

1 SJR11
2 197773-1
3 By Senators Allen and Marsh
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-MAR-19

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8 MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO
9 APPROVE THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT.

10
11 WHEREAS, it is of great importance to memorialize
12 the Congress of the United States to approve the United
13 States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, USMCA, in order to ensure
14 continuity in trade among the three North American economic
15 partners; and

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

19 WHEREAS, together, the United States, Canada, and
20 Mexico promote a shared belief in freedom, representative
21 democracy, and market principles, as recognized in the U.S.
22 Constitution; and

23 WHEREAS, a longstanding, close trilateral
24 relationship, codified in the North American Free Trade
25 Agreement, NAFTA, has existed between the United States,
26 Canada, and Mexico for more than twenty years, and has proven
27 economically, culturally, and strategically important for all

1 parties, and this relationship will continue with ratification
2 of USMCA; and

3 WHEREAS, since NAFTA entered into force in 1994,
4 trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to 1.3
5 trillion dollars, and the two countries buy more than
6 one-third of U.S. merchandise exports; and

7 WHEREAS, for 43 states in the United States, Canada
8 and Mexico represent their first or second largest export
9 market, and all but one U.S. State counts Canada or Mexico as
10 a top three trading partner; and

11 WHEREAS, NAFTA has contributed to a 350 percent
12 increase in U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the United States ran a cumulative trade
15 surplus in manufactured goods with Canada and Mexico of more
16 than 79 billion dollars over the six-year period from
17 2008-2014, with a surplus in services over 41 billion dollars
18 in 2014 alone; and

19 WHEREAS, NAFTA has been a boon to competitiveness of
20 U. S. manufacturers, which added more than 800,000 jobs in the
21 four years after NAFTA entered into force, with Canadians and
22 Mexicans purchasing 478 billion dollars of U.S. manufactured
23 goods in 2014, generating nearly 40,000 dollars in export
24 revenue for every American factory worker; and

25 WHEREAS, U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico
26 have tripled, rising from 27 billion dollars in 1993, to 92
27 billion dollars in 2014, thanks to new market access and

1 clearer rules afforded by NAFTA, which will be continued under
2 USMCA; and

3 WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico are the two top export
4 destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more
5 than 125,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada
6 and Mexico in 2014; and

7 WHEREAS, trade among the North American trading
8 partners is made up predominantly of intellectual property
9 IP-intensive goods and services that employ millions of
10 Americans in high paying jobs, and generate billions of
11 dollars in economic output; and

12 WHEREAS, trade agreements are the most appropriate
13 mechanism to harmonize and strengthen IP rights protections,
14 ensuring domestic and foreign businesses are on the same equal
15 footing before the law; and

16 WHEREAS, many of the IP-intensive goods, services,
17 and exchanges through which trade is facilitated in the NAFTA
18 bloc did not exist when the agreement was drafted, and this
19 situation has resulted in uneven and weak IP enforcement; and

20 WHEREAS, stringent enforcement of IP rights has been
21 found to correlate closely with greater household income,
22 Foreign Direct Investment, and Gross Domestic Product; and

23 WHEREAS, the IP provisions found in the USMCA are
24 the most comprehensive of any multilateral U.S. trade
25 agreement, and they are vastly superior to those included in
26 NAFTA; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That by this resolution, we
3 memorialize the Congress of the United States to approve the
4 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, USMCA, in order to
5 ensure continuity in trade among the three North American
6 economic partners; upon adoption, an official copy of this
7 resolution shall be prepared and presented to the President of
8 the United States, to the chairs, ranking members, and all
9 other members of the U.S. Senate Finance and the U.S. House
10 Ways and Means Committees, to the members of the Senate and
11 House Advisory Groups on Negotiations, to the U.S. Trade
12 Representative, to the U.S. Secretaries of Commerce, State,
13 and Labor, to the Director of the Office of Management and the
14 Budget, and to the Intellectual Property Enforcement
15 Coordinator.