

NWOA Position Statement:

Timber Markets, Biomass and Fair Trade

**Adopted 2017 by the Board of Directors,
National Woodland Owners Association on the second reading.**

NWOA believes strongly that healthy local timber markets are essential for the private woodland owners of America to be able to own and manage their forestland for multiple uses over the long term. Ideally, markets should be available to America's woodland owners for a wide variety of commercial forest products including veneer logs, quality hardwood logs, softwood lumber logs, peeler logs, pallet and cross tie logs, pulpwood, OSB wood and bio-mass. Only through the availability of a wide range of markets can a woodland owner economically manage his woodland for the multiple uses of timber production, abundant wildlife, clean water and recreation. Because of this, NWOA supports whatever political actions are necessary to help maintain, support and insure that these markets remain available for the American woodland owner.

In general, markets for most commercial forest products are broadly available across the country but in certain regions some low grade markets have already been lost or are at risk of being lost for a variety of reasons. Some markets have been lost or are threatened by foreign competition and changing demand. While others are threatened by the political actions of misguided but influential environmental groups. Domestic softwood lumber mills are threatened by subsidized or low cost softwood overseas lumber production and North America's decorative hardwood plywood production is threatened by subsidized Chinese hardwood plywood. No new pulp and paper mills have been built in the United States in 30 years and many older mills have closed not only because there is less demand for white paper but because they can no longer compete with newer, high efficiency mills located in countries with low cost labor, low raw materials and fewer environmental restrictions. Recently America's developing Biomass markets have also been threatened by environmental groups that don't like selling our wood to Europe for fuel and claim that burning wood is not carbon neutral.

NWOA is a strong advocate of free trade but recognizes that for free trade to be fair it should not be subsidized with tax breaks and other subsidies such as artificially low stumpage cost and relaxed environmental standards. NWOA therefore supports reasonable domestic political actions when necessary to insure that local markets for American grown logs are not lost due to unfair trading practices. NWOA also recognizes that because America's forests are renewable and verified as sustainable, that over the long term the burning of bio-mass as an energy source is carbon neutral and should be encouraged not only as a substitute for non-renewable fossil fuels but to provide important new markets for America's private woodland owners.