



February 28, 2025

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 9. As Canada's Consul General in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, I believe that this legislation would serve as a welcome reminder of the strong ties between two Northern neighbours.

Canada and the United States (U.S.) have so much in common: our democratic values, cultural ties, vast natural resources, and breathtaking landscapes. Alaska and Canada are particularly aligned when it comes to shared defence—including in the Arctic—responsible development and maximizing our trade relationships.

Our two countries are integral to each other's economic prosperity. Canada is by far the U.S.'s biggest customer, buying more goods from the U.S. each year than China, Japan, France, and the U.K. *combined*. Nearly eight million U.S. jobs are supported by trade with Canada and our bilateral trade totals \$1 trillion every year. Canadian imports fuel American manufacturing, as 70 per cent of these goods are utilized to create new products in the U.S.

In Alaska, trade with Canada supports over 20,000 jobs and Canadian companies directly employ 4,350 workers. The state annually exports almost \$600 million in goods like meats, seafood, ores, fuel oil, and wood products to Canada. If tariffs are imposed on Canada, it would put Alaskan jobs and industries in jeopardy. Instead, we should continue to build on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement that President Trump negotiated in his first term, and work to strengthen our robust supply chains.

The U.S. and Canada share one of the most secure borders in the world. Law enforcement agencies in our two countries share information on and coordinate resources to combat criminal enterprises, illegal migration, and drug trafficking. Canada's Border Plan commits the equivalent of USD 900 million to enhance the good work we are already doing together, as well as establishing a Canada-U.S. Strike Force, investing in surveillance equipment and increasing border personnel.

Furthermore, we are each other's closest allies on defence. Canadian and American armed forces jointly protect our continent through the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) which is the only binational command in the world. At the Alaskan NORAD Region, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Canadian and American military personnel detect and respond to threats like intercontinental ballistic missiles, terrorism, aircraft, and space vehicles. This includes the increasingly critical Arctic region, where our armed forces are the first line of defence against increased military activities by Russia and China. In November 2024, Canada, the U.S., and Finland agreed to develop Arctic and polar icebreakers under the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort Pact, an important step that will boost our shipbuilding industries and strengthen protection in the region.

We are also partners in critical minerals development and production. Both Canada and Alaska take pride in responsible mineral development, and we should continue to build strong integrated supply chains together.

Thank you for introducing this important resolution, and I appreciate your consideration of this important matter. If there is anything else I can do to support this worthy initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me at Craig.Weichel@international.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Weichel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig Weichel
Consul General