

By: Representative Evans

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROVE
THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA) TO
ENSURE CONTINUITY IN TRADE BETWEEN THE THREE NORTH
AMERICAN ECONOMIC PARTNERS.

Subtitle

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TO APPROVE THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-
CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA) TO ENSURE
CONTINUITY IN TRADE BETWEEN THE THREE
NORTH AMERICAN ECONOMIC PARTNERS.

WHEREAS, the imposition of artificial barriers to open and free trade
is harmful to American economic interests; and

WHEREAS, together, the United States, Mexico, and Canada promote a
shared belief in representative democracy and freedom as recognized in the
United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, a longstanding, close, and trilateral relationship, codified
in the North American Free Trade Agreement, as known as "NAFTA", has existed
between the United States, Mexico, and Canada for more than twenty (20)
years, has proven economically, culturally, and strategically important for
all parties, and will continue with ratification of the United States-Mexico-
Canada Agreement, also known as "USMCA", that is currently pending before the
United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, trade with Mexico and Canada supports nearly eleven million



(11,000,000) American jobs, and nearly five million (5,000,000) of those jobs are supported by increased trade generated by NAFTA that will continue with ratification of the USMCA; and

WHEREAS, North American integration of trade under NAFTA has helped to make the region more competitive in the world economy by providing highly integrated and valuable supply chains, as well as common rules and harmonized regulations that increase the speed and global competitiveness of each country's businesses, and by driving investment and imbedding value in each country's economic success, including by providing jobs in North American communities; and

WHEREAS, since NAFTA entered into force in 1994, trade with Mexico and Canada has nearly quadrupled to one trillion three hundred billion dollars (\$1,300,000,000,000) per year and the two (2) countries buy more than one-third (1/3) of United States merchandise exports; and

WHEREAS, for forty-six (46) states in the United States, Mexico and Canada represent their largest- or second-largest export market; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA has contributed to a three-hundred-fifty-percent increase in United States agricultural exports to Mexico and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Mexico and Canada are the top two (2) export destinations for small- and medium-sized enterprises in the United States, more than one hundred twenty-five thousand (125,000) of which sold their goods and services in Mexico and Canada in 2014; and

WHEREAS, trade with our North American trading partners is also made up of intellectual property (IP)-intensive goods and services that support millions of Americans in high-paying jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic output; and

WHEREAS, trade agreements are the most appropriate mechanism to harmonize and strengthen IP rights protections that are vital to promoting innovation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, stringent enforcement of IP rights has been found to correlate closely with greater household income, foreign direct investment, and gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the IP provisions in the USMCA are the most comprehensive IP provisions found in any multilateral United States trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, in signing the USMCA, the three (3) countries have agreed to make targeted improvements to NAFTA, to build on a successful partnership, and to support shared competitiveness in a global marketplace in which free, fair, open, and mutually beneficial trade helps to strengthen the economies of all countries,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourage the United States Congress to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to ensure continuity in trade between the three (3) North American economic partners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, copies of this resolution shall be presented to the President of the United States; the chair and ranking members of all congressional committees involved with trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada; the United States Secretary of Commerce, the United States Secretary of State, and the United States Secretary of Labor; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the President and CEO of the United States Chamber of Commerce; and the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator by the Secretary of the Senate.