



March 10, 2010

His Excellency the Honourable Barack Obama  
The President of the United States of America  
The White House  
WASHINGTON DC  
USA

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
80 Wellington Street  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. President and Prime Minister:

On behalf of U.S. Governors and Canada's Premiers, we invite you to join us in our efforts to build strong cross-border relationships and develop innovative solutions to promote trade and economic growth, ensure the integrity of our borders, increase energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

States, provinces and territories play vital roles in developing policies to address both regional and national policy issues. U.S. Governors and Canadian Premiers recently came together in Washington, D.C., to discuss our shared interests and explore ways to work together. We have attached the joint communiqué which outlines the main outcomes of our meeting.

We discussed the key roles of our federal governments and the importance of collaborative and cooperative relationships in developing national policies and strategies that impact our shared economy, border and environment.

For instance, we believe that a secure, open and efficient border is critical for Canadian and U.S. success in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Open trade and efficient borders allow American and Canadian companies to produce quality goods at lower costs. Lower costs make our companies more competitive in the global marketplace, raise exports and create jobs at home.

Continued provincial, territorial and state engagement is imperative when our federal governments develop policies that impact our trading relationship or integrated cross-border supply chains. We were heartened by recent negotiations to settle differences regarding Buy American provisions, and we welcome the opportunity to develop a long-term procurement agreement that maintains and strengthens the integrated Canada - U.S. economy.

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Premiers and Governors also recognize the need for continued collaboration and innovation to enhance energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the leadership in these areas has come from states, provinces and territories. We encourage you to look to the success of our regional initiatives and work with us to ensure national strategies complement and build upon our achievements.

Most importantly, we wish to reiterate the importance of open dialogue, collaboration and cooperation among our states, provinces and territories and our respective federal governments. The issues facing our two countries are best addressed by working closely together.

On behalf of our fellow governors and premiers, we look forward to continuing our work with you to address our shared concerns and advance our common interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Douglas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Douglas  
Governor of Vermont  
Chair, National Governors Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Wall", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Wall  
Premier of Saskatchewan  
Chair, Council of the Federation



Saturday, February 20, 2010

## **Governors and Premiers to Work Together for Enhanced Economic Growth**

During the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, U.S. Governors and Canadian Premiers discussed common challenges, compared innovative policy solutions and agreed to work to address the key issues of trade, border security, energy and the environment.

### **Shared Borders; Shared Economies**

Premiers and Governors observe that, despite some encouraging signs, the economic situation remains difficult for many American and Canadian workers, families and companies. They agree that growing the U.S.-Canada economies is critical to building stronger workforces and improving the quality of life for Canadian and American citizens.

The U.S. and Canada share the largest trading relationship in the world with more than US \$1.5 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border every single day. This relationship supports 7 million American jobs and 3 million Canadian jobs. Thirty-six U.S. states export more goods to Canada than to any other country in the world.

The countries also share a common border that stretches across more than 8000 kilometers. The security and integrity of that border is paramount for protecting citizens and facilitating open and efficient trade between states and provinces/territories.

Governors and Premiers recognize that the success of this economic relationship is largely dependent on the highly integrated nature of American and Canadian supply chains. As such, Premiers and Governors agreed to explore ways to work together to build awareness and appreciation for the mutual benefits of the open two-way trade system and resist the imposition of market-distorting trade barriers between states and provinces/territories.

### **Energy and the Environment**

The U.S. and Canada have an extraordinary opportunity to collaborate in the areas of climate change and energy. To date, much of the leadership on climate change and energy in North America has come from U.S. states and Canadian provinces/territories. Governors and Premiers pledged to continue regional collaboration and innovation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy security. Furthermore, Governors and Premiers noted the global clean energy economy will provide significant employment and economic opportunities.

## **Working Together**

Action is needed from all orders of government and results are best achieved by working together towards common goals. As such, Premiers and Governors agreed to explore ways that states, provinces and territories could work together, either through bilateral or regional agreements or cooperative actions, to strengthen the U.S.-Canada economic relationship, ensure the integrity of our borders, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Through a joint letter to the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada, Governors and Premiers will also call on their federal governments to:

- assist them in enhancing American and Canadian competitiveness by supporting and promoting policy innovation by states, provinces and territories; and,
- collaborate with them when developing national strategies that directly affect commerce, security and energy and environmental issues critical to states, provinces and territories.

Premiers and Governors value the dialogue and the relationships established during this meeting and look forward to future opportunities for the Council of the Federation and the National Governors Association to work together to promote their members' common interests.

### **For further information, contact:**

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