

September 4, 2019

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington, 9th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

I am writing in support of your calls for the Arizona congressional delegation in Washington to support ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This trade deal is essential for the long-term well-being of Arizona, and for the broader competitiveness of our North American region.

The economic facts are incontrovertible. Mexico and Canada are now the top two trading partners of the United States, accounting for [\\$20 billion in trade with Arizona alone, and supporting more than 228,000 jobs](#) in our state. As an emerging middle-class economic power on the global stage, and a close US ally, Mexico is a strategic partner and market for Arizona, its businesses, and its knowledge enterprises like Arizona State University. Our fates are intertwined, and Arizona's close historical, cultural, economic, and demographic ties to Mexico are one of our state's competitive advantages.

The quarter-century since the passage of the original North American Free Trade Agreement has improved the global competitiveness of the North American trading bloc, and increased living standards and strengthened the rule of law in Mexico. The USMCA builds upon that success by creating strong cross-border intellectual property and digital trade protections, and by expanding labor and environment provisions.

The USMCA is a truly 21st century trade agreement that provides the proper framework for Arizona and Mexico to deepen our mutually beneficial ties. We at Arizona State University, like our sister institutions of higher learning in the state, are committed to expanding our portfolio of cross-border research collaborations with Mexican counterparts, an overview of which can be viewed here: mexico.asu.edu. We want Arizonan and Mexican researchers working side-by-side to help our societies overcome shared challenges, particularly on sustainability and environmental issues that transcend political boundaries.

Governments representing a wide range of ideological and all major partisan persuasions in our three nations have rightly embraced North American free trade and closer economic integration. Today, more than ever, it is in the best interest of Arizona that we recommit to closer ties with our neighbors and build a better shared future by ratifying USMCA.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Crow
President

Office of the President

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