



Media Release

Additional Tariffs Present a Looming Crisis to Ontario Communities and Forest Industry

Toronto, ON – February 1, 2025 – The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) expresses deep concern over the February 1st announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump seeking to impose a 25% tariff on most Canadian goods. In combination with existing softwood lumber duties, these tariffs threaten to undermine the economic stability of Ontario’s forest sector, jeopardizing jobs, communities, and the broader Canadian economy.

“Ontario’s forest sector is highly trade-exposed, exporting \$7.9 billion CAD globally in forest products annually. Of these exports, 97% (\$7.7 billion CAD) go to the United States,” said Ian Dunn, President & CEO of OFIA. “Ontario lumber producers could face a 60% tariff at the border this year, effectively wiping out all shipments to the U.S. This latest move by the U.S. government represents an illegal, unfair, and unjustified attack on Canadian industry. The Ontario forest sector operates under a fair, sustainable, and transparent system, and these punitive measures do nothing but harm businesses and consumers on both sides of the border.”

Tariffs are expected to drive up costs for American consumers, particularly within the housing sector, where Canadian softwood lumber and structural panels play a crucial role in ensuring affordability and supply stability. The U.S. has historically relied on Canadian lumber and structural panels to meet domestic demand, and these trade barriers will ultimately lead to higher home prices, job losses, and economic inefficiencies. According to the American National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), proposed new tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico are projected to raise the cost of imported construction materials by \$3 to \$4 billion per year, substantially impacting builders’ ability to deliver new projects.

OFIA urges all levels of government to take immediate action, working in collaboration with industry leaders, to challenge these tariffs while providing additional urgent support measures to the industry.

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For 82 years, the OFIA has represented forestry companies ranging from multinational corporations to family-owned businesses across Ontario. OFIA’s member companies produce various renewable forest products, including dimensional lumber, pulp and paper, packaging, clean energy, and engineered wood products. OFIA members invest heavily in advanced research, development, and innovative technologies, supporting a transition towards net-zero. Today, Ontario’s forest industry generates over \$22 billion in revenue and supports 137,000 direct and indirect jobs in communities across the province.

To learn more about OFIA, visit www.ofia.com.

For more information, please contact:

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