



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

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SOFTWOOD LUMBER: U.S. COUNTERVAILING

DUTY INVESTIGATION

USITC: PRELIMINARY INJURY DETERMINATION

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher, reaffirmed the government's resolve to continue to develop a strong defence of Canadian interests following today's preliminary determination of injury by the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC).

"This decision does not result in any action being taken at the border" the Minister said. "Access for Canadian softwood lumber remains unrestricted". There would be no financial liability for Canadian companies until October at the earliest, and then, only if the Commerce Department were to make an affirmative preliminary determination of subsidy.

"I am not surprised at today's decision", Mr. Kelleher said. In over 90% of countervailing duty investigations the USITC finds in the affirmative in its preliminary injury determinations. The Commissioners must only find a "reasonable indication" that a U.S. industry is being injured or threatened with injury. "The threshold is relatively low and the USITC at this stage in the investigation is simply screening out frivolous cases where there is absolutely no "reasonable indication" of injury to a U.S. industry".

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Canada

The Minister concluded by saying, "The federal and provincial governments, in close cooperation with the Canadian industry and its Washington counsel, are focussing their efforts on developing a strong and effective defence in this case. We will continue to do everything that we can to ensure the best possible outcome to the investigation".

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