



Grand Council Treaty #3

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CENTRAL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 1720
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 3X7
Ph: (807) 548-4214
Fax: (807) 548-5041

August 6th, 2003

Grant D. Aldonas,
Under Secretary for International Trade,
Central Records Unit, Room 1870,
U.S. Department of Commerce,
Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street, NW.,
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Support of the comments of the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade on the Proposed Policies Regarding the Conduct of Changed Circumstance Review of the Countervailing Duty Order on Softwood Lumber From Canada (C 122 839)

Dear Under Secretary Aldonas,

I am writing you in the name of the Anishinaabe people of the Grand Council of Treaty 3 to reiterate our positions regarding the Softwood Lumber Issue. Our lands stretch from Northwestern Ontario to Manitoba and are throughout impacted by unsustainable softwood lumber extraction. Not only have our people been excluded from the forest industry with the companies failing to take our traditional knowledge and Anishinaabe law into account, but we have also not received any remuneration for the extraction of resources in our traditional territories. As you are aware we have joined in the previous submissions of the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade that the non-recognition of Aboriginal Title and rights and the non-implementation of treaty rights is a subsidy under international trade law. Our amicus curiae briefs have been officially accepted by tribunals of both the World Trade Organization and NAFTA.

We want to again stress, that any long-term solution of the Softwood Lumber Dispute has to involve indigenous peoples and we encourage you to make provision for the reallocation of tenure to the control of indigenous peoples. Our commitment to more sustainable forest management and remuneration for our proprietary interests lead to a more appropriate valuing of the resource.

In closing we want to make it clear that present forest policies in Ontario and Manitoba do violate our constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights and concentrate power and control in the hands of a small number of companies, that also fail to take our rights into account. We have put both companies and the provincial and federal governments on notice that we will challenge their policies and practices at the provincial, national and international level.

