

***Quick Updates*** ***from*** ***Your HF Team***

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**USDA Rolls Out $50 Million for Wood Products Grants**

As part of the Administration’s “Investing in America” agenda, on October 18 the USDA [unveiled](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu19539728.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D-2B73de0dREQUDGWQfTM3mhmB8a1RJRJId2dh1lUFQ0g938j0Qb1y-2FqIvA9-2FSbVERb7bH5guYzyYPOitcbIMuZJKsRYQCCC8aTWL30I3EV4UdmiYWmRD6b7FzYUBihalLApbhp-2FF8wJEEMbCSiuPvehGLG-2Bqvp2W8Ehu5FbNh3qIw-3DjX0F_DfShkWCAhoLGP-2FJNrdlPJdV-2FLULhdq7A2Mns4NO8kAbKoy2hBWCjup-2FdSJ4mtav3QZgwkC4yOhBCK4lj-2B12aQnuWZtOhSeMUpcK83NBGhF5Rb-2BNNDBmxxLZN3NSYTwbsyfGslqCbpTpMwkwt-2F6kZdmHcgvX2MUdMla8Eg3ZK3Z1dzz3POpLGB0L2ZMBwYWXc5HBZB-2FLD0CAOzdZIe0hlBpi3EwFRbxWVNKCVc5wy5qr9de3w5Y4nOXALgQerrEWHrvU7rnM7UHnLiPw-2F8DRAJbrlFdFAhfUyyzIEmP3npeyKSPxTtp5Ww-2F0Ho8AzSTikRJPccmghBFMivY8AQLU-2BxzGYWIDgDh1L6UsPZ86d7UXZALh50ovEYzZx7vq2EK1P-2FUwtmX42BkBOx-2Bqv8WxyHMsO3vk-2F9qor2FAHfR89m391KzodVRIzWD1nIzmNFHM0tZt7dd51IpRO8kK6Phjz8K9G-2FBHkAjgz34PVHXA4MOO3l6f9Qt-2FRCsE2FvsrMxb-2BpKrhny2cX9DPMDkTXZk-2BsYrA3CXbjdBCkCHs4zFnlOljWxUAQz8b9SUCHFUsWOKQLXJQUonO1YlElbtxPQL4z2vHQv75rvTTNnueGQ0BROQGGblC-2BOlYAO-2F664uCOysHbwQLv3ES-2B7BfWlTX3nsUCw-3D-3D&data=05%7C01%7Cbryan.brendle%40hardwoodfederation.com%7Cb3473008c23643278b4308dbd0b1fad1%7C21432cc7b4084b2d92409f556e3dd6cb%7C0%7C0%7C638333235080724371%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AV5kzsdpVs10DXIPTNYAcqy3B3gBN8PA4CUqasWaZf0%3D&reserved=0) almost $50 million in grant funds for proposals that create new markets for wood products.  The new grant funding will fall under the umbrella of the U.S. Forest Service’s [programs](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu19539728.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D-2B73de0dREQUDGWQfTM3mho8VUcxNvEVwEWLODOjOlYTnWvHnp79Be9qKF-2Fol34V90g2oTziRFQovDQ3lgJ87BEYsJL2ZZ14mFCRzYCYi8VVlDwNT1T-2FRjq1vJX6QORRO-2B-2FPlRh0xaALPNDYjiFZQFA-3D-3D8vG__DfShkWCAhoLGP-2FJNrdlPJdV-2FLULhdq7A2Mns4NO8kAbKoy2hBWCjup-2FdSJ4mtav3QZgwkC4yOhBCK4lj-2B12aQnuWZtOhSeMUpcK83NBGhF5Rb-2BNNDBmxxLZN3NSYTwbsyfGslqCbpTpMwkwt-2F6kZdmHcgvX2MUdMla8Eg3ZK3Z1dzz3POpLGB0L2ZMBwYWXc5HBZB-2FLD0CAOzdZIe0hlBpi3EwFRbxWVNKCVc5wy5qr9de3w5Y4nOXALgQerrEWHrvU7rnM7UHnLiPw-2F8DRAJbrlFdFAhfUyyzIEmP3npeyKSPxTtp5Ww-2F0Ho8AzSTikRJPccmghBFMivY8AQLU-2BxzGYWIDgDh1L6UsPZ86d7UXZALh50ovEYzZx7vq2EK1P-2FUwtmX42BkBOx-2Bqv8WxyHMsO3vk-2F9qor2FAHfR89m391KzodVRIzWD1nIzmNFHM0tZt7dd51IpRO8kK6Phjz8L6piHNaSrAbruulNvaqS6jjTqq-2FYD0A5vxFdYHHD0si9xV-2F89NwIg5qw3SgbybbayL2YBwbxPqM7mjEBeO1P5EmVD8i9rAvQTL2IQsCqi7SzMv00V9l8UjZ02uKyRYoKZSaOTQImLKfbt72Je4b1OXzuGE7kl6AEQqZZ2bfU53o-2BTpDBBuK3x9mN6HQIXxb2A-3D-3D&data=05%7C01%7Cbryan.brendle%40hardwoodfederation.com%7Cb3473008c23643278b4308dbd0b1fad1%7C21432cc7b4084b2d92409f556e3dd6cb%7C0%7C0%7C638333235080724371%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p0OtufPRTm9tO%2FLP1ssuHEMkV9hCKUJppD3Qahln3TY%3D&reserved=0) for Wood Innovation Grants, Community Grant Wood and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance. USDA states that it will focus on proposals that “support innovative uses of wood in the construction of low carbon buildings, as a renewable energy source, and in manufacturing and processing products.”  This latest announcement is consistent with Federation [advocacy](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu19539728.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D-2B73de0dREQUDGWQfTM3mhmC9y0IWeDSKvW2EltH67kgj022lIASj4G2a3FB2eHq1IUD65Qw4eDw0nGmQuO-2B4xuy9c1b1OAiQ4Hpyp-2BXxF5ZKkMPU1lHEm368uYlfI9hydaqAWHlnQjWMO5LNumsxH1crSJ-2FwhNloRXgvGwzqQmQ-3DAZ-S_DfShkWCAhoLGP-2FJNrdlPJdV-2FLULhdq7A2Mns4NO8kAbKoy2hBWCjup-2FdSJ4mtav3QZgwkC4yOhBCK4lj-2B12aQnuWZtOhSeMUpcK83NBGhF5Rb-2BNNDBmxxLZN3NSYTwbsyfGslqCbpTpMwkwt-2F6kZdmHcgvX2MUdMla8Eg3ZK3Z1dzz3POpLGB0L2ZMBwYWXc5HBZB-2FLD0CAOzdZIe0hlBpi3EwFRbxWVNKCVc5wy5qr9de3w5Y4nOXALgQerrEWHrvU7rnM7UHnLiPw-2F8DRAJbrlFdFAhfUyyzIEmP3npeyKSPxTtp5Ww-2F0Ho8AzSTikRJPccmghBFMivY8AQLU-2BxzGYWIDgDh1L6UsPZ86d7UXZALh50ovEYzZx7vq2EK1P-2FUwtmX42BkBOx-2Bqv8WxyHMsO3vk-2F9qor2FAHfR89m391KzodVRIzWD1nIzmNFHM0tZt7dd51IpRO8kK6Phjz8Bzw-2FfBJjAtSqxzocBCcg1epPxyDs3V7GtZqox9q0B2LrcCvlMxUR1DBtCE54YfHHGhO-2BVl3Ttll-2BBhm9kVjTCxmmjNEs8MUNJ6QMkbeRAP6pwYF4y2woqdtnJIbPM4Y5Hcpl1hRzaTeP8ydTQioTR0q7VZSY2Vm9edUJu2fFkYixiLAYGz7JvxwgfBiLSG-2BKg-3D-3D&data=05%7C01%7Cbryan.brendle%40hardwoodfederation.com%7Cb3473008c23643278b4308dbd0b1fad1%7C21432cc7b4084b2d92409f556e3dd6cb%7C0%7C0%7C638333235080724371%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qFrDIhLSwcWJLBsvoIBYSrsDW9%2B1BqbaONlq%2BkF26uE%3D&reserved=0) in Congress and EPA pointing out that wood products are the quintessential low-embodied carbon construction material.

**Bipartisan “Jobs in the Woods Act” Moves in Congress**

In a welcome example of bipartisanship on both sides of the Capitol, Senate and House lawmakers are moving legislation that will address the chronic worker shortage in the hardwood industry.  [“The Jobs in the Woods Act,”](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu19539728.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D-2B73de0dREQUDGWQfTM3mhqADtTxt-2B4CwONRxTZY9c3UgK7TkwG3Tsn0SI6wNB4m-2FFvPDAd9sMmQDZcUlYCvlj2Jjessux2Ph9K-2BIiMfiKGIqD3HR9chHvcjKFX4ClwXiURGN_DfShkWCAhoLGP-2FJNrdlPJdV-2FLULhdq7A2Mns4NO8kAbKoy2hBWCjup-2FdSJ4mtav3QZgwkC4yOhBCK4lj-2B12aQnuWZtOhSeMUpcK83NBGhF5Rb-2BNNDBmxxLZN3NSYTwbsyfGslqCbpTpMwkwt-2F6kZdmHcgvX2MUdMla8Eg3ZK3Z1dzz3POpLGB0L2ZMBwYWXc5HBZB-2FLD0CAOzdZIe0hlBpi3EwFRbxWVNKCVc5wy5qr9de3w5Y4nOXALgQerrEWHrvU7rnM7UHnLiPw-2F8DRAJbrlFdFAhfUyyzIEmP3npeyKSPxTtp5Ww-2F0Ho8AzSTikRJPccmghBFMivY8AQLU-2BxzGYWIDgDh1L6UsPZ86d7UXZALh50ovEYzZx7vq2EK1P-2FUwtmX42BkBOx-2Bqv8WxyHMsO3vk-2F9qor2FAHfR89m391KzodVRIzWD1nIzmNFHM0tZt7dd51IpRO8kK6Phjz8EpfkZA1V5CuklweAOe6b6mdXr7Z3fmfPoUkZNmbX7OCLPYSMEoB8s9ei8Veezv8F7NXJjjM0kP0ixJf95bggxs18ScSGrl3NZkSKNeqx1yfJbnedBIRhy3RMRKzAzoQzverxkxyHRYc5ST7E9rRUjT0W26rMNkxLCAkxP1HfrEtiDAIjoEpOrnFxP48acVrcQ-3D-3D&data=05%7C01%7Cbryan.brendle%40hardwoodfederation.com%7Cb3473008c23643278b4308dbd0b1fad1%7C21432cc7b4084b2d92409f556e3dd6cb%7C0%7C0%7C638333235080724371%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nA%2BA5nJkNe79cg%2Fw0N1qS597QvlCrs81to%2FnM%2FX7tMw%3D&reserved=0) championed by Reps. Chavez-Deremer (R-OR) and Gluesenkamp-Perez (D-WA) on the House side and Sens. King (I-ME) and Risch (R-ID), will provide education grants ranging in size from $500,000 to $2 million to promote jobs in the understaffed timber industry and U.S. Forest Service. Although the bill’s champions are working to insert provisions of the bill into upcoming farm legislation, this will remain an uphill battle in 2023 as Congress operates under a stopgap funding measure and hashes out controversial spending legislation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, which began on October 1.

**Recession Fears Recede as Economic Indicators Rise**

Federation partners at the National Association of Manufacturers participated in a survey conducted by the Wall Street Journal which shows a diminished probability of recession during the next 12 months, dropping from a 54% likelihood this summer to 48%.  Reasons cited for the more optimistic forecast include declining rates of inflation, a robust job market, steady albeit elevated interest rates and unexpectedly strong consumer spending.  In a related development, the [Department of Commerce](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fu19539728.ct.sendgrid.net%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3D-2B73de0dREQUDGWQfTM3mhiOs5QIhmHD-2F-2BaxW8Tl-2ByICD3plPDbdUR-2FtfStM9a2C08q29p9D5BblA1TQtofh86hr3zWx5qJHz4Fv3A9c4voE-3D9E-E_DfShkWCAhoLGP-2FJNrdlPJdV-2FLULhdq7A2Mns4NO8kAbKoy2hBWCjup-2FdSJ4mtav3QZgwkC4yOhBCK4lj-2B12aQnuWZtOhSeMUpcK83NBGhF5Rb-2BNNDBmxxLZN3NSYTwbsyfGslqCbpTpMwkwt-2F6kZdmHcgvX2MUdMla8Eg3ZK3Z1dzz3POpLGB0L2ZMBwYWXc5HBZB-2FLD0CAOzdZIe0hlBpi3EwFRbxWVNKCVc5wy5qr9de3w5Y4nOXALgQerrEWHrvU7rnM7UHnLiPw-2F8DRAJbrlFdFAhfUyyzIEmP3npeyKSPxTtp5Ww-2F0Ho8AzSTikRJPccmghBFMivY8AQLU-2BxzGYWIDgDh1L6UsPZ86d7UXZALh50ovEYzZx7vq2EK1P-2FUwtmX42BkBOx-2Bqv8WxyHMsO3vk-2F9qor2FAHfR89m391KzodVRIzWD1nIzmNFHM0tZt7dd51IpRO8kK6Phjz8Pfz6RdU-2BorcVhbOVOznPNDTFugODzBEyY-2Bk6vmG2sBN03NDJcL7re8FSFOHog5yiscd2PkHuKZ-2Fmo645XoNagkAwyV8fB3V2ruiS7uVBH9whvXt-2B4gOmLidQPfGXRSRP-2F9VA-2BWHDSkGYcWQRGEWXZCDAH6p3A0UPR8VrYFtzoMK3RJJT1Vhr5WVIkL6ecTGVg-3D-3D&data=05%7C01%7Cbryan.brendle%40hardwoodfederation.com%7Cb3473008c23643278b4308dbd0b1fad1%7C21432cc7b4084b2d92409f556e3dd6cb%7C0%7C0%7C638333235080880627%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1H7DvGh2OWBWPiBtd1WXn9g0YOt9cKWbRn22%2FzCdZME%3D&reserved=0) has reported a “spike” in housing starts which rose to 1.358 million in September as compared to 1.269 million in August.