

## **Empire State Development News**

### **Press Office**

(716) 856-8111

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### **FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

1/7/2008

## **RURAL LUMBER MANUFACTURING OPERATION TO EXPAND WITH NEW INVESTMENT AND JOBS**

### **Empire State Development to Assist with \$100,000 Grant**

Empire State Development Upstate Chairman Daniel C. Gundersen today announced that a \$100,000 grant was committed to Wagner Lumber of Tioga County. As a result, the hardwood sawmill will purchase another company and operate as Wagner Nineveh with a \$4.4 million investment in its future.

"Wagner Lumber's decision to grow in Upstate New York is a strong statement," said Chairman Gundersen. "With this project, the lumber manufacturer has made a commitment to grow their business in the Southern Tier while retaining the current workforce of 27 positions and pledging 10 new jobs. It only reinforces our view Upstate New York is a great place to conduct business."

After the 2006 summer flood, Pomeroy Lumber struggled to get its operations back on line and Wagner expressed interest in buying the business. Wagner approached ESD for assistance in purchasing the mill and investing in its future. The 10 pledged positions, with an average wage of \$30,000, will be added over the next three years.

Funds will be used toward the purchase of the Pomeroy Lumber mill in Chenango County, which when devastated by the flood was expected to close in the near future. Wagner Lumber's \$4.4 million proposed project budget includes the acquisition, new machinery and equipment investment, new facility construction and infrastructure improvements.

The Chenango County IDA was also a critical component of the project, assisting with a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT).

"The IDA strongly supports this project, Les Wagner has a strong business record and we are confident that he will grow the business and give back to the local community by creating jobs and making substantial investment into the property for years to come," Chenango County IDA Executive Director Maureen Carpenter said.

The IDA unanimously approved to grant a ten year PILOT with the company at a 95% exemption the first year and decreasing by 10 percent each of the following nine years. The company will be fully taxable in year eleven.

Wagner Lumber was established in 1975 at its location in Tioga County. In 2001 Wagner acquired another lumber operation in Schuyler County and now has a combined total of 201 employees at both locations. The company produces 50 million board feet of lumber annually and supplies the furniture, cabinetry and specialty use product industry worldwide.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit [www.nylovesbiz.com](http://www.nylovesbiz.com).

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