

help United States manufacturers maintain competitiveness both at home and abroad.

The Council provides a means of ensuring regular contact between the U.S. Government and the manufacturing sector, acting as a liaison among the stakeholders represented by the membership, and may provide a forum for those stakeholders on current and emerging issues in the manufacturing sector. The Council shall recommend ways to ensure that the United States remains the preeminent destination for investment in manufacturing throughout the world.

The Council shall report to the Secretary on its activities and recommendations regarding United States manufacturing. In creating the reports, the Council should: Survey and evaluate the manufacturing activities of the stakeholders represented by the membership; identify and examine specific problems facing the manufacturing industry; examine the needs of the industry to expand the Council's efforts; and recommend specific solutions to these problems and needs.

The Council functions solely as an advisory committee in accordance with the provisions of FACA.

Members will be selected in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidelines based on each individual's ability to advise the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to the U.S. manufacturing sector, to act as a liaison among the stakeholders represented by the membership, and to represent the viewpoint of those stakeholders on current and emerging issues in the manufacturing sector. In assessing this ability, the Department will consider such factors as, but not limited to, the candidate's proven experience in promoting, developing and marketing programs in support of manufacturing industries, job creation in the manufacturing sector, and the candidate's proven abilities to manage manufacturing organizations. Given the duties and objectives of the Council, the Department particularly seeks applicants who are active manufacturing executives (Chief Executive Officer, President, or a comparable level of responsibility) who are leaders within their local manufacturing communities and industry sectors. The Council's membership shall reflect the diversity of American manufacturing by representing a balanced cross-section of the U.S. manufacturing industry in terms of industry sectors, geographic locations, demographics, and company

size, particularly seeking the representation of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The Secretary of Commerce appoints all Council members. All Council members serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce. Council members shall serve in a representative capacity, representing the views and interests of a U.S. entity in the manufacturing industry and its particular sector. For the purposes of eligibility, a U.S. entity is defined as a firm incorporated in the United States (or an unincorporated firm with its principal place of business in the United States) that is (a) majority controlled (more than 50% ownership interest and/or voting stock) by U.S. citizens or by another U.S. entity or (b) majority controlled (more than 50% ownership interest and/or voting stock) directly or indirectly by a foreign parent company.

Because Council members serve in a representative capacity, expressing the views and interests of a U.S. entity, they are therefore not Special Government Employees. Council members receive no compensation for their participation in Council activities. Members participating in Council meetings and events are responsible for their travel, living and other personal expenses. Meetings are held regularly and not less than annually, usually in Washington, DC. Members are required to attend a majority of the Council's meetings. To be considered for membership, an applicant must provide the following information, statements and documents. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

1. Name and title of the individual requesting consideration.
2. A sponsor letter from the applicant on his or her entity's letterhead containing a brief statement of why the applicant should be considered for membership on the Council. This sponsor letter should also address the applicant's manufacturing-related experience, including any manufacturing trade policy experience.
3. The applicant's personal resume.
4. An affirmative statement that the applicant meets all eligibility criteria.
5. An affirmative statement that the applicant is not required to register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.
6. Information regarding the ownership and control of the entity to be represented, including the governing structure and stock holdings, as appropriate, demonstrating compliance with the criteria set forth above.
7. The entity's size, place of incorporation or principal place of

business, additional manufacturing, innovation and R&D locations, product line, major markets in which the entity operates, and the entity's exporting experience.

8. Information on the challenges the entity faces to stay competitive as a U.S. manufacturer, and the priorities the entity would hope to see the Manufacturing Council address during their term.

9. Please include all relevant contact information such as mailing address, fax, email, phone number, and support staff information where relevant.

Dated: October 21, 2014.

**Jennifer Pilat,**

*Executive Secretary, The Manufacturing Council.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### **Subsidy Programs Provided by Countries Exporting Softwood Lumber and Softwood Lumber Products to the United States; Request for Comment**

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (Department) seeks public comment on any subsidies, including stumpage subsidies, provided by certain countries exporting softwood lumber or softwood lumber products to the United States during the period January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted within thirty days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** See the Submission of Comments section below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Terpstra, Office III, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3965.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

On June 18, 2008, section 805 of Title VIII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Softwood Lumber Act of 2008) was enacted into law. Under this provision, the Secretary of Commerce is mandated to submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a report every 180 days on any subsidy provided by countries exporting softwood lumber or

softwood lumber products to the United States, including stumpage subsidies.

