

August 8, 2018

Dear Lt. Governor \_\_\_\_\_,

Throughout the first 18 months of President Trump's term in office Vermonters have expressed to me that they have experienced a wide range of repercussions from his words and actions. I'm writing each Lt. Governor to specifically learn if you are having a similar experience and to gauge your interest in working together to discuss the potential economic consequences of the developing trade imbroglio with Canada.

When we were in D.C. together we visited the Swiss embassy and discussed the importance of our trade relations with Switzerland. It was an impressive and valuable experience. As the #1 export market for the entire United States, Canada is extremely important to all of us.

For Vermont, and 12 of the other border states, Canada is our number one customer. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. ran a trade surplus in goods and services of nearly \$2.8 billion with Canada last year. Without exception, Canada is in the top three countries that every state has economic ties with. In Vermont alone, 18,900 jobs depend on trade and investment with Canada.

As a border state, Canada is much more than just a trading partner. Our border communities work together on a variety of issues both economic and cultural. This includes everything from music to agriculture and manufacturing. Our citizens are friends and neighbors. I am hearing from many Vermonters who are worried about future relations between our countries and what that could mean to them. If you too have concerned constituents, I think we could work collaboratively to ensure a positive relationship with this vital partner moving forward.

I believe as Lt. Governor's we can work together to alleviate some concerns and repair some of the damage caused by the President's actions. Please let me know if you are interested in working on this issue with me. We could:

1. Write a resolution in support of fostering a positive relationship with Canada. As the focus, it could outline the importance of our relationship with Canada and some of the statistics regarding trade, jobs and tourism.
2. Write a letter to President Trump, outlining the importance of Canada to our state economies, and asking him to work collaboratively with us to expand fair trade between our countries, while allowing each country to support its systems, autonomy and way of life.

Please email my Chief of Staff Megan Polyte ([megan.polyte@vermontgov](mailto:megan.polyte@vermontgov)) if you are interested in participating in either or both of the above activities or if you have a different idea to propose.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and to working together on this and other issues.

Lt. Governor David Zuckerman