

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to ensure continuity in trade among the three North American economic partners.

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

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

WHEREAS, a longstanding, close, trilateral relationship, codified in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), has existed between the United States, Canada, and Mexico for more than twenty years and has proven economically, culturally, and strategically important for all parties; and

WHEREAS, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is a renegotiation of NAFTA and will extend the benefits enjoyed as a result of NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, since NAFTA was instituted in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to one trillion three hundred billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Mexico and Canada buy more than one-third of the United States' merchandise exports; and

WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico represent either the first or second largest export market in forty-three states; and all but one state count our neighbors as a top-three trading partner; and

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

WHEREAS, the United States ran a cumulative trade surplus in manufactured goods with Canada and Mexico of more than seventy-nine billion dollars over the six-year period from 2008 to 2014 with a surplus in services of over forty-one billion dollars in 2014 alone; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA has been a boon to competitiveness for United States manufacturers, which added more than eight hundred thousand jobs in the four years after the institution of NAFTA, with Canadian and Mexican consumers purchasing four hundred eighty-seven billion dollars of United States manufactured goods in 2014, generating nearly forty thousand dollars in export revenue per every American factory worker; and

WHEREAS, United States service exports to Canada and Mexico have tripled, rising from twenty-seven billion dollars in 1993 to ninety-two billion dollars in 2014, thanks to new market access and clearer rules afforded by NAFTA and which will be continued by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; and

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

WHEREAS, trade among our North American trading partners is made up predominantly of intellectual property-intensive goods and services that employ millions of Americans in high paying jobs and which generate billions of dollars in economic output; and

WHEREAS, trade agreements are the most appropriate mechanism to harmonize and strengthen intellectual property rights protections ensuring that domestic and foreign businesses are on the same equal footing as before the law; and

WHEREAS, many of the intellectual property-intensive goods, services, and exchanges through which trade is facilitated in the NAFTA bloc did not exist when the agreement was drafted, which has resulted in uneven and weak intellectual property enforcement; and

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

WHEREAS the intellectual property provisions found in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement are the most comprehensive of any multilateral United States trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to ensure continuity in trade among the three North American economic partners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the members of the United States Senate Committee on Finance, the members of the United States House Committee on Ways and Means, the members of the Senate and House Advisory Groups on Negotiations, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the United States Trade Representative, the United States secretaries of Commerce, State, and Labor, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement coordinator.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES