

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY RHODE ISLAND AND CANADA

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 03, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada share not only a 5,500-mile border, which is
2 the world's longest unmilitarized border, but also common ideals and democratic principles; and

3 WHEREAS, The relationship between Canada and the United States is unique in the
4 world, and the two countries have a shared prosperity fostered by two-way investment and jobs;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Relations between Canada and the United States span more than two
7 centuries, and the two countries have developed one of the most successful international
8 relationships in the modern world, with 7.1 million American jobs dependent on trade with
9 Canada in 2009, including 27,600 jobs here in Rhode Island; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States is Canada's largest export market and imported \$339
11 billion in Canadian goods in 2009. Rhode Island's largest export market by far is Canada, which
12 receives Rhode Island exports totaling \$474 million; and

13 WHEREAS, Canadian tourists flocked to Rhode Island in 2009, making 47,900 visits and
14 contributing \$11 million to the local economy; and

15 WHEREAS, The energy sector is an important area of trade between the United States
16 and Canada, with Canada providing more than \$122 billion in energy supplies to the United
17 States, our largest and most secure energy supplier; and

18 WHEREAS, Canada is the largest supplier of U.S. crude and refined oil imports, and it is
19 also the largest source of U.S. natural gas and electricity imports; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2009, Rhode Island imported nearly \$420 million in energy from Canada,
2 the vast majority consisting of petroleum and coal products; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada also have a very special and important
4 military and defense relationship with one another, are both members of the North Atlantic Treaty
5 Organization (NATO), and our forces have fought alongside each other in most major conflicts
6 since World War II, including the Korean War, the Gulf War, the Kosovo War, and, most
7 recently, the war in Afghanistan; and

8 WHEREAS, American defense arrangements with Canada are more extensive than with
9 any other country, and Canada was a major ally of the United States during the Cold War; and

10 WHEREAS, Canadian troops arrived in Afghanistan to support American forces in
11 January 2002, and Canadian Forces personnel are currently deployed in Afghanistan as part of the
12 International Security Assistance Force; and

13 WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, our strong military relationship with Canada has
14 helped to keep the United States safe from further attacks, and Canada is now, more than ever, a
15 key military ally of the United States; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,
17 hereby recognizes the strength of the Canada-Rhode Island relationship and our commitment to
18 working together to enhance our mutually beneficial trade relationship and ensure many more
19 years of cooperation, friendship, trade, and goodwill; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Patrick G. Binns, Canadian Consulate General,
22 Boston, Massachusetts.

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