

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR BEGICH

Introduced: 4/28/21

Referred: Labor & Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and the state; and**
2 **recognizing the importance of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** both Canada and the state are blessed with extraordinary natural
5 environments, valuable natural resources, and indigenous knowledge that stretches back
6 millennia; and

7 **WHEREAS** Canada and the state have worked together to create jobs through
8 integrated economies, to protect our shared environment, airspace, and border, and to defend
9 North America from threats; and

10 **WHEREAS** the citizens of Canada and the citizens of the state have developed deep
11 friendships, family ties, and collaborative relationships over the course of history; and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have developed one of the most successful
13 international relationships in the modern world, sharing a vibrant history of democratic
14 governance, military and economic partnerships, and cultural ties; and

15 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have battled COVID-19 together, have
16 suffered loss together, and are committed to building back our economies better, more

1 equitably and more sustainably; and

2 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada share the world's longest border at 5,522
3 miles, 1,538 miles of which are along the state's eastern frontier with the Yukon Territory and
4 the Province of British Columbia; and

5 **WHEREAS** both countries benefit from the efficient and secure movement of people
6 and goods between countries, including as partners in a vibrant regional cruise industry; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States is Canada's premier partner in the Arctic, and
8 cooperation between Canada and the state is longstanding, including on economic
9 opportunities, health, education, energy security, environmental protection, infrastructure, and
10 public safety issues; and

11 **WHEREAS** Canada and the state strive to advance the goal of sustaining healthy and
12 resilient Arctic and northern peoples and communities, by strengthening indigenous,
13 economic, cultural, and family connections across the region; and

14 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have the largest, most comprehensive and
15 balanced trade relationship in the world, totaling \$612,000,000,000 in 2019; and

16 **WHEREAS** the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) provides the
17 framework for much of this bilateral trade and has provided important updates to the North
18 American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), while continuing to grow both economies; and

19 **WHEREAS** the state has a vibrant, balanced trade relationship with Canada, totaling
20 \$1,300,000,000, including hundreds of millions of dollars worth of metals, minerals, energy,
21 and seafood; and

22 **WHEREAS** more than 10,900 jobs in the state rely on trade and investment with
23 Canada, and more than 50 Canadian-owned companies operate in the state, employing 4,500
24 residents throughout the state and contributing more than \$265,000,000 in salaries; and

25 **WHEREAS** tourism between Canada and the state is another key component of the
26 economic relationship, and, in recent years, more than 325,000 Canadians visited the state
27 annually, spending more than \$316,000,000 in the state; and

28 **WHEREAS** Canada and the state share diverse transportation links by road and by
29 sea, including the Alaska Highway, constructed during World War II to benefit our shared
30 defense, the Alaska marine highway system's terminal at Prince Rupert, and the uniquely
31 interdependent communities of Stewart, British Columbia, and Hyder, Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS**, for over 60 years, Canada and the United States have been partners in
2 the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), with the Alaska NORAD
3 region proudly commanded out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson by an American
4 Commander and Canadian Deputy Commander;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the vibrancy and
6 importance of the Alaska-Canada relationship as the world increasingly recognizes the
7 strategic, economic, environmental, and cultural importance of the Arctic; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature believes that Canada and
9 the state must continue to work together to make our citizens' lives better, safer, and more
10 prosperous; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance
12 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in the economic and trade relationship
13 between our nations and the outstanding economic relationship between Canada and the state;
14 and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors the state's alliance
16 with Canada and looks forward to many more years of cooperation, friendship, trade, tourism,
17 cultural exchange, and good will.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
19 of the United States; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the
20 Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Antony
21 Blinken, United States Secretary of State; the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign
22 Affairs; the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence; the Honorable Lloyd
23 Austin, United States Secretary of Defense; General Glen D. VanHerck, Commander, North
24 American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command; Lieutenant-
25 General Alain Pelletier, Deputy Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command;
26 Brandon Lee, Consul General to Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
27 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
28 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.