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COASTAL FOREST INDUSTRY AGAINST CALLS FOR SUBSIDIES

VANCOUVER, BC – Coast Forest Products Association is speaking out against NDP Forest Critic Bob Simpson’s call for the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to introduce forest subsidy programs that would clearly put trade relations with the U.S. at risk, because these subsidies jeopardize the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement.

While most supporters of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement would concur that the agreement is not perfect, it has served coastal B.C. forest products producers well during this difficult economic time. By eliminating the risk of countervail and anti-dumping trade remedies being used against B.C. workers and communities, our forest industry has been protected against the politically motivated action of the U.S. forest industry.

“Maintaining the integrity of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement and helping forestry workers and communities is possible without putting trade with our biggest customer at risk,” states Rick Jeffery, President & CEO of Coast Forest Products Association. Coast Forest has been working tirelessly with industry and governments to create positive hosting conditions that will assist the industry when the market recovers. “Subsidies are not the answer,” emphasizes Jeffery.

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