

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

February 26, 2016

Magali Silva Velarde-Alvarez
Minister of Trade and Tourism
Republic of Peru

Dear Minister Silva:

I am writing on behalf of the United States Interagency Committee on Trade in Timber Products from Peru (the "Committee") to request that Peru, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the Annex on Forest Sector Governance of the United States – Peru Trade Promotion Agreement ("TPA"), verify whether, with respect to a particular shipment of timber products exported from Peru to the United States, the exporter and the supplying producers complied with applicable laws, regulations, and other measures of Peru. The United States requests that Peru verify the shipment made by Inversiones La Oroza SRL ("Oroza") that departed Iquitos, Peru, and arrived in the U.S. Port of Houston, Texas, on or around January 20, 2015.

As outlined in the Annex on Forest Sector Governance (Annex 18.3.4 to the TPA), the United States requests that Peru prepare a written report of the results of its verification within the timeframe specified in the TPA, appending all relevant documents and facts supporting Peru's assessment. Such relevant documents include, but are not limited to: Guia de Transporte Forestal documents; Organismo de Supervision de los Recursos Forestales y de Fauna Silvestre (OSINFOR) Informe de Supervision reports; and relevant export documentation. Additionally, the United States requests that OSINFOR and the Autoridad Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre (SERFOR) visit the premises of the exporter and producers and of any other enterprise in Peru in the chain of production or transportation of the product in this shipment. The United States looks forward to working closely with Peru throughout the course of the verification process.

The United States understands the applicable laws, regulations and other measures of Peru to include, but not be limited to, Ley No. 27308, *Ley Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* and the *Regulations for Law No. 27308* (2001).

The United States makes this request based on public reports that recent shipments by Oroza may contain timber products illegally harvested in Peru. These reports raise questions about the integrity of Oroza's processes for extracting, processing, transporting, and exporting timber and raise concerns that Oroza may not have complied with all applicable Peruvian laws and regulations for timber exported to the United States.

In making this request, I want to underscore that the Committee is aware of the commendable progress Peru has made to date in implementing reforms to improve forest sector governance, but remains concerned about reports of continued illegal logging in Peru. I believe we have a shared interest in ensuring the promotion of legal, sustainable timber trade between the United States and Peru. The Committee's request reflects these concerns and interests, and underscores our continued willingness to identify ways the United States and Peru could further collaborate to fulfill the objectives of the TPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Froman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ambassador Michael B.G. Froman