

My name is Bill Miles and I serve as the advocate for Maryland's forest products industry, aka Association of Forest Industries (AFI). Taking this opportunity to provide you with an industry-related comment re the development/release of the final report due in December 2023.

Below is the link to the 2022 Annual Report of the MCCC which Maryland's forest products industry finds heartening -- given the recognition afforded this rural-resource based industry -- and one we hope will not be overlooked in the 2031 statewide GHG Reduction Plan.

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202022/2022%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

Of key interest to the forest products industry is recommendation #25 entitled, ***"Incentivize the development of forest products industries that support sustainable forest management and maximize long-term carbon sequestration."***

AFI is most hopeful the plan will reinforce and/or strengthen this recommendation given our unique role in helping to mitigate climate change.

NOTE: Of related interest is the enactment of Maryland's nationally acclaimed *Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009* which, among other things, statutorily declares the nexus between a healthy managed forest system and a healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed, key in our opinion to a healthier climate overall.

https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters_noln/Ch_175_sb0549T.pdf

AFI stands ready to be of any assistance deemed necessary to advance this recommendation and commends you, et al, on the Herculean effort involved in meeting the General Assembly's mandate.

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