

July 19, 2018

Governor Brian Sandoval Chair National Governors Association 444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267 Washington, D.C. USA 20001-1512

## To all U.S. state governors

Dear Governors:

Canada and the United States have a long history as neighbours, allies, partners and friends. We share bonds of history, geography, values and common interests. Together, we have built the most competitive and innovative economic partnership in the world.

As Premiers of Canada's Provinces and Territories, we are committed to preserving and strengthening this relationship that is unparalleled in the world today. This is especially true now, when the economic foundations of our shared prosperity are facing many challenges.

Governors and Premiers share unique insights on why our partnership matters so much. We see firsthand the impact that policies adopted thousands of miles away can have on the daily lives of our citizens. We are also the key players in the development of strong, innovative local economies that drive national prosperity and have tangible benefits for our constituents. We have learned to work together, often through subnational cooperation, on scores of significant issues ranging from water management to energy and transportation. We build things together, and we solve problems together.

Through this unique role, the perspectives of Governors and Premiers are critical in the ongoing trade policy debate.

Governors and Premiers understand the tangible benefits of a closely integrated North American economy for communities, workers and families on both sides of our border. Our integrated market supports the creation and maintenance of millions of well-paid jobs for Americans and Canadians alike. Our industries are more competitive in the global marketplace because of the synergies they can develop within the framework of a North American economy.

With rising global competition, it is more vital than ever to the security, prosperity and growth of both Canada and the United States that this partnership continues. Recent protectionist measures by the U.S. administration have not only unfairly and negatively impacted Canadians, but have also had adverse repercussions on your industries, your workers and your families.

As leaders, we have the responsibility to work together to overcome issues that are impacting prosperity, jobs and competitiveness on both sides of our border. We are appreciative of your recent efforts to make your voices heard on these important issues, such as the letter in support of our strong trade relationships sent from Western Governors' Association to Secretary Ross on February 14, 2018. Accordingly, we are asking today for the continued support and partnership

of all governors to maintain and strengthen the prosperity and competitiveness of the North American economic space.

Governors and Premiers have a long history of positive leadership and by working together, we can ensure that the alliance between our countries will remain strong and continue for many years to come.

We look forward to deepening our existing collaboration, to the benefit of our economies and our peoples.

Sincerely, Brian Gallant

Chair of Council of the Federation Premier of New Brunswick

Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Stephen McNeil Premier of Nova Scotia

John Horgan Premier of British Columbia

Scott Moe Premier of Saskatchewan

Dwight Ball

Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

Sandy Silver

Premier of Yukon

Philippe Couillard Premier of Québec

**Brian Pallister** Premier of Manitoba

Wade MacLauchlan Premier of Prince Edward Island

Rachel Notley Premier of Alberta

Robert R. McLeod Premier of the Northwest Territories

Joe Savikataag Premier of Nunavut