

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

January 14, 2020

Dear New England Delegation Member:

The Senate soon will vote on legislation to implement the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). On behalf of the New England Council, I encourage your support of this legislation – USMCA updates and provides stability to the trade relationship we have with our neighbors, which in turn will support broad-based growth among all three nations.

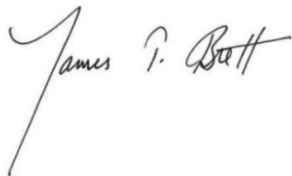
The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was negotiated some 25 years ago, and as our society and economy modernized, NAFTA did not. Few would dispute the need to update NAFTA and bring our trade relations with Canada and Mexico into the 21st Century.

The importance of our trade partnerships with Canada and Mexico cannot be overstated. As I have often mentioned, the Department of Commerce has identified Canada as a “top three” export market for New England businesses, while Mexico is a “top ten” export market for five of our six states. Our region exported nearly \$4.2 billion in goods to Mexico in 2018, and nearly \$8.8 billion in goods to Canada. Data from Canada shows that in 2018, service exports from our six states totaled more than \$3.3 billion. Overall, more than 600,000 jobs in New England rely on trade and investment with Mexico and Canada, and government figures estimate that USMCA will boost employment nationally by some 176,000 jobs and raise GDP by \$68.2 billion. New England will likely share in this job creation and GDP growth as well.

From the original signing of the USMCA until just before House passage last month, trade leaders in Congress and the Administration worked in good faith to make improvements to the USMCA that would enjoy bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate. This final product did not contain all of what business interests wanted in a trade agreement, however it reached a consensus that we at the Council trust will ensure our economy will flourish. We also believe the USMCA will serve as a foundation upon which future agreements can be built for the benefit of America and our partners.

The New England Council believes the USMCA will have a positive and lasting effect on our nation and our region. We respectfully urge your support for the USMCA as it advances in the Senate.

Sincerely,



James T. Brett
President & CEO

The New England Council

98 North Washington Street, Suite 303 • Boston, Massachusetts 02114 • (617) 723-4009
1411 K Street, NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 547-0048
www.newenglandcouncil.com