TO: The Honorable Members of the House Commerce Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs
DATE: May 15, 2019
RE: Support H.R. 248 -- United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber to urge your support for H.R. 248, a resolution urging Congress to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which is intended to replace NAFTA. The Committee is scheduled to consider this resolution today.

The PA Chamber’s International Trade and Exporting policy position statement expresses support for public policy and initiatives that promote free and fair trade, open investment, and regulatory cooperation. We support trade agreements and policies that are fair and balanced and enhance the competitiveness of Pennsylvania companies by removing or mitigating barriers against U.S. exports and providing greater access to imports.

USMCA will help advance this important priority and facilitate continued strong trade relations between the U.S. and our neighbors to the north and south. 46 out of 50 states in the country count Canada or Mexico as their first or second largest foreign purchasers. For Pennsylvania, Canada is the largest foreign market, accounting for 26 percent of the Commonwealth’s total goods exports worth $10.8 billion in 2018. Mexico ranked second at $4.2 billion. According to the Business Roundtable, 477,900 Pennsylvania jobs are supported by trade with Canada and Mexico.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement further provides important updates to NAFTA, including related e-commerce, digital trade and other matters that were not as relevant 25 years ago when the trade agreement was first enacted.

USMCA was signed by the participating countries on Nov. 30, 2019 and now stands before Congress for ratification. We urge you to support H.R. 248 and send a message to Congress that the PA House supports Pennsylvania employers and the important role trade plays in our economy.

Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-720-5471 with any questions or to discuss.