



**For Immediate Release:** Friday, June 3, 2016

**Contact:**

Jason Conwall | [Jason.Conwall@esd.ny.gov](mailto:Jason.Conwall@esd.ny.gov) | (518) 292-5107 | (800) 260-7313  
ESD Press Office | [PressOffice@esd.ny.gov](mailto:PressOffice@esd.ny.gov) | (800) 260-7313

## **EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES JOHNSON BROTHERS LUMBER COMPLETES EXPANSION IN MADISON COUNTY**

### ***New 20,000 Square-Foot Lumber Production Facility Completed***

### ***Local Company's Expansion Advances Central NY Rising, The Region's Award-Winning Strategic Plan For Economic And Community Development***

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced Johnson Brothers Lumber Company, a family-owned business that supplies Central New York hardwood for the global furniture industry, has completed the expansion of its operations in Canastota, Madison County, investing more than \$1.7 million and exceeding its commitment to create at least 10 new jobs.

The company's expansion, which is a priority project endorsed by the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNYREDC), is the latest project to advance "Central NY Rising," the region's comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State has already invested nearly \$3 billion in the region since 2012 to lay the groundwork for the plan – capitalizing on global market opportunities, strengthening entrepreneurship and creating an inclusive economy.

"Central New York is rising. Local family-owned companies like Johnson Brothers Lumber are expanding, downtowns are being revitalized, and the Governor is focused on giving Upstate New York the tools to succeed – it's really an unprecedented time," **said ESD President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky**. "There is energy building in communities throughout the region and we're seeing results from our investments. With the new production facility and more state-of-the-art drying kilns, Johnson Brothers Lumber Company's expansion will increase production, create new jobs, and continue bringing high quality Upstate New York lumber products into the global marketplace."

This project included the construction of a 20,000 square foot lumber production facility and the installation of approximately 3,700 square-feet of drying kilns. With access to over 500,000 acres of timber within a 25 mile radius, the Johnson Brothers Lumber Company's facility processes wood to meet customers' exact specifications and ships more than 750 truckloads of Central New York lumber to customers around the world in the furniture, flooring and cabinetry industries. The recently completed expansion of its

lumber production facilities and drying kilns – which will be fueled with excess methane gas from the Madison County landfill in the Town of Lincoln – will result in increased production and has already generated new jobs in Upstate New York.

**Michael Johnson, Vice President of Johnson Brothers Lumber** said, “The new dry kilns allow us to maximize our production and have helped grow our overall output by more than 50 percent. We have created new jobs to help process the extra production. The Central New York Regional Economic Development Council’s endorsement and Empire State Development’s \$150,000 grant toward this project helped give us the confidence to move forward with the expansion and shows New York State cares about Upstate small businesses.”

The Johnson Brothers Lumber Company expansion was identified as a priority project by the CNYREDC during Round 1 of the REDC initiative. As a result, the nearly \$2 million project was awarded a \$150,000 capital grant from Empire State Development to assist with the construction of a 20,000 square-foot lumber production facility and installation of nearly 4,000 square-feet. To date, the company has exceeded its commitment to create at least 10 new jobs.

**###**