

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 4

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding housing affordability and ensuring a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2001

Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KYL, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding housing affordability and ensuring a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

Whereas since 1989 the United States and Canada have worked to reduce tariff and nontariff barriers to trade;

Whereas free trade has greatly benefited the United States and Canadian economies;

Whereas the United States and Canada have been engaged in an ongoing dispute over trade in softwood lumber for 19 years;

Whereas on May 29, 1996, the United States and Canada entered into an agreement to temporarily resolve the dispute;

pute by limiting Canadian exports of softwood lumber to the United States;

Whereas the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 does not promote open trade;

Whereas the scope of the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 has been expanded, leading to uncertainty for importers, distributors, retailers, and purchasers of softwood lumber products;

Whereas the availability of affordable housing is important to the American homebuyer;

Whereas lumber price volatility jeopardizes housing affordability; and

Whereas the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 will expire on April 1, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives  
2 concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States-Canada Softwood Lumber  
4 Agreement of 1996 should terminate on April 1,  
5 2001, with no extension or additional quota agree-  
6 ment, and trade restrictions on lumber after the  
7 agreement expires should not be renegotiated;

8 (2) the President should continue to work with  
9 the Government of Canada to promote open and  
10 competitive trade between the United States and  
11 Canada on softwood lumber; and

12 (3) the President should consult with con-  
13 sumers of softwood lumber products in future dis-

1       cussions regarding the open trade of softwood lum-  
2       ber between the United States and Canada.

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