

RESOLUTION
BY WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Whereas, the mission of Webb County is, in part, to provide vision and leadership to develop, encourage, promote and protect the business, tourism, industry and educational interests of the Laredo, Webb County,

Whereas, the Laredo, Webb County port of entry is, without contention, the largest inland port in the United States,

Whereas, the Laredo, Webb County customs district is ranked as the third largest in the country in volume of trade processed - with the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach and New York being the first and second,

Whereas, in 2015 alone, the Laredo, Webb County port of entry customs district handled \$284.3 billion in trade, reflecting a 1.6 percent increase over the previous year, while the rest of the country experienced a 5.59 percent drop,

Whereas, 40 percent of all overland trade between the United States and Mexico is processed through the port of Laredo, Webb County,

Whereas, the unemployment rate of Laredo and the county of Webb in 2016 wavered between 4.5 and 5 percent, compared to an average rate of 14 percent during the period extending from 1980 to 1993,

Whereas, the economy of Laredo, Webb County has experienced remarkable growth during the last two decades strengthened by an emerging international trade industry, which has resulted in its diversification and an improved quality of life for its population,

Whereas, statistical reports generated by the local university, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and other state and federal agencies, all clearly reflect a steady pace of economic growth for this community beginning in 1994,

Whereas, the North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA, came into effect in January in 1994 having been signed by the president of the United States and representatives of the governments of Mexico and Canada the previous year,

And Whereas, this organization is on record as having passed a resolution in June of 1993 in support of the passage of this trade agreement,

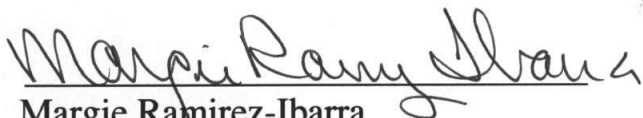
Now Therefore, be it resolved by Webb County Commissioners Court that they once again reaffirm their support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, cognizant that now in its 23rd year of operation it may be in need of review and readjustment but with the conviction that the basic premise under which it was formed is sound given the multitude of benefits it has brought to the City of Laredo, the County of Webb, the State of Texas, and the Country as a whole. The Webb County Commissioners Court further resolves that this agreement symbolizes the strong bond of business and social relations that the United States has with Mexico as a trade partner.

Signed this 13th day of March of 2017



Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

Attest:



Margie Ramirez-Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

