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Mission:

***To make legislative
recommendations to
help the Texas Border
Region grow and
prosper economically.***



RESOLUTION

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR
THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS the mission of the Texas Border Coalition is to provide vision and leadership to develop, encourage, promote and protect the business, tourism, industry and community interests of the Texas–Mexico border region;

WHEREAS the Texas Border Coalition works to provide a better quality of life for the residents of the border region by providing economic development opportunities and sustainable incomes in a healthy and safe environment;

WHEREAS the Texas Border Coalition is attentive to issues regarding an increase in population, border health and environment, the management of shared resources, limited water supply, and conservation;

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 250 percent since its inception;

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;

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;

WHEREAS the United States, Mexico and Canada are robust democracies, significant trading partners and strategic allies and share the belief in free market principles;

WHEREAS the Texas Border Coalition advocates for and works to make the flow of goods between Texas and Mexico as efficient as possible;

WHEREAS after 24 years, NAFTA should be renegotiated and modernized to assure the U.S. remains competitive against other trade blocs, to preserve U.S. jobs and to discourage the outflow of capital;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to provide a unified voice for the border region and to advocate for a clear economic and business case in support of fair competition;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas Border Coalition reaffirms its support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, understanding that it:

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;
2. Supports that the first rule of renegotiation should be Do No Harm;
3. Provides for clear, straight-forward rules of trade to insure that all business, in particular small to medium-sized businesses, have the opportunity to participate;
4. Provides for modernization, by adopting advances in technology not in existence in 1994, and improving cross-border coordination and efficiency;
5. Recognizes that a one-size-fits-all barrier approach to border security is not the solution. In addition to utilizing state of the art technology, it is vital to work with the border terrain and topography to create an effective barrier which would include a virtual barrier instead of a physical barrier; and
6. Supports that renegotiation should be conducted with urgency, so as to minimize economic uncertainty, currently present in the U.S. economy.

Signed this 20th day of November, 2017



Pete Saenz
Mayor, City of Laredo
Chairman, Texas Border Coalition