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**AUGUST 18, 2006**

**CONTACT: SANDRA BISHOP  
PH. 604-420-3050 or CELL. 604-312-8737**

## **SOFTWOOD DEAL IS IMPORTANT STEP IN FIXING FORESTRY SAYS B.C. COASTAL FOREST INDUSTRY**

**VANCOUVER, B.C.** – Coast Forest Products Association announced its support today of the softwood lumber agreement after assurances from the provincial and federal governments that concerns raised by the coastal forest industry will be dealt with under the current framework.

Canada and the U.S. have agreed to set up a joint softwood working group or a binational panel to look at the two remaining issues that affect the coastal forest industry. They are: how lumber produced from timber on privately owned lands will be treated and the running rules governing the day-to-day operations of the agreement.

“It’s not a perfect deal, but hopefully it will create the opportunity for the industry to continue to rebuild itself,” says Rick Jeffery, President of Coast Forest Products Association. “However, it is up to every individual company to make its own decision on whether or not to support this deal, based on each company’s unique circumstance.”

There are still many critical issues facing the B.C. coastal forest industry. Resolving the softwood lumber dispute is an important step in fixing those problems and maintaining a healthy and sustainable forest industry.

1200 – 1090 W. Pender St.  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V6E 2N7

T 604.891.1237  
F 604.682.8641

[www.coastforest.org](http://www.coastforest.org)