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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 700 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BRADFORD, JANUARY 30, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JANUARY 30, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States to sign the revised  
2 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on trade and enforce  
3 the agreement to ensure that the agreement benefits workers,  
4 enforces stronger environmental protections, improves  
5 agricultural prospects and provides safe working conditions  
6 for all workers.

7 WHEREAS, In 2018, Pennsylvania exported \$10,839,000 worth of  
8 goods to Canada, representing 26.3% of Pennsylvania's exports;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 2018, Pennsylvania exported \$4,219,000 worth of  
11 goods to Mexico, representing 10.2% of Pennsylvania's exports;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, It is crucial for the future of Pennsylvania's  
14 economy that the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, known as  
15 the USMCA, create a system to enable fair trade, benefit all  
16 workers and eliminate mistakes from past agreements; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives approved  
18 the revised USMCA on December 19, 2019, and the United States  
19 Senate approved the measure on January 16, 2020; and

20 WHEREAS, Since 2017, the AFL-CIO and other labor

1 organizations have fought for better standards in the USMCA and  
2 sought to create a trade agreement that holds nations and  
3 corporations accountable to ensure that trade rules are  
4 respected, followed and enforced; and

5 WHEREAS, On December 10, 2019, AFL-CIO President Richard  
6 Trumka announced that the AFL-CIO endorsed the revised USMCA and  
7 stated the revised agreement is a "vast improvement over both  
8 the original NAFTA and the flawed proposal brought forward in  
9 2017"; and

10 WHEREAS, The USMCA must improve and strengthen environmental  
11 protections through robust monitoring and accountability,  
12 including the notification of trade partners when environmental  
13 violations occur; and

14 WHEREAS, Farmers need broader access to markets to export  
15 their goods, in particular, the dairy, poultry and egg  
16 industries; and

17 WHEREAS, All workers deserve respect, fair wages and safe  
18 working conditions, and the USMCA must safeguard that fair labor  
19 practices are enforced; and

20 WHEREAS, An agreement that focuses on workers, workers'  
21 rights, the environment and the enforcement of rules improves  
22 the Pennsylvania economy and protects Pennsylvania's trade  
23 partnerships for years to come; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United  
26 States to sign the revised United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement  
27 on trade and enforce the agreement to ensure that the agreement  
28 benefits workers, enforces stronger environmental protections,  
29 improves United States agricultural prospects and provides safe  
30 working conditions for all workers; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
2 the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United  
3 States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the  
4 United States Senate, the Consulate of Canada in Pennsylvania  
5 and the Consulate of Mexico in Pennsylvania.