

The Honorable Jameison Greer United States Trade Representative 600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: "Request for Public Comments and Notice of Public Hearing Relating to the Operation of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada" Docket Number USTR-2025-0004

## Dear Ambassador Greer:

I am writing on behalf of the New England Council to express our strong support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and urge its continued application for the future. We believe that the updates brought on by the USMCA have provided stability to the trade relationship we have with our neighbors, which in turn supports broad-based growth among all three nations.

Prior to the USMCA being negotiated, there were few who would dispute that an update to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was needed to bring our trade relations with Canada and Mexico into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We believe the USMCA has done so.

The importance of our region's trade partnerships with Canada and Mexico cannot be denied. The U.S. Department of Commerce has identified Canada as a "top three" export market for New England businesses, while Mexico is a "top seven" export market for our combined six states. Our overall level of trade with Canada and Mexico has increased since the implementation of the USMCA. Indeed, our region exported some \$6.2 billion in goods to Mexico in 2024, and more than \$9.2 billion in goods to Canada. Data from Canada shows that in 2024, service exports from our sixstate area to our northern neighbor totaled approximately \$5 billion. Further, it is not an overstatement that, overall, hundreds of thousands of jobs in New England rely in some part on trade and investment with Mexico and Canada.

From the outset of the first Trump Administration, trade leaders in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Administration worked in good faith to make improvements as they were putting together the USMCA to ensure bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. The final product did not contain all of what business interests wanted in a trade agreement, however it reached a consensus that we at the Council believe has allowed our economy to continue to flourish.

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The USMCA has also ensured that businesses in our region have the advantage of rules-based investment and trade. The continued reliance on this level of predictability can only serve to maintain and even grow business opportunities for New England for years to come. We further see the benefits of engaging in trade with our neighbors in an effort to solidify supply chains among our six states at a time of unpredictability around the globe.

The New England Council believes that overall, the USMCA has had a positive effect for business in our region and feels that lasting benefits will continue under its auspices. We respectfully urge your support for the continuation of the USMCA.

Sincerely,

James T. Brett President & CEO