

From: Jack Gerard, API <Jack_Gerard_API@mail.vresp.com>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
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Subject: U.S. Energy Security Benefits from North American Energy Trade

January 25, 2018

U.S. Energy Security Benefits from North American Energy Trade

Dear Kevin,

As the latest round of negotiations on the [North American Free Trade Agreement](#) (NAFTA) takes place this week in Montreal, negotiators for the U.S., Canada and Mexico are considering a number of complex issues with implications for multiple economic sectors.

When it comes to energy, the facts are pretty straightforward. [Energy trade flows](#) facilitated by NAFTA generate U.S. economic growth and make our nation more energy secure.

Canada and Mexico are among our best energy customers, purchasing more than 650 million barrels of crude oil and refined products in 2016. That [economic activity](#) generates jobs and growth not just in the energy production sector but in related industries like infrastructure construction and businesses throughout the supply chain.

At the same time, access to [energy from our continental neighbors](#) enhances U.S. energy security. The United States leads the world in production and refining of natural gas and oil, [supplying affordable and reliable energy](#) to American homes and businesses. Our trading partnerships with Canada and Mexico provide a stable source of additional energy that reinforces the buffer we've built against overseas disruptions.

North America could be self-sufficient in terms of liquid fuels as soon as 2020. The integrated and interdependent energy markets we enjoy with Canada and Mexico play a critical role in our progress toward that energy security milestone.

Maintaining [priorities](#) shared by the oil and natural gas industries in the [U.S., Canada and Mexico](#) – investment certainty, strong investment protections, tariff-free trade and open access to all three countries' energy markets – is critical to sustaining the [energy benefits NAFTA provides](#).

Modernizing NAFTA is a complex challenge. As negotiators work toward agreement, maintaining energy trade policies that help keep energy affordable and secure for U.S. consumers should be a priority.

Sincerely,

Jack Gerard
President and CEO
API

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Jack Gerard, API
1220 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
US