



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29           WHEREAS, many of the intellectual property-intensive goods, services, and  
30 exchanges through which trade is facilitated in the NAFTA bloc did not exist when the

1 agreement was drafted, which has resulted in uneven and weak intellectual property  
2 enforcement; and

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

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

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

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

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 261 Original

2019 Regular Session

Garofalo

Memorializes congress to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.