SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR BEGICH

Introduced: 4/28/21
Referred: Labor & Commerce

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and the state; and recognizing the importance of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS both Canada and the state are blessed with extraordinary natural environments, valuable natural resources, and indigenous knowledge that stretches back millennia; and

WHEREAS Canada and the state have worked together to create jobs through integrated economies, to protect our shared environment, airspace, and border, and to defend North America from threats; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Canada and the citizens of the state have developed deep friendships, family ties, and collaborative relationships over the course of history; and

WHEREAS the United States and Canada have developed one of the most successful international relationships in the modern world, sharing a vibrant history of democratic governance, military and economic partnerships, and cultural ties; and

WHEREAS the United States and Canada have battled COVID-19 together, have suffered loss together, and are committed to building back our economies better, more

equitably and more sustainably; and

WHEREAS the United States and Canada share the world's longest border at 5,522 miles, 1,538 miles of which are along the state's eastern frontier with the Yukon Territory and the Province of British Columbia; and

WHEREAS both countries benefit from the efficient and secure movement of people and goods between countries, including as partners in a vibrant regional cruise industry; and

WHEREAS the United States is Canada's premier partner in the Arctic, and cooperation between Canada and the state is longstanding, including on economic opportunities, health, education, energy security, environmental protection, infrastructure, and public safety issues; and

WHEREAS Canada and the state strive to advance the goal of sustaining healthy and resilient Arctic and northern peoples and communities, by strengthening indigenous, economic, cultural, and family connections across the region; and

WHEREAS the United States and Canada have the largest, most comprehensive and balanced trade relationship in the world, totaling $612,000,000,000 in 2019; and

WHEREAS the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) provides the framework for much of this bilateral trade and has provided important updates to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), while continuing to grow both economies; and

WHEREAS the state has a vibrant, balanced trade relationship with Canada, totaling $1,300,000,000, including hundreds of millions of dollars worth of metals, minerals, energy, and seafood; and

WHEREAS more than 10,900 jobs in the state rely on trade and investment with Canada, and more than 50 Canadian-owned companies operate in the state, employing 4,500 residents throughout the state and contributing more than $265,000,000 in salaries; and

WHEREAS tourism between Canada and the state is another key component of the economic relationship, and, in recent years, more than 325,000 Canadians visited the state annually, spending more than $316,000,000 in the state; and

WHEREAS Canada and the state share diverse transportation links by road and by sea, including the Alaska Highway, constructed during World War II to benefit our shared defense, the Alaska marine highway system's terminal at Prince Rupert, and the uniquely interdependent communities of Stewart, British Columbia, and Hyder, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, for over 60 years, Canada and the United States have been partners in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), with the Alaska NORAD region proudly commanded out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson by an American Commander and Canadian Deputy Commander;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the vibrancy and importance of the Alaska-Canada relationship as the world increasingly recognizes the strategic, economic, environmental, and cultural importance of the Arctic; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature believes that Canada and the state must continue to work together to make our citizens' lives better, safer, and more prosperous; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in the economic and trade relationship between our nations and the outstanding economic relationship between Canada and the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature honors the state's alliance with Canada and looks forward to many more years of cooperation, friendship, trade, tourism, cultural exchange, and good will.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Antony Blinken, United States Secretary of State; the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence; the Honorable Lloyd Austin, United States Secretary of Defense; General Glen D. VanHerck, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command; Lieutenant-General Alain Pelletier, Deputy Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command; Brandon Lee, Consul General to Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.