



COALITION FOR FAIR LUMBER IMPORTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports Applauds Softwood Lumber Imports Certification Legislation

Washington, DC, May 13, 2008 – The Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports today welcomes Congress’s inclusion of softwood lumber importer certification provisions as part of the 2007 Farm Bill.

A critical component of the U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) is Canada’s obligation to impose export taxes and quotas on lumber exports to the United States to dampen the injurious effects of unfairly traded Canadian lumber on American sawmills and workers. However, currently available data indicate that Canada to date has under-collected SLA export taxes by about US\$50 million.

To address this growing discrepancy and to ensure that all lumber imported into the United States complies with applicable trade agreements, Congress included provisions within the Farm Bill to require U.S. enforcement measures.

Specifically, importers of foreign softwood lumber to the United States will be required to certify that each shipment is consistent with the SLA and any other relevant trade agreements. The provisions in the Farm Bill require that importers certify, to their knowledge and belief, that required Softwood Lumber Agreement export taxes will be paid.

This positive development comes on the heels of a number of key senators, including Senators Olympia Snowe of Maine, Max Baucus of Montana and Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, expressly calling for stronger and improved enforcement of the Softwood Lumber Agreement.

“Senator Baucus and Senator Chambliss showed decisive and effective leadership in the importer-certification legislation effort,” said Coalition Chairman Steve Swanson. “While the importer-certification provisions will not solve all SLA compliance concerns, the legislation provides a critical means for the U.S. government to enforce SLA export tax requirements.”

Swanson said the enforcement of the SLA through the importer-certification legislation will go far toward preserving the agreement as an effective means to dealing with Canada’s continued unfair trading practices in softwood lumber. “This legislation will require nothing more or less than that softwood lumber imports comply with trade agreement commitments,” he said.

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About the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports

The U.S. Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports is an alliance of large and small lumber producers from around the country. The Coalition is united in opposition to Canada's unfair lumber-trade practices, including its gross under-pricing of timber. For more information, please visit the Coalition's website at www.fairlumbercoalition.org.