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Sponsor Testimony on Senate Resolution 376

Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

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Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Resolution 376. I have some involvement in these issues. As many of you know, I serve on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee on Trade, which provides advice to the U.S. Trade Representative on issues involving trade and development that have a significant relationship to the affairs of state and local government.

SR 376 urges Congress to ratify the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada – better known as USMCA. This agreement was signed by the chief executive of each member nation in November of last year and ratified by Mexico's Senate this past June.

The United States International Trade Commission estimates that, once ratified, USMCA will raise the United States' real GDP by \$68.2 billion and create 176,000 jobs. This includes 76,000 jobs in the U.S. automotive industry. New rules of origin will encourage more goods to be manufactured in the United States, ensuring that economic growth flows back to our communities. The agreement's enforceable labor standards will enable the American worker to compete on a level playing field, while improving wages and labor standards among our trading partners.

USMCA is also good for Ohio's agricultural communities. Ohio's agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico are valued at \$3.6 billion annually and support more than 29,000 Ohio jobs. Under USMCA, these exports will increase as Canada eliminates a milk-pricing program that currently discriminates against U.S. products, and poultry producers will gain new access for poultry and egg exports. Ohio farmers have had a tough year. There is no good reason for Congress' continued delay in ratifying an Agreement that will protect these communities and expand their market for exports.

USMCA will also benefit Ohio small businesses through the streamlining of customs and trade rules, allowing them to tap into foreign markets and grow their customer base. Strengthened

intellectual property enforcement provisions will protect Ohio's many inventors and entrepreneurs, encouraging the development of innovative products and technologies.

For all of these reasons, it is vital that Congress move quickly to ratify USMCA. Workers and business owners across Ohio and throughout the nation have waited long enough – the time for action is now.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this resolution. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.