

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

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## **TARIFFS – DISRUPTING TRADE BETWEEN THE WORLD’S CLOSEST ALLIES AND LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS IS A BAD IDEA**

SEATTLE – Oregon Senator Arnie Roblan, current President of PNWER said, “Here in the Pacific Northwest, we are stronger by working closely together, and our relationships are intact because of the ongoing partnerships in every major sector of our economy, and in state, provincial, territorial, local, and tribal governments. The US should exempt Canada from any steel and aluminum tariffs before July 1 and avoid significant disruption to the largest trading relationship in the world.”

The US and Canada’s Trading Relationship is incredibly important to the Pacific Northwest. The US and Canada have the largest trading relationship in the world, and here in the Pacific Northwest, we benefit from the two way trade of over \$630 Billion annually, of which \$22 Billion is in the Pacific Northwest. Protectionism will seriously damage the vital economic regional partnership in both of our countries. The steel and aluminum tariffs may cost the US and Canada over \$11 Billion combined, and we could see losses of over 6,000 jobs, according to CD Howe Institute, and this is likely to reduce North American competitiveness and drive competitive gains for China, Japan, and the EU.

This cross border region continues to work closely together every day with our interconnected and interdependent supply chains, and dozens of cross border cooperative agreements on everything from our shared transboundary watersheds, cross border airsheds, climate action, cross border law enforcement, invasive species prevention, forest fires prevention, to defending our shared borders in the 60 year old NORAD (North American Air Defense) System.

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is an example of these interconnections, and the ongoing relationships that make our bi-national region stand out in North America as a place where innovation happens, precisely because of the multi-faceted relationships of trust that have been built up for the past 30 years.

PNWER Vice President of Canada, MLA Larry Doke (SK), “We are each other’s largest trading partners, and this benefits people on both sides of the border. We owe it to our constituencies to do everything we can to avoid creating an escalating trade dispute, which no one will win, and to work toward a modernized NAFTA agreement.”

## **MORE ABOUT PNWER**

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) is a bi-national statutory non-profit chartered by the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and the western Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories. For more information on PNWER see [www.pnwer.org](http://www.pnwer.org).