



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

— *The Voice of Business* —

364 York Street, Suite 200
Fredericton, NB
E3B 3P7



May 3, 2017

Matt DeCoursey, MP
494 Queen Street (Main Office)
Suite 300
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 1B6

VIA Email: matt.decoursey@parl.gc.ca

RE: Softwood lumber tariffs and impacts on our business community

Dear Mr DeCoursey:

Recent softwood lumber tariffs announced by the U.S. Department of Commerce have raised serious concerns for the 950 members represented by our chamber. The New Brunswick forest sector employs over 20,000 people with more than 4100 of those jobs related to the sawmilling sector alone. Furthermore, there are approximately 1500 small- and medium-sized businesses involved in the forestry supply chain, province wide. Many of our chamber members will be negatively affected by the consequences of a near 20% tariff on what is a major economic driver in our province.

Our chamber stands in support of our forest industry in urging you as our federal representative to impress upon Prime Minister Trudeau and International Trade Minister Freeland, the urgent need to pursue a negotiated settlement of this matter with the United States. We ask that you and your fellow New Brunswick Members of Parliament advance the following with your federal government colleagues:

- Put forth a recommendation for an immediate meeting of Canadian industry and the federal government to frame a pan-Canadian pre-negotiation position.
- As soon as a Canadian negotiation position is arrived at, immediately return to negotiations with the U.S.
- Maintain federal support for the Maritime exclusion based on the traditional and historic precedence of fair trade between the region and its U.S. partners.



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The Fredericton Chamber of Commerce believes that business success drives the economy of the province and the country and that a critical element of that success is maintaining a strong and vibrant anchor industry as represented by the New Brunswick forest sector. Please consider our recommendations and we welcome your comments or questions regarding this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Simmonds
Robert Simmonds Clothing
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Cc/ Glen Warman, Chairman Forest NB
Jerome Pelletier, Chairman NB Lumber Producers Group
Mike Legere, Executive Director Forest NB