

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 111

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding ensuring a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2000

Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding ensuring a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

Whereas the United States and Canada have, since 1989, worked to reduce tariff and nontariff barriers to trade;

Whereas free trade has greatly benefited the United States and Canadian economies;

Whereas the United States and Canada have been engaged in an ongoing dispute over trade in soft-wood lumber for 18 years;

Whereas on May, 29, 1996, the United States and Canada entered into an agreement to temporarily resolve the dispute;

Whereas the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 does not promote open trade;

Whereas the scope of the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 has been expanded, leading to uncertainty for importers, distributors, retailers, and purchasers of softwood lumber products;

Whereas the availability of affordable housing is important to the American homebuyer;

Whereas lumber price volatility jeopardizes housing affordability; and

Whereas the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 will expire on April 1, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2       *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3               (1) the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber  
4       Agreement of 1996 should terminate on April 1,  
5       2001, with no extension or further quota agreement;

6               (2) the President should continue discussions  
7       with the Government of Canada to promote open  
8       and Competitive trade between the United States  
9       and Canada of softwood lumber; and

10              (3) the President should consult with all stake-  
11       holders, including consumers of softwood lumber  
12       products, in future discussions regarding the open

- 1 trade of softwood lumber between the United States
- 2 and Canada.

