



Trade

Background

As with many industries with such significant economic impact, the U.S. Hardwood industry's relations with our trading partners are complicated. For those of us that are exporters, the viability of our business depends significantly on our ability to ship our goods and products, including logs and sawn timber, to regions around the world, including Asia, Latin America, Europe and Canada. For those of us that produce value added products, including engineered flooring and plywood, we face significant challenges from the influx of products from countries, particularly China, that do not abide by international rules regarding free and fair trade. As an industry we also support federal efforts to prevent the importation of illegally harvested timber that competes unfairly with U.S. grown fiber.

Issue

The long ongoing trade dispute between the U.S. and China caused by illegal Chinese trade practices and the resulting tariffs on U.S products, including hardwoods, has caused severe market disruption and tremendous damage to hardwood companies across the country.

Hardwood Federation Position

The Hardwood Federation encourages the Trump Administration to continue active, high level negotiations with the Chinese government and work towards swift resolution of differences and a return to certainty and stability in the global marketplace.

The Hardwood Federation also asks that the U.S. government pursue stringent enforcement of existing and future U.S. legal safeguards against unfair trade practices. The remedies should be timely and enforceable through modernized and reformed trade policies along with the use of international trade organizations like the International Trade Commission and the World Trade Organization.