Forest-based Economic Development in Arkansas: 
A Case for the Forest Products Industry

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Abstract: Arkansas’ state economy is highly dependent on forest-based manufacturing industries. The manufacturing sector in Arkansas has been steadily declining over the past decade, and state and local governments are attempting to develop economic development policies to stimulate economic growth. Forest-based manufacturing is well-suited to meet economic development criteria in terms of job creation, job retention, tax base development, property value increases, retention of wealth, poverty reduction, economic stability, economic self-sufficiency, strengthening of local economics, and promoting environmental security and sustainability. Policies that promote forest-based economic development will be presented.

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