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United States Senate

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November 22, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Administrative Review of Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We write to express concern with the Department of Commerce's proposal to increase antidumping and countervailing duties on certain softwood lumber products from Canada. With the nation in the midst of a housing affordability crisis, this is exactly the wrong time to add needless housing costs onto the backs of hardworking American families.

As we discussed during the home building roundtable you hosted with stakeholders in August, historically high lumber and building materials prices continue to serve as headwinds for the U.S. housing sector. Housing has been a bright spot for the U.S. economy as the nation continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is mounting evidence the dramatic increase in the cost of materials is unfortunately putting this success at risk.

While lumber prices began a sharp decline in May, it took months for a meaningful portion of those decreases to reach home builders and their customers. Unfortunately, prices began rising again in September and have increased substantially in past weeks. Furthermore, the futures market suggests prices will climb another 50% by 2022.

The Canadian government has expressed interest in coming to an agreement. We now call upon you to come to the table to represent American interests and uphold your recent statement by taking strong efforts to counter unfair trade practices, while pursuing a balanced agreement with Canada.

We stand ready to discuss this issue and potential solutions with you. We consider such a balanced agreement to be in the interest of the United States because it would provide predictability for lumber producers and homebuilders so they can continue to help the economy recover from the events of the past year.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies



Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Cc: The Honorable Katherine Tai, USTR