbia, SC
28 Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Initial Training Class, 8:00 a.m., SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, 5500 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC

September 2025

- 17 – 19 American Loggers Council Annual Meeting, Lafayette, LA. Contact American Loggers Council for Information, www.americanloggerscouncil.com

SCTPA is available to those needing to view the 2025 SFI Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Update Video to continue to be SC SFI Trained for the July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 period. Contact SCTPA, and a group live class or individual live class can be arranged.

Spring District Meeting dates are subject to change. Meeting notices will be mailed, posted on SCTPA Facebook page and listed on the website www.scloggers.com prior to scheduled meeting. Members & Non-Members are encouraged to attend our district meetings to know what the issues are affecting the industry.

Need SFI Trained DVD Class or other training?

SCTPA can provide the New DVD Training Module for SFI Trained status. SCTPA is an approved DVD training class facilitator and will be scheduling classes during the year. Other training programs are available for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

Truck Driver Training Workshops will be scheduled. Watch the Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter for dates.

Notices for SCTPA workshops & events will be forwarded.

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President & CEO



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*"Serving the Forestry Industry
For Over 35 Years."*



Our Mission

The Mission of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association is to serve as the voice for timber harvesting and allied timber businesses to advance the ability of its members to professionally, ethically, efficiently, safely, environmentally and profitably harvest, produce and transport timber to meet the timber supply demands of our state by providing continuing educational and training opportunities, distributing timber harvesting, hauling, manufacturing and selling information, representing our members in national and statewide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.