

December 18, 2019

**ATTN:** Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland,  
Undersecretary Jesus Seade

**RE: U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Ratification**

We write in support of ratification of the USMCA, which our nations' leaders negotiated to strengthen trade across the continent. This modernized agreement builds upon two decades of success under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and its implementation will spur economic growth in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

We urge policymakers in Canada and the United States to work diligently towards ratifying the agreement so that it may enter into force as soon as possible.

The integrated North American freight rail network, which plays a critical role in transporting goods across the continent, embodies the benefits of free trade without the burden of tariffs. Economic growth tied to North American trade has fostered additional, mutually beneficial outcomes for businesses across our countries, opening new markets and increasing prosperity. Between 1993 and 2018, North American Gross Domestic Product increased by more than 195 percent, from US\$8.0 trillion to US\$23.4 trillion.<sup>1</sup>

As our industry serves much of this cross-border traffic, this economic growth has in turn allowed railways to invest billions of dollars into their infrastructure while improving productivity and customer service and fostering innovation. We will only grow stronger in the future by fortifying our relationships as top trading partners.

Signed,



Mr. Ian Jefferies  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer

Association of American  
Railroads



Mr. Marc Brazeau  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer

Railway Association of  
Canada



Mr. Iker de Luisa Plazas  
Director General

Asociación Mexicana de  
Ferrocarriles

<sup>1</sup> Nominal growth for Canada, U.S. and Mexico.

Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=CA-MX-US&view=chart>



Founded in 1934, the Association of America Railroads (AAR) represents the freight rail industry in the United States. AAR focuses on the safety and productivity of America's freight railroads by advancing railroad policy, establishing standards and supporting rail research and technology initiatives. In addition, AAR prepares statistical reports that provide comprehensive insight into the operations of North America's freight railroads.

The Asociación Mexicana de Ferrocarriles (AMF) represents Mexico's freight and passenger railways. Established in 2004, its goal is to promote rail activity in Mexico, coordinate with sectors that support the country's rail industry, and advocate on behalf of its members during the design and execution of rail transportation policy.

The Railway Association of Canada (RAC) represents some 60 freight and passenger railway companies that move more than 84 million passengers and \$310 billion worth of goods in Canada each year. The RAC advocates on behalf of its members and associate members to ensure that the rail sector remains globally competitive, sustainable, and, most importantly, safe.