

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2016

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

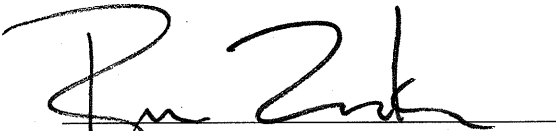
We applaud your efforts to negotiate a new Softwood Lumber Agreement to offset unfair Canadian lumber trade practices. U.S. timber, whether from private or government land, is sold in a competitive free market system. Canadian timber is heavily subsidized and sold or contracted at pennies on the dollar compared to the free market, competitive pricing of U.S. timber of comparable quality. In addition to subsidized stumpage the Canadians have adopted various other measures to shield their industry from competitive forces. As a result, border measures against subsidized and unfairly traded lumber imports are critical for our domestic industry.

Without an effective agreement to counter this subsidy, Canadian trade practices would yield ever increasing market shares for Canadian product and producers, displacing and harming U.S. manufacturers, mill workers, loggers, and many local businesses and jobs in their communities. This effect can already be seen borne out in trade statistics. Therefore, it is essential that a key feature of any new agreement is for it to be designed to maintain Canadian exports at or below an agreed U.S. market share.

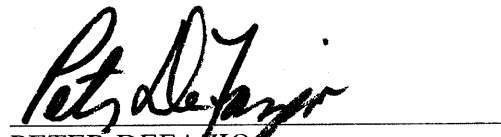
We continue to support negotiations between the United States and Canada aimed at a new, stable, and sustainable Softwood Lumber Agreement. No one should expect the U.S. industry to voluntarily give up its rights under current U.S. trade laws in return for an agreement that fails to meet this objective. Short of an effective agreement, U.S. industry will have no choice but to file petitions for relief to offset the inequitable advantages provided to its Canadian counterpart by government subsidies and log export restrictions.

A negotiated agreement is preferable to new trade cases, *provided* the agreement is an effective offset to the underlying trade distortion of Canadian public timber pricing systems and other subsidy practices. We commend the dedication and hard work you and your entire team have put into negotiating a trade agreement that works for the men and women of our forestry industry. We encourage you to continue to press for an agreement that allows the U.S. timber industry to compete on a level playing field. We produce some of the highest quality lumber in the world but our industry cannot continue to grow and survive when subsidized lumber floods our market.

Sincerely,



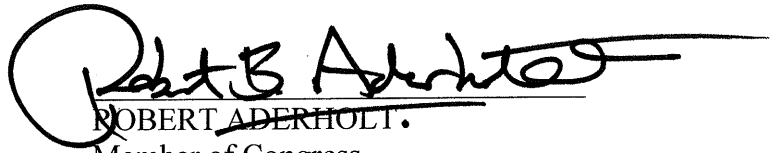
RYAN ZINKE
Member of Congress



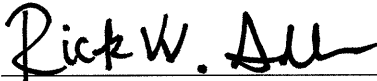
PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



RALPH ABRAHAM, MD
Member of Congress



ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



RICK W. ALLEN
Member of Congress



BRIAN BABIN
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



MO BROOKS
Member of Congress



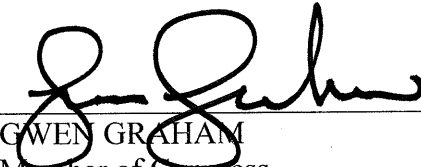
BRADLEY BYRNE
Member of Congress



EARL 'BUDDY' CARTER
Member of Congress



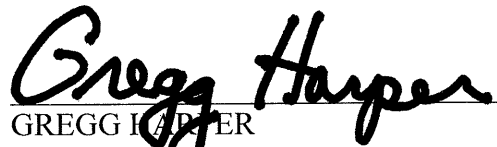
LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



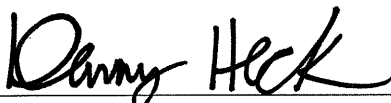
GWEN GRAHAM
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TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress



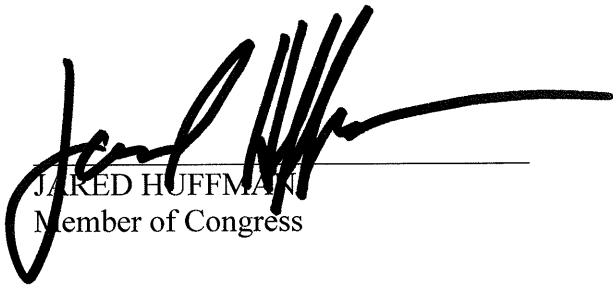
GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress



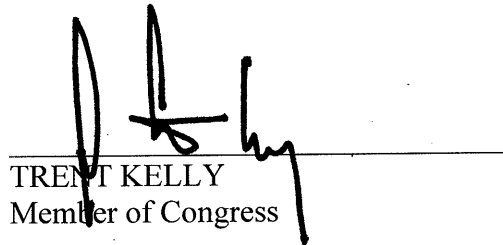
DENNY HECK
Member of Congress



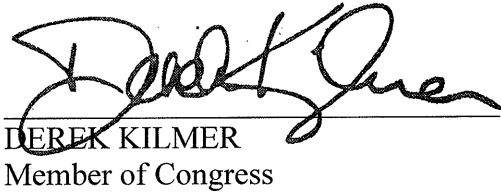
JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress



