

Giustina Land & Timber Co.

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October 8, 2003

The Honorable James J. Jochum
Assistant Secretary for Import Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce, Central Records Unit, Room 1870
Pennsylvania Ave & 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Attention: Section 201 Duties

Dear Assistant Secretary Jochum:

In response to your request in the Sept. 9 Federal Register for comments on the appropriateness of deducting section 201 duties and countervailing duties from prices in order to calculate antidumping duties, I believe it is essential that the Department amend its policy immediately to fully address the magnitude of dumping by counting subsidy duties as a cost.

Giustina Land & Timber Co. is a family-owned business which manages approximately 45,000 acres of forestland here in western Oregon.

As a U.S. forestland owner, we sell out logs at a competitive market price to numerous and a variety of mills in our area. This competitive price includes harvesting costs, transportation costs and all other management costs incurred by us to deliver the logs to our mill customer. All of these costs must be recovered by the mill in a fair price for their finished product.

That is not the case in Canada -- Canadian producers buy timber at government-subsidized rates that do not reflect market forces and are unfairly low. The Department of Commerce imposed duties to offset the subsidies, but the Canadian prices still do not reflect a fair price as the Canadian mills have decided to simply "eat" losses and buy market share -- this is dumping. Dumping duties are currently being imposed on Canadian shippers.

The Department's current policy of not including countervailing duties as a cost when calculating dumping rates is very problematic as it does not accurately assess the full scope of the dumping. The subsidy duty is imposed in an effort to level the playing field between importers and the domestic industry by offsetting the value of the subsidy - it reflects what their true costs should be in a competitive market - costs that must be recouped in their sales prices if they are not to be considered dumping into the U.S. market.

We strongly favor changing the Department's policy to align it with current policy in both Canada and the European Community. This is the only way to place Canadian mills on a level playing field and to stop their predatory trade practices from diminishing the value of U.S. forest lands.

We are of the view that the enormous problem of unfair Canadian lumber trade will only be solved when the Canadian governments and mills understand very clearly that they must stop their unfair practices or the U.S. government will fully offset the unfair trade.

Sincerely,

L.M. Giustina

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