

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Tai  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai,

Congratulations on your unanimous Senate confirmation as U.S. Trade Representative. We look forward to working with you in advancing an ambitious trade policy that prioritizes American jobs and economic growth.

We are also writing to express our shared concern over reports of sharp increases in the cost of lumber. Fortunately, construction has remained an essential activity through the coronavirus crisis. However, this has resulted in an increased demand for lumber and shortages nationwide. Consequently, lumber prices have skyrocketed more than 300% since last spring.

This increase in lumber demand and cost has significantly and directly affected the housing market. In December 2020, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced that, despite the severe pandemic-induced economic downturn, its index of house prices had risen 10.2 percent over the course of a year, and 1.5 percent in just the single month of October – which marks an 18 percent annualized increase.

Our economy struggles when businesses feel uncertainty in the market. With the economy stressed, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the US government should make every effort to help create certainty and predictability in our supply chains.

The 2021 Trade Policy Agenda acknowledges that “strong trade enforcement is essential to making sure our trading partners live up to their commitments and that U.S. trade policy benefits American workers, manufacturers, farmers, businesses, families, and communities.”

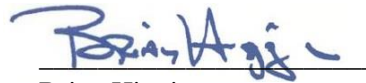
At present, the United States and Canada lack an agreement governing the trade of softwood lumber. Efforts to resolve this issue before the World Trade Organization (WTO) have stalled. The result is unnecessary cost increases to industries that use softwood lumber, such as residential home construction. We now call upon you to represent American interests on this critical issue by pursuing a balanced agreement with Canada. We, as Members of Congress, stand ready to discuss this issue and potential solutions with you. We consider such a balanced agreement to be in the interest of the United States because it would provide predictability for lumber producers and homebuilders so they can continue to help the economy recover from the events of the past year.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



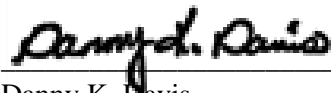
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



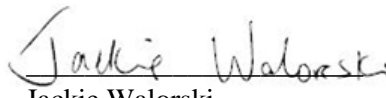
Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



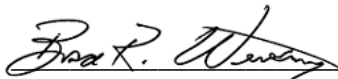
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



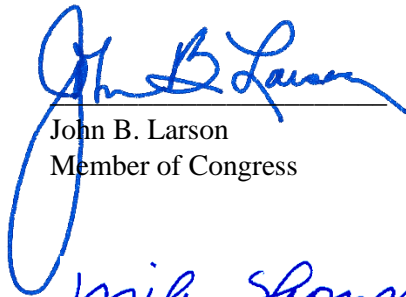
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



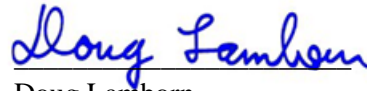
Vern Buchanan  
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Bradley S. Schneider  
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
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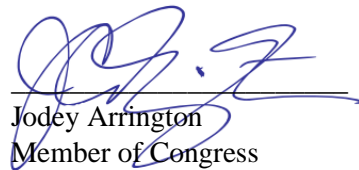
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



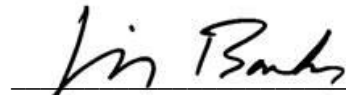
Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



Jodey Arrington  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
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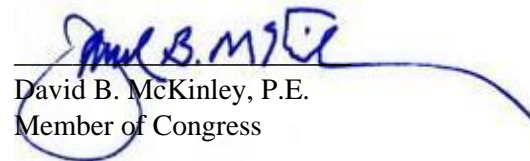
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



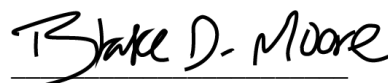
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
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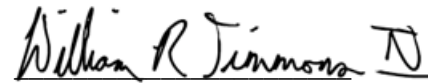
Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



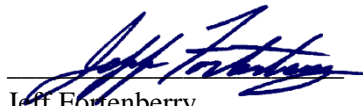
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



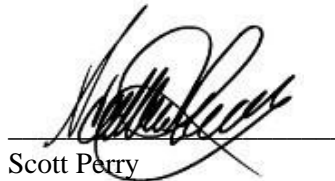
Blake Moore  
Member of Congress



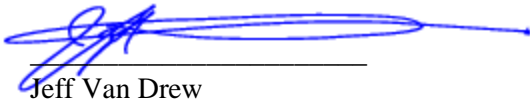
William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



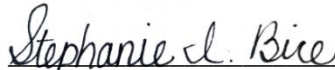
Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress



Roger Williams  
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Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



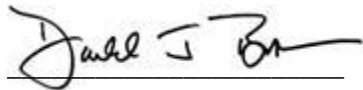
Stephanie Bice  
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Anthony Gonzalez  
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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



