

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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OFFICE OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND  
447 Senate Office Building  
Ext. 5972

Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today urged the Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate the effects of the freight rate structure on the "disastrously depressed" Southern pine lumber industry.

In a letter addressed to each member of the Commission, Thurmond said that "the normal advantage of proximity to market of Southern lumber has been, in effect, nullified, due to 'hold down' provisions imposed on freight rate increases granted in recent years, particularly since 1946."

"The net effect of these 'hold downs'", Thurmond said, "has been to price Southern lumber out of competition with West Coast lumber in Eastern markets. As a result, the Southern pine manufacturing industry has been disastrously depressed."

Thurmond said that he had received reports that railroads are charging demurrage on lumber shipments on Sundays and holidays. "While this is not a large matter within itself," he said, "it is of major importance to an industry already seriously afflicted."

The Senator noted that lumbering is the second largest industry in South Carolina.

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