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THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Monday, March 31, 2025

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine,

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), a bipartisan organization representing mayors of cities across the United States, we write to express our strong support for S.J. Res. 37, the joint resolution to terminate the national emergency declared on February 1, 2025, that launched a trade war with Canada and thus to terminate the tariffs on Canadian imports implemented as part of that unfounded emergency.

This declaration has triggered a damaging and unnecessary trade conflict with Canada—our closest ally, largest trading partner, and critical collaborator in addressing economic and public safety challenges across North America.

The sweeping tariffs implemented under this declaration—10 percent on Canadian energy and 25 percent on nearly all other Canadian goods—are already causing real harm in American cities. These actions are raising prices for consumers, disrupting key industries such as construction and manufacturing, and threatening jobs in communities large and small. They also risk increasing already high housing costs, as tariffs on Canadian lumber, steel, aluminum, and other critical building materials will make housing construction and infrastructure development significantly more expensive. Estimates suggest the average American household could face up to \$2,000 in increased costs annually due to these tariffs.

Canadian countermeasures are now targeting a range of U.S. exports, including agricultural products, industrial components, and manufactured goods. Retaliation from Canada will only deepen the economic strain on local economies and undermine years of cross-border cooperation.

In immediate response to this growing crisis, the U.S. Conference of Mayors partnered with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to introduce an emergency resolution following our Leadership Meeting in February, voicing our shared concerns on behalf of mayors from both countries. This bipartisan collaboration reflects the strong ties between our communities and our shared

belief in the importance of stable, rules-based trade to support economic growth, supply chain resilience, and regional security.

Just last week, on March 27–28, we convened 30 mayors from the United States, Canada, and Mexico—our most important trading partners—for an historic Trade Summit in Washington D.C. to stand united in opposition to the implementation of tariffs across our three nations. Together, we issued a strong, joint statement opposing these measures, recognizing that such tariffs would inflict immediate and disproportionate harm on working families and local businesses. Cities will feel the impact first, as municipal governments are on the front lines of economic resilience and community well-being.

Canada remains a committed partner in law enforcement and border cooperation and has recently pledged over \$1.3 billion Canadian dollars to strengthen northern border enforcement. The emergency designation lacks sufficient factual basis and unjustifiably escalates a conflict that risks deep, long-term consequences for U.S. cities.

On behalf of the nation’s mayors, we thank you for introducing S.J. Res. 37 and urge you to continue to oppose the continuation of tariffs that jeopardize American jobs, raise costs for working families, increase housing and infrastructure costs, and undermine the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and stand ready to work together to protect the economic well-being of communities across the nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors