

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2026

Ambassador Jamieson Greer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

We write to urge the Administration to include American hardwood lumber in the framework for the newly formed U.S.-China Board of Trade and to ensure that any Chinese procurement commitments include American hardwood lumber, not logs, so that domestic lumber manufacturing is not undercut by China. The American hardwood lumber industry is vital to our states and the U.S. economy overall, supporting sawmills, loggers and rural economies across the country. We believe that if the Board of Trade focuses on hardwood lumber, it can provide much needed economic relief for domestic lumber manufacturers and support communities that depend on a competitive American hardwood industry.

According to the Hardwood Federation, the United States once supplied over 31% of China's hardwood lumber import market—a \$1.5 billion annual relationship. Today, that figure has fallen to roughly \$701 million as American firms cede market share to competitors from Russia, Malaysia, Thailand and elsewhere. The cumulative cost of lost market access is estimated at \$9.882 billion in foregone sales. This loss in sales led to a massive decline in production; domestic hardwood lumber production has dropped 48.3 percent since 2018, capacity was down 6 percent between 2020 and 2022 and output in the first quarter of 2025 declined 19 percent from 2024.

It is critical that the Board of Trade and any hardwood purchases focus on lumber, not just logs, in order to prevent China from simply buying American logs and undercutting domestic lumber manufacturing. In mid-2024, the value of U.S. hardwood log exports exceeded the value of U.S. hardwood lumber exports for the first time ever. U.S. hardwood log exports to China and Vietnam have grown significantly in recent years, with both countries processing those logs into lumber that then re-enters global markets in direct competition with American-made lumber. By supporting the purchase of American logs as opposed to hardwood lumber, American forests are supplying the raw material for foreign mills to displace American workers.

This decline also has significant national security implications, as American hardwood sawmills produce industrial mats for energy development, shipping pallets used for military and civilian logistics and railroad ties needed for freight and passenger rail. Once sawmill capacity is lost, it is extraordinarily difficult to restore, since the workforce disperses and infrastructure deteriorates.

Historically, China has accounted for roughly 25% of U.S. hardwood lumber production, and restoring this relationship is essential to communities in our states and across the county. We support the Administration's interest in supporting American manufacturing and request that USTR take the following steps:

1. Explicitly include American hardwood lumber in the Board of Trade framework;

2. Include American hardwood lumber – not logs – in China’s \$17 billion procurement commitment; and
3. Include enforceable compliance mechanisms with measurable targets specific to hardwood lumber and regularly review hardwood lumber purchases at the Board of Trade to ensure actual purchases are made.

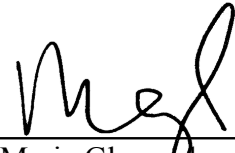
We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



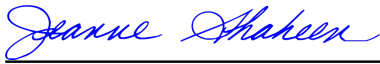
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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
Member of Congress



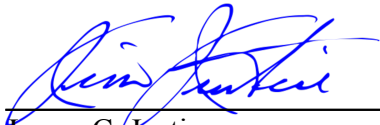
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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



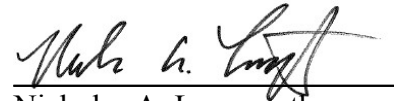
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Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



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James C. Justice  
United States Senator



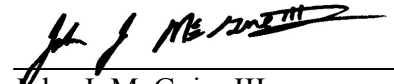
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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



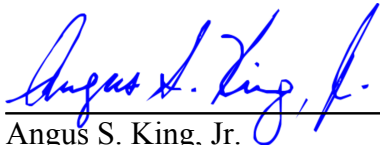
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Rudy Yakym III  
Member of Congress



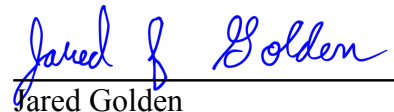
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John J. McGuire III  
Member of Congress



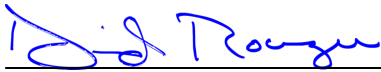
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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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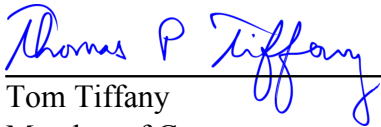
Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden  
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Tony Wied  
Member of Congress



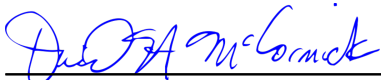
Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



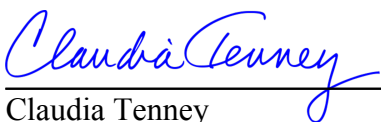
James Comer  
Member of Congress




David H. McCormick  
United States Senator



Tim Moore  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



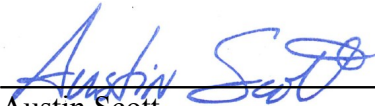
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Mark B. Messmer  
Member of Congress



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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



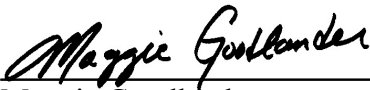
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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



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John Rose  
Member of Congress



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Victoria Spartz  
Member of Congress



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator