

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2026

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th 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;

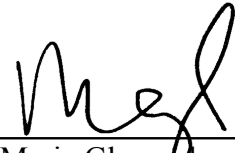
2. Include American hardwood lumber – not logs – in China's \$17 billion procurement commitment; and
3. Include enforceable compliance mechanisms with measurable targets specific to hardwood lumber and regularly review hardwood lumber purchases at the Board of Trade to ensure actual purchases are made.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



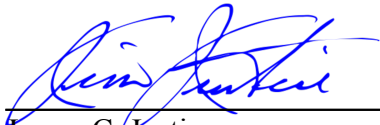
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



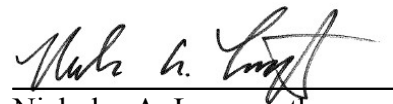
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



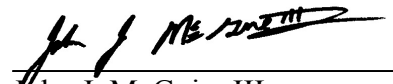
James C. Justice
United States Senator



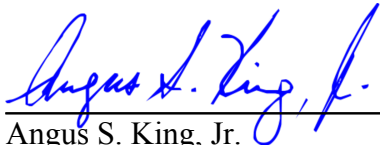
Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



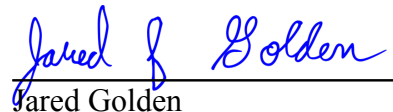
Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



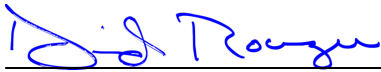
John J. McGuire III
Member of Congress



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



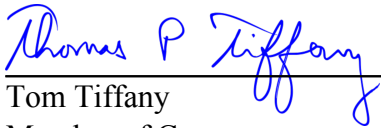
Jared Golden
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



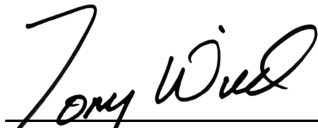
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Tony Wied
Member of Congress



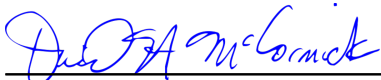
Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



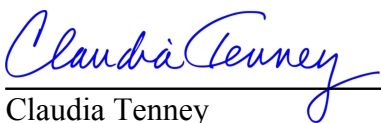
James Comer
Member of Congress



David H. McCormick
United States Senator



Tim Moore
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



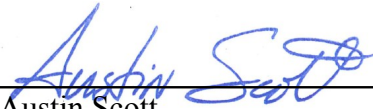
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Mark B. Messmer
Member of Congress



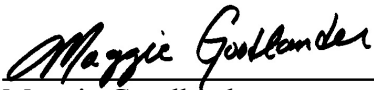
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator