

1 Sec. X. LOGGING CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

3 (1) “Forest product” means logs, pulpwood, veneer, bolt wood, wood
4 chips, fuel wood, or bark.

5 (2) “Logging contractor” means a business that is primarily engaged in:

6 (A) the harvesting of forest products; or

7 (B) the hauling of forest products from the site where the forest
8 product is harvested.

9 (b) Establishment. The Agency of Commerce and Community

10 Development shall establish a Logging Contractor Assistance Program to
11 provide financial assistance in the form of grants to logging contractors who
12 suffered weather-related revenue losses in calendar year 2023.

13 (c) Criteria. A logging contractor shall be eligible for a grant award under
14 this section if the applicant can demonstrate all of the following:

15 (1) The applicant is a Vermont-based business;

16 (2) More than 50 of the applicant’s business revenue is from operating a
17 logging contractor business. An applicant can demonstrate business revenue
18 under this section by providing financial statements, business registration with
19 the Secretary of State, NAICS codes, a statement from a separate entity that the
20 applicant harvests or hauls forest products for, or other evidence acceptable to
21 the Agency.

1 (3) The applicant is operating as a logging contractor on the date the
2 contractor submits its application.

3 (4) The applicant experienced revenue losses in its business as a logging
4 contractor of at least \$10,000 between June 1 and September 30 of 2023, when
5 compared to the same period in 2022. The applicant shall be required to
6 provide financial statements demonstrating loss for that period.

7 (5) The applicant shall be in good standing with the State on the date of
8 application, including not being listed on the State debarment list and not
9 having unpaid judgments or damages for a violation of the Accepted
10 Management Practices, timber trespass, or other violation.

11 (6) Any other criteria or information required by the Agency in order to
12 determine eligibility under this section.

13 (d) Grant awards.

14 (1) A grant award under this section shall be for the amount of 20
15 percent of the demonstrated revenue loss by the logging contractor, provided
16 that the minimum grant under this section shall be \$2,000.00 and the maximum
17 grant shall be \$20,000.00.

18 (2) The Agency shall award grants under this section in the order that
19 administratively complete applications are received until all grant funds are
20 awarded.

1 (e) Appropriation. In addition to other funds appropriated to the Agency of
2 Commerce and Community Development in fiscal year 2024, \$1,000,000.00
3 from the General Fund is appropriated to the Agency to implement the grant
4 program required by this section.