TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate State Government Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs
DATE: Oct. 29, 2019
RE: Support S.R. 153 -- United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

We write to urge your support for S.R. 153, a resolution urging Congress to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which the Committee is scheduled to consider today.

The PA Chamber supports trade, open investment, regulatory cooperation and fair trade agreements that enhance Pennsylvania’s competitiveness by removing barriers against U.S exports.

USMCA will help advance these important priorities 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 our 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 provides important updates to NAFTA, including related to 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, 2018 and now stands before Congress for ratification. We urge you to support S.R. 153 and send a message to Congress that the PA Senate supports Pennsylvania employers and the important role trade plays in our economy.

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