

House Resolution No. 2083

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HILL.

2503H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, imposing artificial barriers to free and open trade is harmful to the
2 economic interests of Americans; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the United States, Canada, and Mexico share a belief in freedom,
5 representative democracy, and market principles, all of which are recognized in the Constitution
6 of the United States; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, a longstanding, close trilateral relationship, codified in the North American
9 Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), has existed between the United States, Canada, and Mexico
10 for more than twenty-five years and has proven economically, culturally, and strategically
11 important to all members, and this relationship will continue with the ratification of the United
12 States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA); and

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14 **WHEREAS**, trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly eleven million American
15 jobs, nearly five million of those jobs are supported by increased trade generated by NAFTA, and
16 these benefits will continue with the ratification of USMCA; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, since NAFTA went into effect in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has
19 nearly quadrupled to one trillion three hundred billion dollars, and Canada and Mexico buy more
20 than one-third of American merchandise exports; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, for forty-three states of the United States, Canada or Mexico is the state's
23 largest or second largest export market, and all but one state counts Canada or Mexico among
24 its top three trading partners; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, NAFTA contributed to the three hundred fifty percent increase in United
27 States agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the United States had a trade surplus with Canada and Mexico of over
30 seventy-nine billion dollars in manufactured goods during the six-year period from 2008 to 2014
31 and over forty-one billion dollars in services during 2014 alone; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, NAFTA was a boon to the competitiveness of American manufacturers,
34 which added more than eight hundred thousand jobs in the four years after NAFTA became
35 effective; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the people of Canada and Mexico purchased four hundred eighty-seven
38 billion dollars in American manufactured goods in 2014, which is equivalent to nearly forty
39 thousand dollars in export revenue for every American factory worker; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, American service exports to Canada and Mexico tripled from twenty-seven
42 billion dollars in 1993 to ninety-two billion dollars in 2014, largely due to accessing new markets
43 and implementing clearer rules under NAFTA, both of which will be continued under USMCA;
44 and

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46 **WHEREAS**, Canada and Mexico are the top two export destinations for American
47 small- and medium-sized enterprises, one hundred twenty-five thousand of which sold their
48 goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, trade between our North American trading partners is predominantly made
51 up of intellectual property (IP) goods and services, and the IP industry employs millions of
52 Americans in high-paying jobs and generates billions of dollars in economic output; and

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54 **WHEREAS**, trade agreements are the most appropriate mechanism to harmonize and
55 strengthen IP rights, ensuring domestic and foreign business are on equal footing before the law;
56 and

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58 **WHEREAS**, much of the trade of IP goods and services did not exist when NAFTA was
59 drafted, and the fact it was not sufficiently addressed has resulted in uneven and weak IP
60 enforcement; and

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62 **WHEREAS**, stringent enforcement of IP rights correlates closely with greater household
63 income, foreign direct investment, and gross domestic product; and

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65 **WHEREAS**, the IP provisions in the USMCA are the most comprehensive of any
66 multilateral United States trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA:

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68 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
69 of Representatives, One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby urge the
70 United States Congress to approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in
71 order to ensure continuity in trade among the three North American economic partners; and

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73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
74 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
75 President of the United States; each member of the following committees and groups of the
76 United States Congress: the Senate Committee on Finance, the House of Representatives Ways
77 & Means Committee, the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations, and the House Advisory
78 Group on Negotiations; the United States Secretary of Commerce; the United States Secretary
79 of Labor; the United States Secretary of State; the Office of the United States Trade
80 Representative; and the Director and Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator of the Office
81 of Management and Budget.

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