



Ochoco Lumber Company, uab

*4880, Aleksandrijos kaimas
Kupiskio rajonas, Lithuania*

5 Nov. 02

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Attn: Import Administration
Central Records Unit, Room 1870
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20230

Re: Case Number A-451-801

I am writing this letter in support of Lithuania's quest to be declared a market economy. First let me state that Ochoco Lumber Company was established in Lithuania in 1994. Our company has operated here successfully to date. Our company is one of the largest lumber manufactures in the country.

During this period Lithuania has progressed to a market economy. The currency of Lithuania, the Litas, is readily convertible into currencies of other countries. Our company regularly converts Litas to USD, GBP, Marks, Rubles, etc with no difficulty.

In regard to salary rates, the country does have a set minimum wage level as does the US, however all wages above the minimum level are negotiated between labor and management.

While establishing a business in Lithuania is still a little difficult there are no real barriers to investment by foreign companies.

The government of Lithuania has privatized most state businesses and is in the process of completing its privatization. In a private business, such as ours, the government does not own or control our business operations.

The government does not control our prices, output or resources of our operation. This is the case in most all businesses in Lithuania.

It is my opinion that Lithuania is definitely a market economy and is striving to be more so. There should be no question that Lithuania should be designated as a market economy country. Please feel free to contact me should you have additional questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely

John A. Rowell
General Manager