

On behalf of the nearly \_\_\_\_ undersigned state and local chambers of commerce from across the United States, we are writing in support of your efforts to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Business leaders across the country know first-hand that trade with Canada and Mexico has created American jobs, boosted economic growth, and strengthened local economies, but we know we can do even more to seize the benefits of trade with our North American neighbors.

As our country's top export markets, trade with Canada and Mexico supports 14 million American jobs, including tens of thousands of jobs in every single state and more than 100,000 in 35 U.S. states. Each and every day, over \$3.5 billion, or \$1.3 trillion annually, is traded between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In fact, half of all Canadian and Mexican imports are "made-in-the-USA."

NAFTA has been especially beneficial for America's farmers and ranchers. Agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have quadrupled from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38 billion in 2016, generating big benefits for rural America. In addition, Canada and Mexico are the top two markets in the world for U.S.-made manufactured goods, with purchases of nearly half a trillion dollars last year — a sum that tops the next ten largest markets combined. Our North American neighbors are also booming markets for U.S. services exports. In fact, the U.S. last year recorded a trade surplus of \$11.9 billion with its NAFTA partners when manufactured goods and services are combined. Among the biggest beneficiaries of this commerce are America's small and medium-sized businesses, 125,000 of which sell their goods and services to Mexico and Canada.

We've thus been pleased to see your Administration insist that we must, first, "do no harm" in the NAFTA negotiations. We agree that we should move quickly to modernize this trilateral agreement and continue working with Congress in accordance with the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.

We look forward to working closely with you and your Administration to grow the economy and create jobs through free and fair trade. To help facilitate that growth, we urge you to support America's workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses of all sizes by protecting and preserving the deep economic ties and benefits the United States continues to enjoy under NAFTA.

Sincerely,