

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 270

BY SENATOR MIZELL

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to improve opportunities for U.S. farmers and small businesses, increase domestic manufacturing, and promote higher wages for workers here at home.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to
3 approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to promote the United
4 States agriculture industry and small businesses, increase domestic manufacturing,
5 and promote higher wages here at home.

6 WHEREAS, on September 30, 2018, the United States, Mexico, and Canada reached
7 an agreement to make much needed changes to the twenty-four-year-old North America Free
8 Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and

9 WHEREAS, the new United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) will
10 advance United States agricultural interests in the most important markets for America's
11 farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses, and this high-standard trade agreement opens new
12 markets to expand United States food and agricultural exports and support food
13 manufacturing and rural jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, one of the top priorities for the USMCA is to support America's dairy
15 industry in this negotiation so Canada would eliminate its program that allows low-priced
16 dairy ingredients to undersell United States dairy sales in Canada and in third country
17 markets; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States recognizes the fundamental role of small- and

1 medium-sized businesses as economic engines of the North American economy and, for the
2 first time in a U.S. trade agreement, the USMCA includes a dedicated chapter and key
3 provisions supporting small- and medium-sized businesses throughout the agreement; and

4 WHEREAS, the proposed trade deal encourages United States manufacturing and
5 regional economic growth; and

6 WHEREAS, the USMCA is beneficial to American workers because the greater
7 number of manufacturing jobs equals higher wages for American workers; and

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

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

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

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

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to approve the
24 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to promote the United States agriculture
25 industry and small businesses, increase domestic manufacturing, and promote higher wages
26 here at home.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 President of the United States, the members of the United States Senate Committee on
29 Finance, the members of the United States House Committee on Ways and Means, the
30 members of the Senate and House Advisory Groups on Negotiations, the presiding officers

