

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 270

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States recognizes the fundamental role of small- and medium-sized businesses as economic engines of the North American economy and, for the first time in a U.S. trade agreement, the USMCA includes a dedicated chapter and key provisions supporting small- and medium-sized businesses throughout the agreement; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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