

HB22-1166

Incentives to Promote the Colorado Timber, Forest Health, and Wildfire Mitigation Industries

HB22-1166 incentivizes and promotes the timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries here in Colorado in an effort to make Colorado more affordable, expand Colorado's economy, create new jobs, create a more competitive Colorado timber industry, better maintain our forests, and make Colorado safer. The bill would create an internship program through the Colorado State Forest Service and provide incentives to timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation businesses that hire interns through this program. HB22-1166 also creates a tax exemption for all Colorado harvested wood products. A sales tax credit would also be created for qualifying items used in timber products such as trucks or trailers. The goal of the bill is to make Colorado more affordable, will incentivize and stimulate this industry to expand to help Colorado's economy, and reduce the risk of wildfires with incentives for mitigation efforts to make Colorado safer.

- Creates an internship program to encourage more individuals to pursue careers in the timber industry
- Promotes the timber industry
- Expands the timber industry in Colorado
- Makes Colorado more affordable
- Creates tax exemptions for timber equipment
- Expands Colorado's economy
- Expands wildfire mitigation efforts
- Improves forest management

The bill with the amendment also expands the internship program and incentives for wildfire mitigation. Colorado, HD49, and Larimer County have seen multiple wildfires in the last couple of years, one of which was just contained within the last 48 hours. Of course, the most notable fire for Larimer County is the Cameron Peak fire, the largest wildfire in our state's history. The fire began in August and wouldn't be fully contained until December. A total of 208,663 acres was burned. At its peak, it evacuated over 6,000 residents and destroyed 461 structures, including 224 homes. The East Troublesome Fire also took place in 2020, burning 193,812 acres, putting a total of 35,000 residents under evacuation orders, and destroying 580 structures, including 366 homes.