

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 111

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

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

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.

