

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 197

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding housing affordability and urging fair and expeditious review by international trade panels to ensure a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. KOLBE (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. FROST, Mr. HOYER, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MOORE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. DREIER, Mr. BASS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. WELLER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding housing affordability and urging fair and expeditious review by international trade panels to ensure a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

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

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

Whereas, with respect to importation of Canadian lumber, the United States International Trade Commission only

found the potential for a threat of injury (as opposed to actual injury) to domestic lumber producers, but the Department of Commerce imposed a 27 percent duty on such Canadian lumber, to be paid by United States lumber consumers;

Whereas trade restrictions on Canadian lumber exported to the United States market have been an exception to the general rule of bilateral free trade;

Whereas the legitimate interests of consumers are often overlooked in trade disputes;

Whereas the availability of affordable housing is important to United States home buyers and the need for the availability of such housing, particularly in metropolitan cities across the United States, is growing faster than it can be met;

Whereas imposition of special duties on United States consumers of softwood lumber, essential for construction of on-site and manufactured homes, jeopardizes housing affordability;

Whereas the United States has agreed to abide by dispute settlement procedures in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), providing for international review of national remedy actions; and

Whereas the WTO and NAFTA dispute panels are reviewing the aforementioned findings of the United States International Trade Commission: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) the Secretary of Commerce and the United
2 States Trade Representative should work to assure
3 that no delays occur in resolving the current dis-
4 putes before the World Trade Organization and
5 North American Free Trade Agreement trade dis-
6 pute panels involving the imposition of special duties
7 on softwood lumber imported from Canada, sup-
8 porting a fair and expeditious review;

9 (2) United States antidumping and counter-
10 vailing duties are a rules-based system that should
11 proceed to conclusion in World Trade Organization
12 and North American Free Trade Agreement trade
13 dispute panels;

14 (3) the President should continue discussions
15 with the Government of Canada to promote open
16 trade between the United States and Canada on
17 softwood lumber free of trade restraints that harm
18 consumers; and

19 (4) the President should consult with all inter-
20 ested parties, including consumers of lumber prod-
21 ucts, in future discussions regarding any terms of
22 trade in softwood lumber between the United States
23 and Canada.

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