

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR COSTELLO

Introduced: 3/1/19

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on trade;**
2 **encouraging the federal Administration to remove the steel and aluminum tariffs on**
3 **imports from Canada and Mexico; and urging the United States Congress and the**
4 **federal Administration to call on Canada and Mexico to remove retaliatory tariffs on all**
5 **goods and services exported from the United States.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have one of the most substantial trading
8 relationships in the world; and

9 **WHEREAS** Canada is the United States' largest export market, valued at
10 \$320,000,000,000 in goods and services, and the United States is Canada's largest export
11 market, valued at \$308,000,000,000 in goods and services; and

12 **WHEREAS** Canada has agreed to grade imports of wheat from the United States in a
13 manner not less favorable than the manner in which Canada evaluates Canadian wheat and
14 has agreed not to require a statement of the country of origin on its quality grade or inspection
15 certificate; and

1 **WHEREAS** free, fair, open, and mutually beneficial trade between the United States
2 and Canada strengthens the economies of both countries; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, trade between the United States and Canada totaled over
4 \$1,860,000,000 in goods and services every day and supported 9,000,000 jobs in the United
5 States and 2,100,000 jobs in Canada; and

6 **WHEREAS** Canada was the state's third largest trading partner in 2017, with the
7 state's exports to Canada totaling \$707,000,000 in 2017, which represented more than 4,500
8 jobs in the state; and

9 **WHEREAS** Canada and Mexico are the first and third largest export markets for
10 agricultural products from the United States, with \$20,600,000,000 in exports to Canada and
11 \$18,600,000,000 in exports to Mexico; and

12 **WHEREAS**, since the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed in 1992,
13 agricultural exports from the United States have increased from \$8,700,000,000 in 1992 to
14 \$39,000,000,000 in 2017; and

15 **WHEREAS**, during the more than 20 years since the United States, Mexico, and
16 Canada entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement, trade in North America has
17 tripled from \$340,000,000,000 in 1993 to \$1.1 trillion in 2017; and

18 **WHEREAS** the integration of trade in North America under the North American Free
19 Trade Agreement has helped to make North America more competitive in the world's
20 economy by providing highly integrated and valuable supply chains, common rules, and
21 harmonized regulations that increase the speed of transactions with and global
22 competitiveness of businesses in North America, drive investment, increase the economic
23 success of each member of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and provide jobs in
24 the communities of North America that depend on efficient and effective supply chains; and

25 **WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2018, under 19 U.S.C. 1862 (Trade Expansion Act of
26 1962), the federal Administration announced that the United States was imposing a 25 percent
27 tariff on imports of steel and a 10 percent tariff on imports of aluminum, but Canada and
28 Mexico were initially granted waivers of the tariffs; and

29 **WHEREAS** the tariffs were later imposed on Canada and Mexico, and Canada and
30 Mexico have responded by imposing retaliatory tariffs; and

31 **WHEREAS** Canada and Mexico have committed their countries to lifting retaliatory

1 tariffs as soon as the federal Administration removes the United States' tariffs; and

2 **WHEREAS** the tariffs on steel and aluminum harm the industry and workers on both
3 sides of the Canada-United States border by disrupting linked supply chains that have made
4 North American steel and aluminum more competitive around the world; and

5 **WHEREAS**, by signing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, Canada,
6 Mexico, and the United States have agreed to make targeted improvements to the North
7 American Free Trade Agreement that build on their enormously successful partnership and
8 shared competitiveness in the global marketplace;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the ratification of the
10 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and urges the United States Congress to ratify the
11 agreement as soon as possible; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the federal
13 Administration to remove steel and aluminum tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico;
14 and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United
16 States Congress and the federal Administration call on Canada and Mexico to remove
17 retaliatory tariffs on all goods and services exported from the United States.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
19 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
20 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
21 Representatives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
22 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
23 delegation in Congress.