

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 2, 2018

Greetings:

I am writing to you today to ask for your help protecting and expanding Vermont's economy.

As you know, the Trump Administration is currently negotiating the nation's participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Vermonters enjoy a close and critical relationship with our Canadian neighbors. In fact, the province of Quebec is Vermont's largest trading partner with \$5 billion in trade annually. That's why my administration has made strengthening our relationship with Canada an important economic priority, and we're already seeing results.

I have long advocated, along with fellow governors and Canadian premiers, that we should focus on modernizing and strengthening NAFTA, not withdrawing from it. A recent study by the Business Roundtable (attached) suggests withdrawing from NAFTA would result in the elimination of over 4,200 Vermont jobs. Additionally, termination of the trade agreement would cause Vermont's economic output to fall by over \$200 million. Our communities and employers simply cannot afford these impacts.

I am asking you to join me in making your voice heard. Please contact the Office of the United States Trade Representative by emailing correspondence@ustr.eop.gov and let them know how important NAFTA is to Vermont, your organizations and communities. Failing to renew the United States' commitment to NAFTA would undermine our businesses' ability to compete in this increasingly competitive global marketplace.

Thank you for reaching out to our federal partners to express your support for renewing the nation's participation in NAFTA.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor