



**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2006  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SOFTWOOD DEAL WOULD HURT B.C. FOREST COMPANIES AND COMMUNITIES**

**VANCOUVER, B.C.** – The coastal forest industry says the latest version of the softwood lumber agreement with the U.S. falls short in meeting the needs of coastal forest companies and the communities in which they operate.

“There are still some fundamental free trade issues in the agreement that would have a huge negative impact on companies working on the B.C. coast, not to mention the communities that depend on a healthy forest industry,” says Rick Jeffery, President of Coast Forest Products Association.

Industry representatives met with the provincial government on Friday and agreed that the softwood deal still needs some critical changes before it can be supported by the province and the forest industry. Jeffery says those concerns were communicated to the federal government but remain unresolved.

“These fundamental free trade issues continue to be opposed by the U.S. government and the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports,” says Jeffery, “and the coastal industry simply cannot accept the unfair trade practises being put forward by the Americans.”

Jeffery says the outstanding issues centre around what happens if the deal is terminated and how lumber produced from currently exported logs will be treated. There is a built-in bias in the agreement against lumber produced from those logs, which would make it impossible for coastal companies to mill the logs in B.C.

Jeffery believes there is still time for the federal government to address these vital issues. If they are not resolved, the coastal industry is determined to do whatever it can to protect the industry and coastal communities.

- 30 -

**CONTACT: SANDRA BISHOP  
Ph. 604-420-3050 or Cell 604-312-8737**

1200 – 1090 W. Pender St.  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V6E 2N7

T 604.891.1237  
F 604.682.8641

[www.coastforest.org](http://www.coastforest.org)