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Extension of the Softwood Lumber Agreement provides stability and certainty to North American lumber industry

WASHINGTON, DC (January 23, 2012) – The Binational Softwood Lumber Council congratulates the Canadian and U.S. governments on their success in negotiating an extension of the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement.

“We appreciate the efforts and leadership of both governments in extending this important agreement. The extension provides the necessary certainty to allow producers on both sides of the border to focus their efforts on strengthening their businesses and the North American wood products industry as a whole,” said Cees de Jager, executive director of the Binational Softwood Lumber Council. “This agreement is particularly timely given the current economic climate. The North American wood products industry is an important job creator and supports hundreds of local communities, many of them rural, on both sides of the border.”

When it comes to softwood lumber, Canada and the U.S. have an extraordinarily large and important trading relationship. Since the implementation of the Softwood Lumber Agreement in 2006, the industries have increasingly worked together to improve the long term health of the industry. The work of the Binational Softwood Lumber Council, itself a product of the Softwood Lumber Agreement, has gone a long way in improving the goodwill between the two countries. This goodwill was reflected this past June with the establishment of the first ever softwood lumber check off program, a collaborative effort by the entire North American industry to significantly grow markets for softwood lumber. “Today’s announcement further reflects the improved relations between the two trading partners,” noted Mr. de Jager.

About Binational Softwood Lumber Council

The Binational Softwood Lumber Council, a nonprofit organization, was established in 2006 by the Canadian and U.S. governments. The council is leading the effort to increase the use of wood products as part of the shift to green building. Sustainably harvested wood products from North America create jobs in rural communities, sequester significant amounts of carbon and

help reduce the overall environmental footprint of a home or building. Council's effort includes initiatives that bring together expertise from various disciplines to promote the use of North American wood products in green building. It is an excellent example of the council's ability to bring together landowners, private businesses and government agencies from Canada and the U.S. to achieve a common goal. For more information, visit www.softwoodlumber.org.