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United States Senate

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February 28, 2007

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U.S. International Trade Commission

The Honorable Daniel R. Pearson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Pearson:

In order to gain a better understanding of the trends and new developments in the global wood flooring and hardwood plywood industries, the Committee requests, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, that the U.S. International Trade Commission institute an investigation and provide a report on the competitive conditions affecting the U.S. wood flooring and hardwood plywood industries during the period from 2002-2006. The Commission's report on this investigation should provide to the extent possible, the following:

- An overview of the U.S. markets for solid and engineered wood flooring (both unfinished and factory finished products), and hardwood plywood;
- A description of the U.S. industries for wood flooring and hardwood plywood and the industries in the principal countries (including Canada, China, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia) supplying the U.S. market, including trends in production, capacity, employment, and consumption;
- An examination of U.S. trade patterns and the factors affecting trade patterns, including tariffs and other border measures;
- An analysis of the factors affecting the competitive position of U.S. producers and the principal foreign suppliers to the U.S. market including raw materials, illegal logging, technological capabilities, labor practices, environmental policies, government programs, and substitutes for wood flooring and hardwood plywood;
- Views of industry, homebuilders, importers and other interested parties on developments in the supply of and the demand for wood flooring and hardwood plywood, including the effect of imports and substitutes for each product.

The Commission should submit its report to the Committee not later than fifteen months from the receipt of this request. The Committee intends to make the report available to the public in its entirety. Therefore, I request that the report not include any confidential business information. The Commission's assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Max Baucus

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