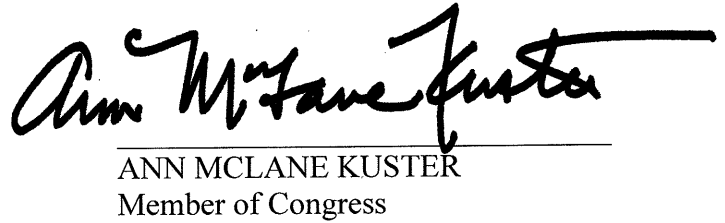
JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



TRENT KELLY
Member of Congress



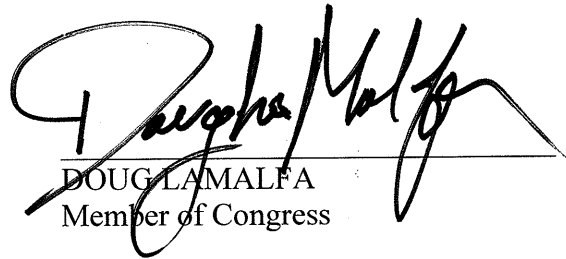
DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress



ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress



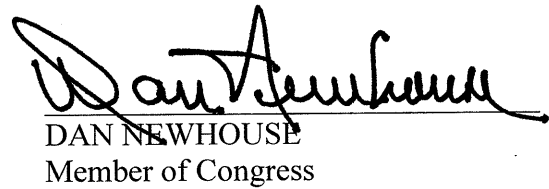
RAÚL R. LABRADOR
Member of Congress



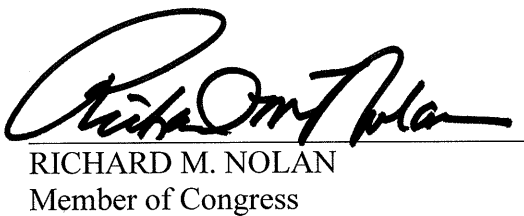
DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



DAN NEWHOUSE
Member of Congress



RICHARD M. NOLAN
Member of Congress



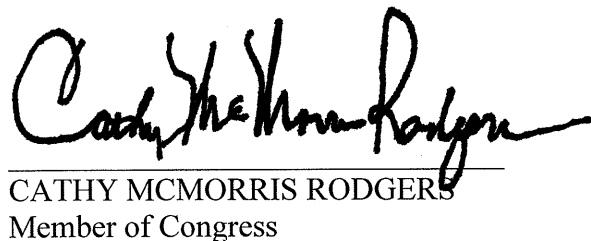
STEVE PALAZZO
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



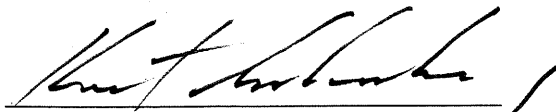
MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress



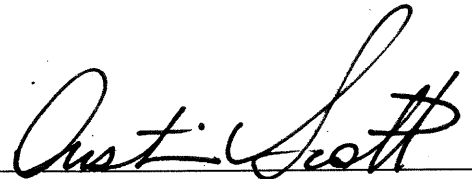
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



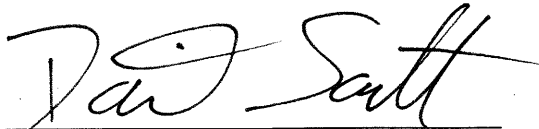
MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress



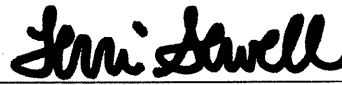
KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



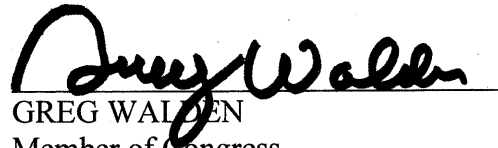
DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress



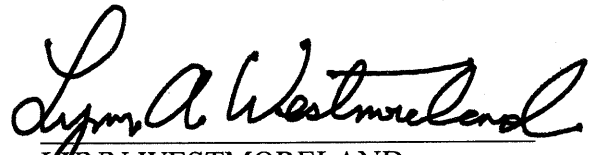
BENNIE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



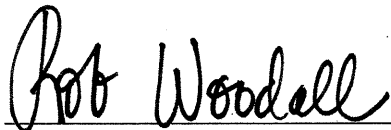
GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress



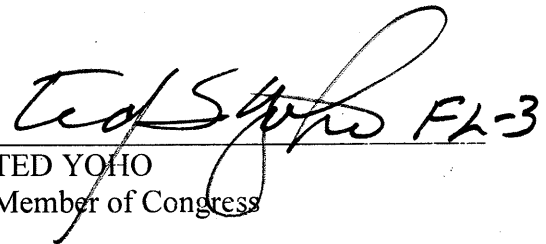
BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress



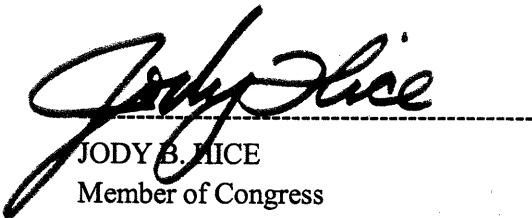
LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress



ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress



TED YOHO
Member of Congress



JODY B. HICE
Member of Congress