The Department submitted its last subsidy report on June 16, 2014. As part of its newest report, the Department intends to include a list of subsidy programs identified with sufficient clarity by the public in response to this notice.

### Request for Comments

Given the large number of countries that export softwood lumber and softwood lumber products to the United States, we are soliciting public comment only on subsidies provided by countries whose exports accounted for at least one percent of total U.S. imports of softwood lumber by quantity, as classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule code 4407.1001 (which accounts for the vast majority of imports), during the period January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Official U.S. import data published by the United States International Trade Commission Tariff and Trade DataWeb indicate that only one country, Canada, exported softwood lumber to the United States during that time period in amounts sufficient to account for at least one percent of U.S. imports of softwood lumber products. We intend to rely on similar previous six-month periods to identify the countries subject to future reports on softwood lumber subsidies. For example, we will rely on U.S. imports of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products during the period July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, to select the countries subject to the next report.

Under U.S. trade law, a subsidy exists where an authority: (i) Provides a financial contribution; (ii) provides any form of income or price support within the meaning of Article XVI of the GATT 1994; or (iii) makes a payment to a funding mechanism to provide a financial contribution to a person, or entrusts or directs a private entity to make a financial contribution, if providing the contribution would normally be vested in the government and the practice does not differ in substance from practices normally followed by governments, and a benefit is thereby conferred.<sup>1</sup>

Parties should include in their comments: (1) The country which provided the subsidy; (2) the name of the subsidy program; (3) a brief description (at least 3–4 sentences) of the subsidy program; and (4) the government body or authority that provided the subsidy.

### Submission of Comments

Persons wishing to comment should file comments by the date specified above. Comments should only include publicly available information. The Department will not accept comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially due to business proprietary concerns or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments or materials to the persons submitting the comments and will not include them in its report on softwood lumber subsidies. The Department requests submission of comments filed in electronic Portable Document Format (PDF) submitted on CD-ROM or by email to the email address of the EC Webmaster, below.

The comments received will be made available to the public in PDF on the Enforcement and Compliance Web site at the following address: <http://enforcement.trade.gov/sla2008/sla-index.html>. Any questions concerning file formatting, access on the Internet, or other electronic filing issues should be addressed to Laura Merchant, Enforcement and Compliance Webmaster, at (202) 482–0367, email address: [webmaster\\_support@trade.gov](mailto:webmaster_support@trade.gov).

All comments and submissions in response to this Request for Comment should be received by the Department no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the above-referenced deadline date.

Dated: October 20, 2014.

**Christian Marsh,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XD585**

### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing, Scientific Research, Display, and Chartering Permits; Letters of Acknowledgment

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces its intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Scientific Research Permits (SRPs), Display Permits, Letters of

Acknowledgment (LOAs), and Chartering Permits for Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) in 2015. Exempted fishing permits and related permits would authorize collection of a limited number of tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks (collectively known as HMS) from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of scientific data collection, bycatch research, and public display. Chartering permits allow the collection of HMS on the high seas or in the Exclusive Economic Zone of other nations under certain conditions. Generally, EFPs and related permits will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2015, unless otherwise specified, subject to the terms and conditions of individual permits.

**DATES:** Written comments on these activities received in response to this notice will be considered by NMFS when issuing EFPs and related permits and must be received on or before November 26, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [nmfs.hms.efp2015@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.hms.efp2015@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line the following identifier: 0648–XD585.

- *Mail:* Craig Cockrell, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Craig Cockrell, phone: (301) 427–8503, fax: (301) 713–1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Issuance of EFPs and related permits are necessary for the collections of HMS for scientific research; the acquisition of information and data; the enhancement of safety at sea; the purpose of collecting animals for public education or display; and the investigation of bycatch, economic discards, and regulatory discards. These permits exempt permit holders from regulations (e.g., fishing seasons, prohibited species, authorized gear, closed areas, and minimum sizes) that may otherwise prohibit the collection of HMS. Collection under EFPs, SRPs, LOAs, display, and chartering permits represents a small portion of the overall fishing mortality for HMS, and this mortality is counted against the quota of the species harvested, as appropriate and applicable. The terms and conditions of individual permits are unique; however, all permits will include reporting requirements, limit the number and/or species of HMS to be collected, and only authorize collection in Federal waters of

<sup>1</sup> See section 771(5)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.