



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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BAUCUS BLASTS NAFTA PANEL RULING ON LUMBER

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Senator Max Baucus, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following response to reports that a NAFTA panel again ruled against the U.S. softwood lumber industry:

“I am extremely disappointed that this NAFTA panel failed to defer to the Commerce Department’s calculations. Every body that has examined the issue – the Commerce Department, the WTO, and even NAFTA – agrees that Canada subsidizes its lumber exports to the United States. The Commerce Department needs to develop a methodology that captures that subsidy and defends lumber producers in Montana and across the nation against this unfair trade.

“NAFTA decisions like this threaten the integrity of the system, erode support for the NAFTA, and inflame passions in both Canada and the United States. They also reaffirm my strong belief that litigation in this case has not worked. With each decision, resolution of the dispute seems farther away.

“It is high time for both sides to return to negotiating table to craft a durable resolution to this dispute. I urge Ambassador Portman and Canada’s Trade Minister Peterson to get their teams together as quickly as possible. Time is of the essence.”

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