

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Gov. Gina Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Herbert Clark Hoover Building  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Gov. Raimondo:

On behalf of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I would like to congratulate you on your confirmation as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. NAHB looks forward to working with you as you bring your leadership and experience to the Commerce Department during this critical time for our nation as we cope with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, address climate change, and take steps to expand American business interests and rebuild the U.S. economy.

The health of the economy is dependent upon a vibrant housing sector. NAHB is committed to working with you and your leadership team to promote sound federal policies addressing trade, business opportunities, and innovation while simultaneously avoiding undue regulatory or trade burdens that affect residential construction and in particular, the small businesses that comprise a majority of the industry.

Addressing the unprecedented spikes in lumber costs, which threaten to stall the U.S. home building industry, must be a top priority. Lumber prices have skyrocketed to nearly \$1000 per thousand board feet – an increase of more than 180 percent since last April, adding more than \$24,000 to the price of an average new single-family home. As Secretary of Commerce, NAHB urges you to immediately investigate why domestic timber production has remained at such low levels despite acute supply shortages and historic prices. We are also hopeful that you will return to the negotiating table with the Canadian government and achieve a new softwood lumber agreement to end the current tariffs on Canadian lumber shipments into the United States.

NAHB's senior leadership would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to begin a productive dialogue and we will follow up with your office regarding this request. Again, congratulations on your confirmation as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NAHB looks forward to working with you on these priorities and others throughout 2021 and beyond.

Best regards,



John C. Fowke