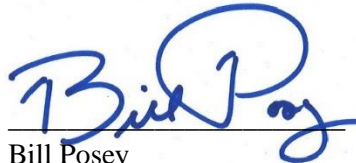
Donald J. Bacon  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



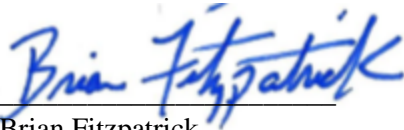
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



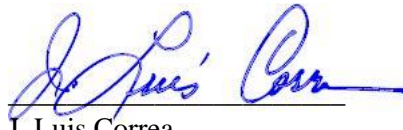
Ken Calvert  
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



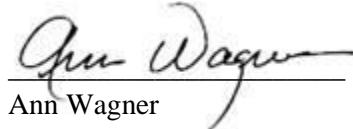
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

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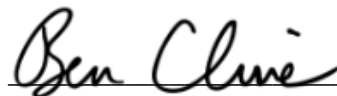
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



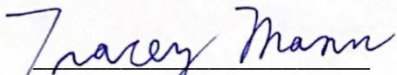
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress




Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



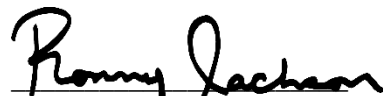
Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
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Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



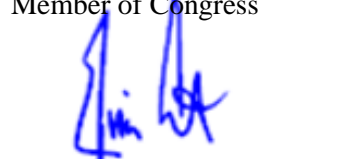
Josh Gottheimer  
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Scott Franklin  
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress




Jim Costa  
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Louis Gohmert  
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Cindy Axne

Member of Congress

  
Michelle Fischbach

Member of Congress

  
Chip Roy

Member of Congress

  
Ed Case

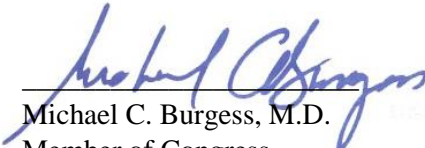
Member of Congress

  
Chris Stewart

Member of Congress

  
W. Gregory Steube

Member of Congress

  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

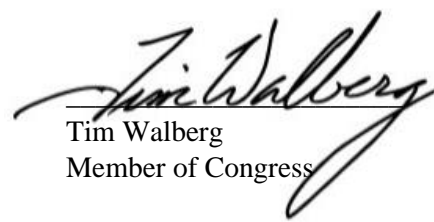
Member of Congress

  
Brett Guthrie


Member of Congress

  
Greg Pence

Member of Congress

  
Tim Walberg

Member of Congress

  
Mike Gallagher

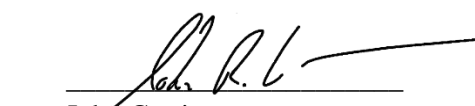
Member of Congress

  
Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

  
Ralph Norman

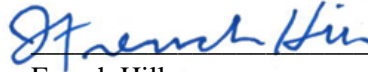
Member of Congress

  
John Curtis

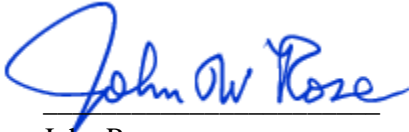
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Young Kim  
Member of Congress



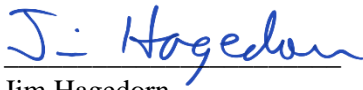
French Hill  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



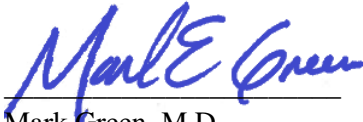
Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress



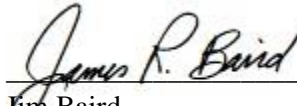
Jim Hagedorn  
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Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



Mark Green, M.D.  
Member of Congress



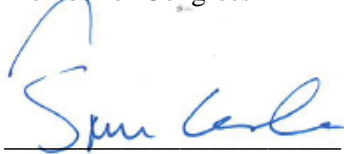
Jim Baird  
Member of Congress



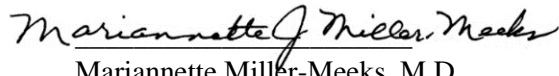
Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
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Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress

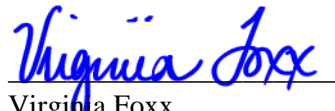


Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress





Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



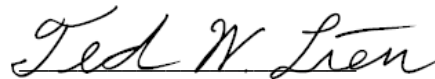
Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



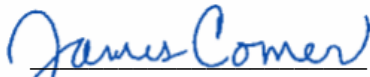
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



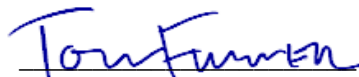
James Comer  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress




Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of  
Commerce



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress