

New Coalition for Wood Products Would Bring Companies and Associations Together

A new, national coalition, formed under the American Wood Council (AWC), will provide an organizational structure for wood products companies and associations to work together on building codes and standards, green building policy issues, and federal and state environmental regulations affecting manufacturers.

"U.S. wood products companies are under pressure from the economy, environmental regulation, and competing materials," said Robert Glowinski, AWC Executive Director. "By working with our allied association partners, we seek to expand our force and effectiveness by ensuring that we reflect the full range and diversity of America's wood products industry."

Wood products companies from across the nation agree on the need to work together.

Joe Patton, Vice President for Wood Products at The Westervelt Company in Tuscaloosa, Alabama said, "By working together as a coalition, now more than ever, the industry can have the resources, clout, and credibility to achieve policies that can secure a strong future for the wood products industry."

Steve Zika, President and CEO of Hampton Affiliates in Portland, Oregon said, "In the face of broad upcoming challenges to our industry, no single company can achieve the changes necessary to ensure a level playing field. It is absolutely essential that we work together and overcome these challenges together as an industry."

The Coalition will focus on a narrow set of issues to maximize advocacy efforts before key code and policymaking bodies. It will work with state and regional associations, who can also become members, in order to maximize its leverage and effectiveness.

Companies of all sizes and from across numerous wood product segments are committing to join together to have an effective voice through the coalition.

The coalition began forming in August and has received participation commitments from over 40 companies representing more than 50 percent of lumber production, 70 percent of structural panel production, and 60 percent of engineered wood products. The coalition is expected to launch on January 1, 2010.

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