

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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NATL ASSN. OF HOME BUILDERS

Mr. Leon N. Weiner
President
National Ass'n of Home Builders
1625 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Weiner:

Secretary Freeman has asked us to answer your letter of November 7, 1967, about log exports and their relationship to the prices of wood products and lumber.

We have been aware of the difficult log supply situation in the Pacific Northwest and the problems created by accelerating log exports and are glad to have the benefit of your thoughts on this subject. You mention that the matter revolves primarily around the sales of timber from Government forests and, as a consequence, you feel that appropriate remedial action should be taken by interested Departments of the Government. We do not want to appear to be sidestepping our proper responsibilities, but wish to point out that probably less than 50 percent of the logs that are exported to overseas markets come from public lands. In the Grays Harbor-Willapa Harbor Area, where approximately 20 percent of all Pacific Northwest log exports originate, contiguous National Forest timber is located in the Grays Harbor Sustained Yield Unit and may not be exported from that general area in log form. This fact notwithstanding, log exports from this area have continued to increase at a rapid rate. This leads us to feel that to be effective, any controls on log exports must apply equally to private and other public timber.

Currently, we are working with the State Department and others on this subject. We are scheduled to hold discussions with Japanese Government representatives to find ways to eliminate or mitigate the adverse effects that log exporting has had on some domestic industries. We hope these discussions will be fruitful. Thank you for writing and letting us know of your views on this complex subject.

Sincerely yours,

M. M. Nelson

M.M. NELSON
DEPUTY CHIEF

