



Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

July 2, 2020

**2019 - 2020
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*Partial listing

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 175th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) congratulates you on the successful negotiation of the U.S. - Canada - Mexico Trade agreement (USMCA/CUSMA) that goes into effect on July 1, 2020. The great efforts that you and your team put into this agreement are a benefit to the United States and all of North America. Now is the time to celebrate the most advanced trade agreement in history, which will solidify the competitiveness of the North American platform in global commerce.

In particular, we celebrate the partnerships made with the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and the amazing efforts your office made to ensure that our closest trading partners are supporting U.S. interests in global markets.

Our organization, which is a statutory nonprofit chartered by 5 states, three Canadian provinces and two territories, worked behind the scenes in both the U.S. and Canada to support the development and ratification of USMCA.

We believe that the implementation of the USMCA will greatly benefit U.S. businesses and consumers, as well as our largest trading partners in Canada and Mexico. With the continued uncertainty of trade with China, and the importance of COVID economic recovery, **this is not the time to disrupt the critical supply chains for our vital automotive and manufacturing sectors by re-instituting a Section 232 aluminum tariff on our best trading partner and ally Canada.**

The May 2019 Joint Statement by Canada and the United States on Section 232 Duties on Steel and Aluminum eliminated tariffs on Canadian aluminum and created new opportunities for bilateral collaboration on the trade of aluminum.

This joint statement was a positive development for the North American aluminum and steel industries as it provides assurances that trade actions will only be taken under extreme circumstances.

Ninety-seven percent of U.S. aluminum industry jobs are in mid- and downstream production and processing and rely on a mixture of domestic and imported primary aluminum. U.S.

aerospace, automotive, and other advanced manufacturing firms depend on reliable aluminum supplies from our USMCA trading partner. Due to the highly integrated nature of the U.S. and Canadian aluminum industry and its support to the critically important manufacturing supply chains for our mutual defense partnership, the United States should not re-impose tariffs on aluminum imports from Canada.

PNWER calls for continued quota-free Section 232 tariff exemptions for aluminum in North America.

Sincerely,



Matt Morrison
Chief Executive Officer
PNWER



Senator Mike Cuffe
PNWER President 2019-2020
Montana State Legislature

CC:

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