December 20, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We are writing in response to the Department of Commerce’s decision to increase antidumping and countervailing duties on certain softwood lumber products from Canada. We are very concerned about the implications this action will have on new housing construction and the costs faced by hardworking American families.

Historically high lumber and building material prices continue to imperil the U.S. housing sector and the jobs of the skilled workers in this sector. Housing construction is an important contributor to the U.S. economy, especially as the nation continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this success is at risk as the construction industry faces a dramatic increase in the costs of materials.

While lumber prices began a sharp decline in May, it took months for a meaningful portion of those decreases to reach the construction industry and its customers. Unfortunately, prices began rising again in September and have increased substantially in the past weeks.

Our understanding is the U.S. and Canadian Governments discussed this matter earlier this year and expressed mutual interest in addressing this longstanding dispute. We are supportive of these efforts and request that all parties come to the negotiating table to reach a balanced agreement that counters unfair trade practices. Such an agreement would be in the interests of the United States because it would provide predictability to homebuilders and job security for the millions of hardworking Americans who apply their skills every day in the construction industry. Resolving this matter in a balanced way would help the economy recover from the disruptions of the past year. We, as Members of Congress, stand ready to discuss this issue and potential solutions with you.

Sincerely,

______________________
Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

______________________
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress
Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

William Timmons
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress
Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

Donald J. Bacon
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Warren Davidson
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

John Rose
Member of Congress

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress
Cc: The Honorable Katherine Tai, USTR