GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Kenny Marchant
U.S. Representative, District 24
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Marchant:

I write today to express my support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). As Congress considers the USMCA in the coming weeks, I ask that you pass legislation to approve the agreement. As you know, trade with Mexico and Canada is essential to the Texas economy, and without the certainty of an agreement, almost one million Texas jobs are at risk. Constituents in each of your districts depend on North American trade for their livelihood.

Moreover, the USMCA promises not just to maintain but to strengthen our trade relationships with our northern and southern neighbors. Over the last several decades, Texas's economy and workforce have flourished due to the accessibility of Mexican and Canadian markets and the free flow of imports and exports. The next generation of Texas companies and workers are on the cusp of reaping even greater benefits from this more just and modernized agreement.

Texas, perhaps more than any other state, depends on strong, stable trade relationships with Mexico and Canada. Mexico is Texas's number one trading partner; annually, Texas's exports to Mexico are over $90 billion, and Texas's imports from Mexico top $80 billion. Texas exports more than any other state to Mexico, and Texas is second behind only Michigan for exports to Canada. Today, Texas's unemployment rate is at an all-time low, thanks in large part to the almost one million Texas jobs that depend on trade with Mexico and Canada. In order for Texas' robust trade with Mexico and Canada to continue to thrive, Congress should approve the USMCA.

While some portions of the USMCA mirror current practices and protections, the agreement also contains many new provisions that are good for American and Texas businesses and workers. Under the USMCA, U.S. farmers and ranchers will benefit from increased access to Canadian markets for dairy, poultry, and egg products. Pharmaceutical and technology innovators will enjoy the strongest protections for trade secrets contained in any U.S. trade agreement. To

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address the burgeoning global digital ecosystem, the USMCA contains a new digital trade chapter that will facilitate the cross-border transfer of data and minimize limitations on where data must be stored.

Notably, the USMCA balances policies steeped in principles of economic liberty with important protections for workers and the environment. The agreement includes new provisions to prohibit the importation of goods produced by forced labor, addresses violence against workers exercising their labor rights, and ensures that migrant workers are protected under labor laws. The USMCA is a comprehensive trade agreement that reflects the priorities and needs of Americans and Texans as we approach the third decade of the twenty-first century.

The USCMA is critically important to Texas. With your support, Texas will continue to lead the nation in exports and trade and will continue to grow jobs in each of your congressional districts. Please support its passage and implementation.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott
Governor

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