



## COALITION FOR FAIR LUMBER IMPORTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### THOUSANDS RALLY TO END SUBSIDIZED CANADIAN LUMBER

**FOREST PARK, GA, April 9, 2001** – Several associations and organizations recently teamed up to host a public forum titled “Is Canada Stealing Your Profits?” in Macon, Georgia. A crowd of over 2,000 loggers, land owners, mill representatives and others gathered from throughout the South to show their support and voice their concerns over the affect of Canadian subsidies on the US lumber industry.

The rally was held on March 31<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with the expiration of the Softwood Lumber Agreement, a five-year-old pact governing softwood trade between the United States and Canada. Several convoys of log trucks donning signs that read “Stop Canadian Subsidized Lumber” traveled from across Georgia and Florida to show their support.

“This isn’t about increasing profits,” said Rusty Wood, Chairman of the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports and President of Tolleson Lumber in Perry, GA, “it’s about our survival. All we are asking for is fairness.”

Many other attendees echoed Wood’s statement. The major concern of the group was that once the SLA expires, a “wall of wood” could come into the US from Canada. With US stumpage and lumber markets in such an economically fragile state and sawmills closing at an alarming rate, small landowners and family-owned and operated forest product businesses risk further economic distress and even bankruptcy if subsidized Canadian lumber floods the US market.

The Forest Landowners Association, the Georgia Forestry Association, the Georgia Farm Bureau, the Association of Consulting Foresters and the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association co-sponsored the event.

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