

Subject: [Fwd: Notice of Motion - Softwood Lumber - Report Councillor Crist.]

Date: Tue, 02 Apr 2002 16:04:08 -0800

From: Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Notice of Motion - Softwood Lumber - Report Councillor Crist.

Date: Tue, 2 Apr 2002 14:34:37 -0800

From: "Wayne Hunter" <noblepacific@telus.net>

To: "Ernie Crist" <CristE@dnv.org>, "FONVCA \ (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>,
"Directors Team" <managecomm@district.north-van.bc.ca>

Councillor Crist

Thank you for forwarding all your correspondence on this issue. I don't know if I would be out of line with regards to my current thoughts, and I apologize for "not knowing" the process.

But I would like to propose the following amendments to the softwood agenda item this evening;

Currently the motion reads;

"That in response ...the District make a statement.... which should include the following;

- (1) a strong statement indicating our support etc etc
- (2) an appeal to all municipalities etc etc.

With due acknowledgement to Senator Pat Carney I would like you to consider the following additional ideas;

(3) The District of North Vancouver "adopt" or twin with the capital of Montana, "Helena" so that we can "educate" the citizens of our "twinning" American city about the fact that we are not "a bunch of commies" as their Senator Max Baucus has described, and who happens to be the Chairman of the Senate finance committee responsible for international trade;

(4) The District of North Vancouver supports the immediate imposition of an export tax on all raw logs out of BC;

(5) The District of North Vancouver supports Provincial initiatives that would see BC cancel any tenure rights to Crown forests held by American companies operating in BC that signed the countervail against us;

(6) The District of North Vancouver supports Provincial initiatives that would disqualify the transfer of any existing forest tenures to any American company, that is the result of a BC company that has been made bankrupt by the imposition of the American duties.

And finally, why have we not obligated ourselves with any direct action on the part of our district? For me, I would like the comfort in knowing that at the very least any future contracts for any product or service (say in excess of \$5,000) that are "sourced" in the United States must be approved by the District Council (or its designated appointee) directly, and that a monthly report be prepared to monitor all such activity.

Wayne Hunter
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March 23/2002

Mayor and Council Members

In light of the unreasonable, unjust and undeserving punishment that will be extracted by the new US tariff on our provincial lumber exports, I strongly recommend that our District make it clear to all that it is NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL with our southern neighbours and I propose the following two initiatives;

- (1) A VERY STRONG statement reiterating our support should go out announcing our unequivocal support for the negotiating team, our industry and to express our sincerest sympathies to our fellow citizens and their communities. (A joint communiqué Mr. Mayor

with your counterparts in North Van City and West Van should be prepared and released in time for your next People & Policies broadcast on Shaw)

(2) We should take a lead and make it clear to all potential suppliers to our Municipal District that all US based products and services are immediately under review. No further US products or services should be contracted as of this date. Period. Until the review is completed.

Do not be swayed by any argument that such a retaliatory move would be a hollow gesture, or perhaps such "linkage" will only serve to "hurt us". Until the message gets across to the ordinary American worker and farmer that there is in fact a cost to the incredibly insensitive and unjust actions of Washington lumber lobbyists, our "friendship" with the Americans will continue to be taken for granted. And do not be at all moved by anyone who claims that such actions on the part of a municipal government contravenes any number of international bilateral and multilateral trade treaties and protocols Canada is a signatory to. The fact is, we are the only ones who play by the rules. We have been too polite and too accommodating and much to loyal to our American "friends".

For me, it ends right now. I will think twice before I buy any US grown produce, and will go out of my way to find reasonable replacements and to source our weekly groceries at stores and vendors who prominently display alternatives. Until further notice we will not plan any future leisure travel in the United States. The same for family clothes, and equipment. Any reasonable replacement or foreign alternative source, (with an emphasis on BC and Canada) will be sought out by my family. We are encouraging our American friends to travel here, (two families have already accepted) and it will be our personal mission to "educate" them on this issue.

I do not work directly or indirectly in the forest industry. But I have followed this issue from the beginning and have taken the time to determine the facts. Sometimes that has been difficult. And the truth has never been black and white. But the notion that our forests are being pillaged and that our provincial forest industry is being subsidized to the remotest extent of the claims made by the Lumber Lobby in Washington is nonsense. The fact is, it is far cheaper and definitely more rewarding for the Lumber Lobby to "invest" in the process of "Tariff Protection" afforded them under US trade law, than it is for them to invest in plants and equipment. I need not remind all that on every earlier occasion that we appealed to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and under NAFTA we have won our case. This time the effect will be devastating and will directly affect upwards of 20,000 families. Indirectly the effects will rip across our province like a tsunami wave. **THIS IS OUR GROUND ZERO.**

Our gesture may not be that significant within the grand scheme of world affairs and on-going diplomatic efforts to resolve this issue, but the principles involved cannot be ignored. Take a stand. This is a noble cause and one that will earn us much respect.