SJR11

197773-2

By Senators Allen and Marsh

RFD: Rules

First Read: 19-MAR-19
ENROLLED, SJR11,

MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO APPROVE THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, it is of great importance to memorialize the Congress of the United States to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, USMCA, in order to ensure continuity in trade among the three North American economic partners; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of artificial barriers to free and open trade is harmful to American economic interests; and

WHEREAS, together, the United States, Canada, and Mexico promote a shared belief in freedom, representative democracy, and market principles, as recognized in the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, a longstanding, close trilateral relationship, codified in the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, has existed between the United States, Canada, and Mexico for more than twenty years, and has proven economically, culturally, and strategically important for all
parties, and this relationship will continue with ratification of USMCA; and

WHEREAS, since NAFTA entered into force in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to 1.3 trillion dollars, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports; and

WHEREAS, for 43 states in the United States, Canada and Mexico represent their first or second largest export market, and all but one U.S. State counts Canada or Mexico as a top three trading partner; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA has contributed to a 350 percent increase in U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the United States ran a cumulative trade surplus in manufactured goods with Canada and Mexico of more than 79 billion dollars over the six-year period from 2008-2014, with a surplus in services over 41 billion dollars in 2014 alone; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA has been a boon to competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers, which added more than 800,000 jobs in the four years after NAFTA entered into force, with Canadians and Mexicans purchasing 478 billion dollars of U.S. manufactured goods in 2014, generating nearly 40,000 dollars in export revenue for every American factory worker; and
WHEREAS, U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have tripled, rising from 27 billion dollars in 1993, to 92 billion dollars in 2014, thanks to new market access and clearer rules afforded by NAFTA, which will be continued under USMCA; and

WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico are the two top export destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more than 125,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and

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

WHEREAS, trade agreements are the most appropriate mechanism to harmonize and strengthen IP rights protections, ensuring domestic and foreign businesses are on the same equal footing before the law; and

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

WHEREAS, stringent enforcement of IP rights has been found to correlate closely with greater household income, Foreign Direct Investment, and Gross Domestic Product; and
WHEREAS, the IP provisions found in the USMCA are the most comprehensive of any multilateral U.S. trade agreement, and they are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That by this resolution, we memorialize the Congress of the United States to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, USMCA, in order to ensure continuity in trade among the three North American economic partners; upon adoption, an official copy of this resolution shall be prepared and presented to the President of the United States, to the chairs, ranking members, and all other members of the U.S. Senate Finance and the U.S. House Ways and Means Committees, to the members of the Senate and House Advisory Groups on Negotiations, to the U.S. Trade Representative, to the U.S. Secretaries of Commerce, State, and Labor, to the Director of the Office of Management and the Budget, and to the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.
President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate 02-APR-19
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 30-APR-19

By: Senator Allen