

Subject: FW: Communities and Softwood - Update

Date: Sun, 31 Mar 2002 08:29:27 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>,
Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>,
Directors Team <managecomm@district.north-van.bc.ca>

A message from Ernie Crist;

I am enclosing an e-mail from Beverly Tanchak a former Councillor from the Sunshine Coast on the Softwood Lumber issue. I found Beverly's interpretation of particular interest. In light of the motion before Council I am passing it on to you as additional information and considered point of view.

Ernie

-----Original Message-----

From: Beverly Tanchak [<mailto:btanchak@sunshine.net>]

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2002 10:16 AM

To: btanchak@sunshine.net

Subject: NET: Communities and Softwood - Update

Softwood and Communities: An Update

Domestic and international pressure was not enough to get the BC government to put forward a reform based softwood package that addressed local demands for more access to the resource and the US demand for a broad based market system.

The lack of a negotiated agreement to the Softwood Lumber dispute prompted the US government to levy a countervailing duty (CVD) at 19.34%, plus an average antidumping duty (AD) at 9.67% on all lumber products coming from Canada. These duties will have a drastic impact on the forest industry including more layoffs and bankruptcies. Uncertainty will hamper the valued added industry everywhere in the province.

Softwood 'expert,' Doug McArthur, admits that forestry reforms in BC are necessary but says that we can't make those changes in the context of the softwood negotiations because we would be seen to be making policy decisions under the direction of the US. This kind of misplaced nationalism results in suffering for the people in BC. and ignores the fact that it is not only the US making demands for forest policy changes, there is substantial internal demand for forest policy change as well.

Meanwhile, the BC government has plans to make forest policy changes that will continue to concentrate control of our public forest resource in the hands of the major corporations at the cost of community control, economic diversification and continuing problems with the US.

As the softwood negotiations continue, communities have the opportunity to

insist that the final outcome work for them, not against them. The US will accept a proposal that a) supports community economic diversification through tenure reallocation, b) ensures that the citizens of British Columbia get full market value for our timber resource and c) maintains environmental values. The challenge is get the BC government to accept that proposal.

The longer BC resists making forest policy changes that meet the demands of the US and the needs of our communities, the longer our communities will suffer.

Countervailing Duty

All producers/exporters FINAL Rate
19.34%


Anti Dumping Duty

COMPANY FINAL Margin PRELIMINARY Margin

Weyerhaeuser	15.83%	11.93%
Abitibi	14.60%	13.64%
Tembec	12.04%	10.76%
Slocan	7.55%	19.24%
Canfor	5.96%	12.98%
West Fraser	2.26%	5.94%
All Others	9.67%	12.58%

AVICC members are encouraged to call their area association: 250 356 5133
or
UBCM 604 270 8226

For further information please call Beverly Tanchak, 604 885 2330

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