

The Border Mayors Association

Asociación de Alcaldes Fronterizos

Una Asociación Internacional de Alcaldes Fronterizos de México y Estados Unidos
An International Association of Border Mayors from México and the United States



Our purpose is to speak with one voice on issues that impact the communities that our borders join together.
Nuestro propósito es hablar con una sola voz en temas que impactan a las comunidades que nuestras fronteras se unen.

RESOLUTION

Whereas: The implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the 1994 brought together and created economic prosperity for the United States of American (U.S.), the United Mexican States (Mexico) and Canada with tri-national trade up 295 percent since its inception ; and

Whereas: NAFTA has been successful in its purpose to increase trade and investment in North America by creating the world's largest trade region, with more than 480 million people, and in particular U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to \$1.3 trillion; and

Whereas: Fourteen (14) million U.S. jobs depend on trade with Canada and Mexico, and 43 of 50 U.S. states list Canada or Mexico as their 1st or 2nd largest export market; and

Whereas: Through Foreign Direct Investment, 6,500 Mexican-owned companies conduct business in the U.S. accounting for 120,000 jobs and investing \$52 billion into the U.S. economy; and

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Whereas: After 24 years, NAFTA should be renegotiated and modernized to assure the U.S. remain competitive against other trade blocs, to preserve U.S. jobs and to discourage the outflow of capital; and

Whereas: Two important issues related to NAFTA renegotiation should address a unified approach to border infrastructure and security rather than the existing disjointed approach that adversely affects border cities, counties, and businesses; now,

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the U.S.-Mexico Border Mayor's Association:

1. Urges the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize the importance of trade between the U.S. Mexico and Canada as an opportunity to renegotiate, modernize and optimize North America's competitiveness; and
2. Urges the President and Congress of the United Mexican States to recognize the importance of trade between the U.S. Mexico and Canada as an opportunity to renegotiate, modernize and optimize North America's competitiveness; and
3. Supports that the first rule of renegotiation should be Do No Harm; and
4. Provides for clear, straight-forward rules of trade to ensure that all business, in particular small to medium-sized businesses, have the opportunity to participate; and
5. Provides modernization to mean: (1) adopt advances in technology not in existence in 1994, (2) amend rules of origin to eliminate tariff shift without impairing the quality of the product or its competitive pricing, (3) improve cross-border, inter-agency coordination and (4) amend regulations in support of small-value banking transactions that are a significant and much-needed part of cross-border commerce; and

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6. Supports that tariffs and fees generated and collected at all borders – Canada, Mexico and the U.S. should be dedicated to support border infrastructure, modernization and staffing before remitting the remaining dollars to each country’s treasury as is the current practice; and
7. Supports updates to NAFTA labor and visa categories to reflect modern classifications and expand common standards for professions and mutual recognition of skills credentials. A need-based immigration system will identify the number and the types of skills looked-for in the U.S.; and
8. Recognize that a one-size-fits-all barrier approach to border security is not the solution. In addition to technology, it is vital to work with the border terrain and topography to create an effective barrier. For example, along many parts of the U.S. and Mexico border, the answer is cleaning up the river in cooperation with Mexico to provide a natural barrier and security zone; and
9. Supports that renegotiation should be conducted with urgency, so as to minimize uncertainty injected into the U.S. economy.