



Hardwood Federation Urges Senate Action on FY2027 Budget Resolution, Citing Nearly \$10 Billion in Industry Losses

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 6, 2026 — The Hardwood Federation today called on Senate leadership to move swiftly on the FY2027 Budget Resolution, which directs the House Agriculture Committee to develop up to \$12 billion in relief for American agriculture. In a letter sent to Majority Leader John Thune, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, and Ranking Member Jeff Merkley, the Federation outlined the toll nearly a decade of economic pressure has taken on hardwood sawmills, loggers, and forestland owners across the country.

"Hardwood sawmills, loggers, and forestland owners have weathered a difficult economic stretch for nearly a decade, and this Resolution represents a meaningful opportunity to begin addressing that strain," said Dana Lee Cole, Executive Director of the Hardwood Federation. "This is a practical, targeted step toward preserving American jobs, sustaining family-owned businesses, and strengthening rural communities at a time when these priorities have never been more important."

The hardwood industry's challenges trace back to 2018, when retaliatory tariffs disrupted export markets built over decades. Since then, competitors in Russia, Malaysia, and Thailand have absorbed market share once held by American mills, resulting in more than \$9.8 billion in forgone sales. Domestic hardwood lumber production has fallen 48.3 percent over that period, affecting the roughly 1.8 million jobs the sector supports across Appalachia, the Midwest, the South, and the Northeast.

The Federation emphasized that these losses carry lasting consequences for rural communities. When a sawmill closes, it rarely reopens, and the surrounding logging, trucking, and equipment businesses lose their primary customer. Many mills serve as the primary source of employment in the communities where they operate.

American hardwood also underpins a wide range of domestic manufacturing, from flooring, cabinets, and furniture to architectural millwork, railroad ties, and industrial pallets. The Federation noted that a strong hardwood sector is essential to broader efforts to rebuild American supply chains and reduce reliance on imported materials.

While acknowledging that agricultural need extends well beyond the \$12 billion at stake, the Federation said advancing the Resolution is a necessary first step.

The full letter is available [here](#).

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About the U.S. Hardwood Industry

The U.S. hardwood industry includes thousands of family-owned mills, manufacturers, and distributors who supply wood products for flooring, furniture, cabinetry, and countless other applications. The sector generates more than \$350 billion in annual economic output and plays a vital role in supporting rural communities across the country.

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