



news release

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MACLAREN CRITICIZES LATEST U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION SOFTWOOD LUMBER DECISION

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today criticized the latest U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) determination that imports of softwood lumber from Canada were causing material injury to the U.S. lumber industry.

"We see absolutely no basis for this decision," Mr. MacLaren stated. "A binational review panel has already ruled twice against a finding of injury by the ITC."

The ITC determination is subject to panel review under the dispute settlement provisions of Chapter 19 of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The ITC has until March 14 to file its latest determination with the FTA panel, at which time the reasons for the determination will be made public. The FTA panel will then have up to 90 days to review the ITC's decision.

"In light of the two previous panel rulings that there was no evidence of injury, it is preposterous that the ITC continues to try to justify its original determination," Mr. MacLaren said.

"Led by the Canadian industry, the Canadian parties have mounted a strong defence before the FTA panel. We continue to have confidence in the strength of our case in these proceedings."

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