

# Sen. Johnson: GOP senators urge President Trump to modernize NAFTA

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**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), along with 35 of his Senate colleagues, sent a letter to President Trump highlighting the benefits of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and outlining how the president can improve the agreement.

“NAFTA has driven U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico to approximately \$1.3 trillion annually,” the senators wrote. “Whether manufacturers, farmers or insurance providers, a wide range of industries in the U.S. have benefited from this agreement, and American consumers are reaping those benefits, too. Canadians and Mexicans buy nearly \$500 billion worth of U.S. manufactured goods each year, translating to \$37,000 in export revenue for every American factory worker, and U.S. agricultural exports to the two countries have quadrupled under the agreement from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38.1 billion in 2016.

Co-signatories include senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), and Todd Young (R-Ind.).

Text of the letter is below:

*Mr. President:*

*We write today to reaffirm the benefits of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and congratulate you on efforts to modernize the agreement and put America first. You have the opportunity to unleash the American economy like no president has done before and fuel historic growth.*

*NAFTA has driven U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico to approximately \$1.3 trillion annually. Whether manufacturers, farmers, or insurance providers, a wide range of industries in the U.S. have benefited from this agreement and American consumers are reaping those benefits, too. Canadians and Mexicans buy nearly \$500 billion worth of U.S. manufactured goods each year, translating to \$37,000 in export revenue for every American factory worker, and U.S. agricultural exports to the two countries have quadrupled under the agreement from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38.1 billion in 2016.*

*NAFTA supports 14 million jobs, representing thousands of jobs in each of the 50 states. Despite all of its benefits, however, we can do better and there are opportunities to improve the agreement. Modernizing NAFTA to increase market access, expand energy exports to maximize domestic energy production and including provisions on intellectual property and e-commerce will make this agreement even more beneficial to the United States.*

*Mr. President, your leadership has jump-started our economy. The recent tax reform bill is already leading to economic success across all industries and the stock market is at record highs. The next step to advance the economy requires that we keep NAFTA in place, but modernize it to better reflect our 21st century economy. We look forward to working with you and your administration to make that modernization a reality and bring Americans even greater economic success.*