

T. R. MILLER MILL COMPANY, INC.

215 DEER STREET
P. O. BOX 708

BREWTON



ALABAMA

ZIP 36427
(251) 867-4331
e-mail: david@trmillermill.com

DAVID CASTLEBERRY
Vice President and
General Manager

October 3, 2003

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 2003
DEPT. OF COMMERCE
ITA
IMPORT ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable James J. Jochum
Assistant Secretary for Import Administration
U. S. Department of Commerce
Central Records Unit, Room 1870
Pennsylvania Avenue & 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Attention: Section 201 Duties

Dear Assistant Secretary Jochum:

As a U. S. lumber manufacturer, the company I manage competes in the open market for raw material. We then process that timber into lumber to again compete in an extremely competitive market for sales opportunities. If we as a company are not competitive up front in purchasing our raw material, we do not have logs to run our mill. If we pay too much for the timber initially, we cannot be competitive in the market, causing us to lose money. There are a lot of variables which come into play, but the bottom line is that we must account for 100% of our costs from the purchase of the logs through the entire manufacturing process to the lumber being shipped to the consumer. Recently, the company could only show a loss.

The way the Department of Commerce currently calculates anti-dumping duties fails to account for all the costs that a foreign producer might bear because countervailing duties are not calculated in the formula. As is currently the case with softwood lumber from Canada, domestic producers are faced with dumping by an importer who is also highly government subsidized. The offset to the government subsidy, the countervailing duty, accounts for what that producer should legitimately be paying for timber. As such, including it in the formula for calculating anti-dumping rates is essential.

Both Canada and the European Union follow the policy of counting duty as a cost in calculating dumping, and the United States should as well. It just makes sense.

This is a critical issue for our company, and that is why we are responding to your request for comments on the policy in the September 9 Federal Register.

Company: T. R. Miller Mill Company, Inc.
Established 1872
Number Employed: 235
Year-to-date losses through August: \$725,000

I hope the department of Commerce will amend its policy and begin treating duties as a cost.

Sincerely,


David Castleberry