



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Contact: Demetrios Marantis/Wendy Carey
202-224-4515

Baucus Comments on Lumber Ruling

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Senator Max Baucus, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement in response to yesterday's ruling against the U.S. lumber industry by a NAFTA Extraordinary Challenge Committee (ECC):

"I am deeply disappointed by the NAFTA ruling against the U.S. lumber industry. The decision is another example of how the NAFTA dispute settlement process has failed to address the real issue in the lumber dispute -- unfair Canadian government subsidies to Canada's softwood lumber industry.

"These subsidies must end. They harm the U.S. industry, distort trade, and poison our relationship with Canada.

"Canada's federal and provincial governments have the chance to stop – once and for all – providing these pernicious subsidies in upcoming negotiations between our two governments. I hope Canada takes advantage of this opportunity. It is certainly preferable to escalating litigation, which remains the only viable alternative available to the U.S. industry."

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