

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

July 24, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer,

We write concerning ongoing U.S.-Canada discussions over softwood lumber trade issues.

As representatives serving many lumber producers, we understand the importance of ensuring any future agreement addresses unfairly traded softwood lumber from Canada and meets the specific needs of the domestic industry. It is also critical trade policies support our economy and American jobs, including through enforcement of U.S. trade laws.

Any long-term agreement must stop the harmful effects of subsidized and unfairly traded Canadian lumber on fair competition with the U.S. producers. We urge you negotiate a clean quota agreement, holding Canada to its June 2016 commitment to negotiate a new agreement that is “designed to maintain Canadian exports at or below an agreed market share” and resist provisions that undermine a stable and a clearly enforceable system.

You must also consult closely with Congress throughout any negotiations. The Senate Finance Committee must be briefed fully and regularly on the details of proposals before they are made to Canada. The confidence of the public in any proposed agreement can only be secured through meaningful engagement with the people’s representatives in Congress.

The American economy depends on a vibrant domestic lumber industry – from the thousands of workers tied to the wood industry and many private landowners managing forestlands that provide material for mills. Completing a fair agreement will support these jobs and the American economy, particularly in rural communities across the nation. It is also an issue of fairness in trade and competition, a principle that must be upheld and backed by enforcement of U.S. trade laws.

We look forward to working with you as your discussions continue.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator