

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 18, 2005

Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez
Department of Commerce
Office of the Secretary
14th and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to urge you to implement a recent NAFTA panel ruling in the softwood lumber dispute in a manner that preserves duties on imports of subsidized Canadian lumber. In an effort to implement this NAFTA decision, the Commerce Department requested clarification from the NAFTA panel regarding certain inconsistencies it found in its decision. On Wednesday, the NAFTA panel refused to provide such clarifications and instead just ordered the Commerce Department to implement its ruling.

As repeatedly found by the Department, the International Trade Commission, and the World Trade Organization, Canadian lumber producers enjoy tremendous subsidies that continue to threaten serious harm on the domestic industry, its workers, and its communities.

It concerns us greatly that a misstep at this point would result in an outcome directly contrary to the Department's meticulous work and documented conclusions. To that end, twenty-one Senators sent a letter to you last month making just this point.

We strongly urge the Department to keep these duties in place, as required by U.S. law.

Sincerely,



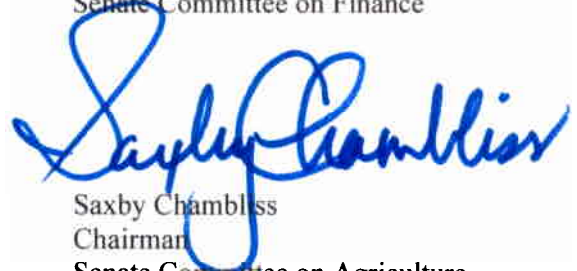
Larry Craig
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee
on Public Lands and Forests



Max Baucus
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance



Gordon H. Smith
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee
on Trade, Tourism and
Economic Development



Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture



Conrad Burns
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee
On Interior Appropriations