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**Pacific NorthWest Economic Region applauds commitment of cooperation by U.S., Canadian leaders**

SEATTLE - The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) applauds the commitment to cooperation made by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today in a joint statement.

Maintaining a healthy relationship of trade, cooperation and understanding between the United States and Canada is vital to both countries. Canada and the United States exchange more than \$2 billion in goods and services every day. Nearly 9 million U.S. jobs rely on trade with Canada, according to the Government of Canada, and approximately 380,000 people cross the U.S.-Canada border every day, according to the U.S. Department of State.

"The joint statement made today by the president and prime minister is a good sign for continuing the most dynamic trade relationship in the world," said Matt Morrison, executive director of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region. "Our region stands to benefit from greater cooperation, not less."

The joint statement reaffirms important commitments of both countries to expand preclearance operations for travelers and analyze the feasibility of cargo preclearance. Preclearance will strengthen the Pacific Northwest's \$55 billion travel and tourism sector by making cross-border transit more efficient for travelers while maintaining security. The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's Preclearance Implementation Taskforce has held monthly calls for the past two years with border officials and private stakeholders from both countries to coordinate implementation of the agreement and provide input on technical design standards for facilities. Recommendations from the taskforce include analyzing the feasibility of shared facilities for border inspection agencies as well as finding effective technology to expand preclearance for cruise ships, rail, ferries and eventually cargo. Necessary legislation to implement preclearance in the U.S. passed in December and awaits a decision in Canada.

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and its Center for Regional Disaster Resilience also commend President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau for recognizing the need for a coordinated and cooperative approach to cybersecurity. The economies and infrastructures of Canada and the United States are inextricably linked and commitments to improve bi-national security are well made. The Center for Regional Disaster Resilience has held four regional Emerald Down cyber resilience workshops to educate public- and private-sector stakeholders on cyber threats and facilitate greater collaboration.

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region has also worked for the last five years to promote regulatory alignment without compromising health and safety standards through the Beyond the Border initiative and Regulatory Cooperation Council. We are hopeful these efforts will expand and provide greater efficiency in our shared economy, making our region more competitive.

State, provincial and territorial members within PNWER are working to develop a set of consensus recommendations to be considered during discussions on the modernization North American Free Trade Agreement, which the region will forward to Ottawa and Washington D.C.

## **ABOUT PNWER**

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a statutory non-profit public/private partnership chartered by the states and provinces in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region while maintaining and enhancing our natural environment; identify and promote "models of success;" and serve as a conduit to exchange information.