



John C. Fowke  
2021 NAHB Chairman of the Board  
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December 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders of the United States (NAHB), I am writing to register our opposition to the Department of Commerce's decision to double the duties on imports of softwood lumber from Canada. This

Two solutions to the lumber crisis are available to you. First, we respectfully ask that you direct U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai to engage with the Canadian government on a new softwood lumber agreement. A managed trade agreement on lumber imports from Canada can end the disruptive cycle of tariffs and litigation that has plagued the lumber trade for almost 40 years, exacerbated price volatility and contributed to the detrimental effects on housing affordability. Ending softwood lumber tariffs once and for all would be a significant step forward in addressing the longest trade dispute in U.S. history, and we urge you to take this step.

Second, you can increase the share of domestic lumber by authorizing the sustainable harvesting of timber from U.S. forest lands. In 2020, the United States Forest Service had a year of historic timber production, selling more than 3.2 billion board feet of timber, the second highest level in 20 years. We strongly urge you to maintain current harvesting plans for the National Forest System. Improving the health of our nation's forests and increasing the supply of domestic timber are not mutually exclusive goals.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please contact Jim Tobin, NAHB Executive Vice President for Government Affairs, at (202) 266-8258 or [jtobin@nahb.org](mailto:jtobin@nahb.org) if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John C. Fowke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John C. Fowke