



COALITION FOR FAIR LUMBER IMPORTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U. S. COALITION STATEMENT ON THE BC LUMBER PROPOSAL

- British Columbia's draft proposal is a positive step in the effort by both countries to solve the softwood lumber dispute.
- The Coalition conceptually agrees with the proposal's format of implementing a border measure that increases as prices drop until such time as a long-term, durable, market-based solution to the softwood lumber dispute is reached. The BC government's proposal recognizes that this dispute can only be permanently resolved through the sale of Canadian timber at market prices, which the Coalition applauds.
- Nonetheless, it should be clear that any proposal must provide a realistic offset to existing unfair trade practices. While the B. C. draft is a positive step, it is inadequate in a number of respects. For example, the proposal includes: Tax levels which are far below those required today; full return of collected duties to Canadian companies; continuing appeals, even after an agreement is reached; and no clarification on the role of the Canadian federal government.
- The Coalition hopes the initiative taken by the BC government in raising this proposal will lead to government-to-government negotiations to resolve the softwood lumber dispute. The Coalition remains open to a negotiated settlement which adequately addresses the unfair practices and looks forward to our government entering formal negotiations with Canada.