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Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2026 (Friedman) – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Senator Portantino:

We, the signatories of this letter representing the wood products industry, hereby take an “oppose unless amended” position on AB 2026 (Friedman). The bill would require e-commerce shippers who ship purchased products in or into the state to reduce the total weight and number of units of single-use plastic shipping envelopes it uses to transport products.

Our industry is constantly working to eliminate unnecessary packaging for various environmental reasons. Currently, we use plastic wraps to protect units of lumber from the elements. These plastic wraps are used judiciously as they only cover areas exposed to the elements, leaving the bottom open. Please see the photograph below.

In our efforts to be good environmental stewards, we have experimented with alternatives to plastic, such as paper wraps. We have found that these alternatives do not properly protect the wood and can result in the degradation of our products.

Assemblymember Friedman’s goal is laudable, as she seeks to “reduce the unnecessary and unacceptable amount of single-use plastic used in the e-commerce marketplace.” We believe it is not the author’s intent to restrict or limit plastic wraps used to protect wood products. For the above-mentioned reasons, we ask you to amend AB 2026 to exclude shipping envelopes used for wood products. The definition for shipping envelope should read as such:

(h) “Shipping envelope” means packaging used for the containment, protection, handling, or delivery of smaller goods by a manufacturer or retailer for the user or consumer. A plastic shipping envelope includes, but is not limited to, plastic mailers, envelope mailers, lightweight plastic mailers, padded plastic mailers, poly mailers, poly bubble mailers, plastic shipping mailers, and paper mailers with plastic lining. *Materials used to protect lumber products do not meet the definition of a shipping envelope.*

As currently drafted, we must oppose AB 2026 unless it is amended to reflect the language outlined above.

Sincerely,

Allweather Wood
American Forest & Paper Association
American Wood Council
Conrad Forest Products
Fairfax Lumber and Hardware
Hexion
Humboldt
Mendocino
North American Deck and Railing Association
Pacific Wood Services
Railway Tie Association
Thunderbolt Wood Treating
Treated Wood Council
West Coast Lumber & Building Materials Association
Western Wood Preservers Institute
Wood Preservation Canada

