



A News Release from the American Forest & Paper Association

December 4, 2007

Contact: Charles Lardner
202.463.2459
charles_lardner@afandpa.org

AF&PA Hails Passage of United States-Peru Trade Agreement

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) today hailed the U.S. Senate’s passage of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA).

The Peru trade agreement benefits the U.S. forest products industry by immediately eliminating tariffs and duties on 86 percent of paper and paperboard exports – the largest category of the industry’s exports to Peru. Last year, U.S. forest products exports to Peru amounted to \$53 million. Removing the current tariffs will put U.S. manufacturers on a more level playing field with suppliers from Chile and Brazil, who already benefit from preferential tariff policies in the Peruvian market.

This agreement contains important environmental measures as well, said AF&PA President and CEO Donna Harman. The Annex on Forest Sector Governance will improve Peru’s forestry practices and make progress towards eliminating illegal logging, its associated illegal border trade, and the use of illegally obtained timber in the manufacturing of forest products, a key goal of AF&PA.

“On top of the obvious benefits for a wide variety of manufacturing and agricultural interests, this free trade agreement demonstrates to the rest of the world that the United States is committed to promoting economic growth and support for democratically-elected governments.”

#

AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, paper, and wood products industry. AF&PA represents companies and related associations that engage in or represent the manufacture of pulp, paper, paperboard, and wood products. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 6 percent of total U.S. manufacturing output, and employs over one million people. Visit AF&PA online at www.afandpa.org.