

Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario
October 20, 2017

RESOLUTION

US-CANADA TRADE INTEGRATION AND THE BENEFITS OF CROSS-BORDER TRADE

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 2015 roughly a quarter of total U.S. merchandise exports originated in the region's States, and Ontario and Québec accounted for more than 60% of Canadian shipments; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes States are Ontario and Québec's largest trading partner, accounting for US\$235 billion of total trade in 2015, which exceeds the value of the Provinces' trade with all other U.S. States combined; and,

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

WHEREAS, this economic integration stimulates innovation, reduces production costs, increases the efficiency of supply chains, and ensures stronger competitiveness in international markets; and,

WHEREAS, cross-border trade and investment between the United States and Canada generates millions of jobs in both countries; 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 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was negotiated, intra-region trade has quadrupled from US\$290 billion in 1993 to more than US\$1.3 trillion in 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers recognize the economic interdependence between the two countries and within the region as well as the important contribution of cross-border trade to the prosperity of the States and Provinces they represent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any revisions to NAFTA avoid disruptions to current trading patterns and creating uncertainty in domestic or international markets; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Premiers and Governors encourage dialogue among elected officials, business communities and Canadian and US citizens to promote cross-border trade, trade liberalization, and North American integration.

Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec on this 20th day of October 2017.