



**Save the date: Legislative Bus Tour of Northern Maine's Forest Products Sector**  
**February 21 - 22, 2019**

The Aroostook Partnership, Northern Maine's public-private partnership focused on economic and workforce development, is proud to announce that it is coordinating a legislative bus tour of Maine's forest products sector. The tour will be an opportunity for legislators, new and experienced, to learn more about Maine's forest products sector and hear from experts representing a broad spectrum of industries in the sector. The forest industry is currently valued at \$8.5 billion and there are multiple efforts underway to push for significant growth within the industry in the coming years through the FOR/Maine initiative. There is significant value for all of Maine in this sector of our economy. We, at the Partnership feel now is the time to showcase where the industry is, where it's going, and the role that you, as state leaders, will play in making that vision a reality.

On February 21st, members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Energy, Technology and Utilities, Environment and Natural Resources, Labor and Housing, Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Commerce, and Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committees will depart by bus from the State House for Northern Maine. The group will be visiting Louisiana Pacific and Katahdin Cedar Log Homes along the way to gain a better understanding of their process and industry leading products, then on to Presque Isle, where you will spend the night at the Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the bus tour will begin with a visit to an active logging site to experience modern mechanized logging showcasing operations supported by three of our Maine Community Colleges with their new Mechanized Logging Operations programs. The next stops will be at lumber mills owned by Irving and Daaquam Lumber and a tour of ReEnergy, a 38MW biomass generating plant in Ashland, which is essential to supporting the region's wood processing operations by burning mill residuals and generating reliable power onto the regional electrical grid. Throughout this tour, the direct industry contributions from University of Maine R&D and workforce development efforts will also be evident and highlighted.

This tour will allow you to gain insights for the future of the industry and the current challenges and opportunities facing the forest products sector. Our state's forest products economy is at a critical crossroads and we hope that you, as state leaders, will join us on this important tour as you begin the upcoming legislative session in January. While we understand the busy nature of the legislature, it is our goal to maximize what little time we will have set aside for this tour by providing you with the best possible exposure to and experience with the forest products sector.

We look forward to you joining us on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of February and welcoming you to The County for an exciting and educational experience with Maine's largest economic sector and discussing the Forest Opportunity Roadmap (FOR/Maine) \$3.5B growth initiative. Further information and a final agenda of the tour will be providing in the coming week. Thank you for all you do for our state and I look forward to meeting you all in person soon.

Paul Towle  
President and CEO, Aroostook Partnership



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