

2026 Forest Products Legislative Event Brings Together Industry, Government Leaders

As both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly convened in Harrisburg for session, PFFPA members from across the Commonwealth gathered at the Harrisburg Hilton to bring the voices and perspectives of the forest products industry to Pennsylvania's capital city. Dozens of members and staff from the State House and Senate, as well as several agency partners, joined industry members in gathering at PFFPA's legislative reception at the Harrisburg Hilton on March 24.

Industry members gathered before the event for a brief discussion of the [association's 2026 legislative agenda](#) and the key information PFFPA planned to share with policymakers during the event. Dean Troy Ott spoke briefly on the importance of the partnership that Penn State and PFFPA continue to build and the significance of the industry to the Commonwealth. Members were briefed on state-level challenges impacting the industry, including permitting, economic development, support to low-grade markets, energy policies affecting the use of woody biomass, reliable and affordable access to transportation infrastructure, and a request to serve 31 additional counties with a hardwood utilization group in the 2026-27 state budget.

The reception was exceptionally well-attended, with dozens of legislators – Republicans and Democrats from the House and Senate – spending quality time discussing current issues and learning about Pennsylvania's forest products community. Agency leaders, including Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, Secretary of DCNR Cindy Adams Dunn, Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry John Norbeck, State Forester Seth Cassell, Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Stephen Smith, and Chief Forester Paul Weiss all attended the event, providing exceptional opportunities for networking and discussion.

On Wednesday morning, four teams of PFFPA members visited the State Capitol for meetings with sixteen legislators from all four caucuses, with a particular focus on the southern tier. Members shared PFFPA information packets and used tailored talking points to highlight agenda items relevant to each legislator's district, committee work, and priorities. The day's outreach included meetings with three of the four Appropriations Chairs, key members of the Appropriations and Agriculture Committees, and House Democratic leadership.

PFFPA Chairman Brant Forcey stated, "PFFPA members in attendance remarked that they enjoyed the diversity of conversations they had with legislators from all areas of the Commonwealth, and that they truly felt that they were educating elected officials to better understand the importance of our industry." Over the next several weeks, PFFPA staff will be

working to follow up on the great conversations started by our members that have set the stage for legislative victories in the coming months. Thanks again to everyone who came to Harrisburg to support this important event!

We thank our sponsors for making the 2026 PFPA Legislative Reception possible!

Woodlot

- [Bingaman & Son Lumber, Inc.](#)
- [PA Hardwoods Development Council](#)
- [Pixelle Specialty Solutions LLC](#)
- [Ron Jones Hardwood Sales, Inc.](#)

Tree

- [A.M. Logging LLC](#)
- [Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group](#)
- [Cummings Lumber Company, Inc.](#)
- [Deer Park Lumber, Inc.](#)
- [Generations Forestry](#)
- [Keystone Wood Products Association](#)
- [Lewis Lumber Products, Inc.](#)
- [Metzler Forest Products LLC](#)
- [Northern Tier Hardwood Association](#)
- [Slater Run Resources LLC](#)