



RESOLUTION

Adopted March 7, 2018

U.S.-Canada Trade Integration and the Benefits of Cross-Border Trade

Whereas, the United States and Canada have one of the largest trading relationships in the world, valued at US\$541.5 billion in goods in 2017; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, with a combined economy of US\$6 trillion, which represents the 3rd largest economy in the world, is a critically important trading hub for the North American and global economies; and

Whereas, in 2017 roughly a quarter of total U.S. merchandise exports originated in the region's States, and Ontario and Québec accounted for three quarters of Canadian shipments; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes States together represent Ontario and Québec's largest trading partner, accounting for US\$239.2 billion of total goods trade in 2017, which exceeds the value of Ontario and Québec's trade with all other U.S. States combined; and

Whereas, the member States and Provinces of the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) strongly believe that free, open and reciprocal trade between our two countries constitutes an engine of strong economic growth and job creation for both countries; and

Whereas, the relationship among the States and Provinces is a model of regional economic integration wherein thousands of companies have integrated into supply chains and large companies operate facilities in both the U.S. and Canada; and

Whereas, this economic integration under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) stimulates innovation, reduces production costs, increases the efficiency of supply chains, and ensures stronger competitiveness in international markets; and

Whereas, millions of jobs in both countries depend on cross-border trade and investment between the U.S. and Canada; and

Whereas, open markets, expedited border crossings, and a consistent legal and policy framework are essential elements for the growth of cross-border trade; and

Whereas, since NAFTA was negotiated, trade between Canada, Mexico and the United States has quadrupled from US\$290 billion in 1993 to more than US\$1.1 trillion in 2017; and

Whereas, Canada and the U.S. both support making targeted improvements to NAFTA that build on the enormously successful North American partnership and our shared competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the GLC recognizes the commitment of the U.S. and Canada to NAFTA; and

Be It Further Resolved that the GLC recognizes the economic interdependence between our two countries and within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, as well as the important contribution of cross-border trade to the prosperity of the States and Provinces they represent; and

Be It Further Resolved that the GLC continues to encourage the U.S. and Canadian governments to respect the spirit of NAFTA by promoting policies that support and enhance the integrated nature of our supply chains and economies that provide jobs in our respective communities; and

Be It Further Resolved that any revisions to NAFTA avoid disrupting current trading patterns and creating uncertainty in domestic or international markets; and

Be It Further Resolved that the member States and Provinces of the GLC encourage dialogue among elected officials, business communities, and Canadian and U.S. citizens to promote cross-border trade, trade liberalization, and North American integration; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state, and provincial officials.

*Adopted at the 2018 Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, March 6-7, 2018 in Washington, D.C.
The resolution was passed unanimously.*