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MACLAREN CALLS FOR TERMINATION OF THE SOFTWOOD LUMBER CASE

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, called for the termination of the softwood lumber case in light of the third unanimous decision of a Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) binational panel that Canadian softwood lumber imports do not cause injury to the U.S. domestic industry.

"This is the third time the panel has ruled unanimously that the ITC injury determination is not supported by substantial evidence," Mr. MacLaren said. "This is enough. The harassment of Canadian softwood lumber exporters must end."

The Panel reaffirmed its July 26, 1993, and January 28, 1994, decisions that the ITC has failed to provide substantial evidence to support its original finding. The Panel has therefore remanded this determination to the ITC, which now has 30 days to reconsider.

The current cash deposit rate of 6.51 per cent remains in effect for Canadian softwood lumber exports to the United States. Cash deposits collected to date total approximately \$800 million. Canadian softwood lumber exports to the United States amounted to \$6.4 billion in 1993.

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