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SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP

To all:

Single family housing made a comeback in September and the initial estimate of 3rd qtr GDP was a surprise at 2.9%. Hopefully the economy will continue to move forward. However, housing numbers remain historically low and that won't change much in my opinion. Even business investment has picked up some according to the latest numbers. So, the most recent news is a welcome surprise.

Let's look forward a bit - the election is less than two weeks away and we have two candidates that the majority of Americans dislike (for good reasons). One is a pompous and egotistical buffoon while the other is a perennial liar who can't be trusted. The country has some serious issues to deal with - \$20 trillion debt; job creation; terrorism; weak economy; low productivity; a K-12 education system that is a mess in many parts of the country; crumbling infrastructure; a health care system that is as complicated as our tax system; You would think that with 324 million people, we could find someone - male or female - that could articulate a sound strategy for addressing these issues. Obama, despite all of his flaws, was at least a temporary reprieve from the Clinton and Bush dynasties. Our two party system doesn't always work well - today's election cycle is a good example. That said, it is better than what exists in many parts of the world.

OK - on to some good news (if you're a Cleveland fan). It is great that two cities - Cleveland and Chicago, after suffering long droughts, have a chance to finally win the World Series. It is too bad one has to lose.

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