

Laredo Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LAREDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Whereas, the mission of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce is, in part, to provide vision and leadership to develop, encourage, promote and protect the business, tourism, industry and educational interests of the Laredo metropolitan area,

Whereas, the Laredo port of entry is, without contention, the largest inland port in the United States,

Whereas, the Laredo customs district is ranked as the third largest in the country in volume of trade processed – with the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach and New York being first and second,

Whereas, In 2015 alone, the Laredo port of entry customs district handled \$284.3 billion in trade, reflecting a 1.6 percent increase over the previous year, while the rest of the country experienced a 5.59 percent drop,

Whereas, 40 percent of all overland trade between the United States and Mexico is processed through the port of Laredo,

Whereas, the unemployment rate for the city of Laredo and the county of Webb in 2016 wavered between 4.5 and 5 percent, compared to an average rate of 14 percent during the period extending from 1980 to 1993,

Whereas, the economy of the city of Laredo has experienced remarkable growth during the last two decades strengthened by an emerging international trade industry, which has resulted in its diversification and an improved quality of life for its population,

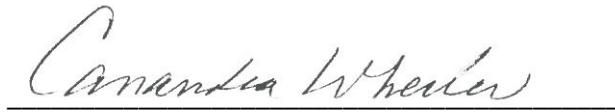
Whereas, statistical reports generated by the local university, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and other state and federal agencies, all clearly reflect a steady pace of economic growth for this community beginning in 1994,

Whereas, the North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA, came into effect in January in 1994 having been signed by the president of the United States and representatives of the governments of Mexico and Canada the previous year,

And whereas, this organization is on record as having passed a resolution in June of 1993 in support of the passage of this trade agreement,

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce that they once again reaffirm their support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, cognizant that now in its 23rd year of operation it may be in need of review and readjustment but with the conviction that the basic premise under which it was formed is sound given the multitude of benefits it has brought to the city of Laredo, the county of Webb, the state of Texas, and the country as a whole. The Board of Directors further resolves that this agreement symbolizes the strong bond of business and social relations that the United States has with Mexico as a trade partner.

Signed this 17th day of February of 2017



Cassandra Wheeler
Chairman of the Board