



# Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

2018 - 2019  
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Oregon  
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\*Partial listing

November 20, 2018

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Our organization spent the past year working with business leaders and states and provinces to develop specific recommendations for NAFTA modernization. As a result of this effort, we welcome the U.S., Mexico, Canada Agreement that has been made in principle, and our organization will be advocating for its ratification. **However, we strongly urge that the steel and aluminum tariffs against Canada be lifted as soon as possible.**

These unwarranted tariffs are negatively impacting regional supply chains and disrupting trade with our largest trading partner and closest ally, Canada. We believe that unilateral tariffs between the U.S. and Canada go against the principles of free and fair trade and only harm industries in both countries.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, we are stronger by working closely together, and our relationships are intact because of the ongoing partnerships in every major sector of our economy, and state, provincial, territorial, local, and tribal governments. **The U.S. should exempt Canada from any steel and aluminum tariffs, which are causing significant disruption to our industries on both sides of the border.**

The U.S. and Canada's trading relationship is incredibly important to the Pacific Northwest. The U.S. and Canada have the largest trading relationship in the world, and here in the Pacific Northwest, we benefit from the two-way trade of over \$541 billion USD (\$630 billion CAD) annually, of which about \$22.6 billion USD (\$29 billion CAD) is in the Pacific Northwest. Protectionism is seriously damaging the vital economic regional partnership in both of our countries.

The steel and aluminum tariffs may cost the U.S. and Canada over \$11 billion USD combined, and we could see losses of over 6,000 jobs, according to CD Howe Institute, a Canadian independent not-for-profit research institute fostering economically sound public policies. As a result of the steel and aluminum tariffs, retaliatory tariffs from Mexico and Canada could cause U.S. Agriculture exports to decline by \$1.9 billion USD to these two trading partners. The U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum products based on Section 232 U.S. national security investigations are of great concern. As a trusted ally and partner, Canadian steel and aluminum products are used as vital inputs in the Canada-U.S. manufacturing supply chains. Tariffs on these critical inputs are not only making consumer goods expensive in both countries, but also making North American products uncompetitive in international markets.

This cross-border region continues to work closely together every day with our interconnected and interdependent supply chains, and dozens of cross-border cooperative agreements on everything from our shared transboundary watersheds, cross-border airsheds, climate action, cross-border law enforcement, invasive species prevention, and forest fire prevention, to defending our shared borders in the 60-year-old NORAD (North American Air Defense) System.

PNWER is an example of these interconnections and the ongoing relationships that make our bi-national region stand out in North America as a place where innovation happens, precisely because of the multi-faceted relationships of trust that have been built up here for many decades.

We will be advocating for the ratification of the USMC Agreement, and we hope to see an exemption for Canada on the steel and aluminum tariffs before the end of the year.

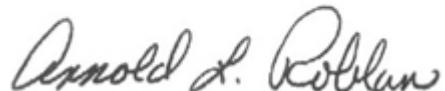
Sincerely,



Larry Doke, MLA  
PNWER President 2018-2019  
Government of Saskatchewan



Matt Morrison  
Chief Executive Officer  
PNWER



Sen. Arnie Roblan  
Past President 2017-2108  
Oregon State Legislature

Cc: Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Department of Commerce