



Re: NAFTA Resolution re Protecting the Automotive Sector

“Whereas, the auto sector directly employs over 101,000 people in Ontario, and indirectly supports the creation of more than 300,000 good jobs in communities nationwide; and

Whereas, the automotive industry represents Canada’s largest manufacturing sector, Ontario’s chief export and the economic lifeblood of hundreds of Canadian communities; and

Whereas, a thriving auto sector is an essential part of Chatham-Kent’s local economy, stimulating growth, innovation, and good, high-paying jobs; and

Whereas, Canada’s auto sector has been deeply integrated with that of the United States since the early-20th century, as indicated by the 1965 Canada-US Auto Pact; and

Whereas, the North American Free Trade Agreement governs nearly every aspect of Canada and the United States’ economic relationship, including the import and export of auto parts and vehicles; and

Whereas, even minor changes to the established trade relationship between Canada and the United States could have enormous consequences for workers and consumers on both sides of the border; and

Whereas, in 2016 the government of Ontario and Michigan signed a Memorandum of Understanding calling for increased cooperation and partnership between their two automotive sectors; and

Whereas, the United States has announced its intent to renegotiate NAFTA; and

Whereas, Canada’s economic future and the continued wellbeing of Chatham-Kent’s local economy depend on a thriving automotive sector;

Therefore, be it resolved, Council:

1. Join with Councils across Ontario in calling on the federal government to make the protection and growth of Canada’s automotive sector a key priority in the upcoming NAFTA negotiations;

2. Request the Mayor write a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Chatham-Kent's local members of Parliament reinforcing these concerns;
3. Urge those local members of Parliament who have not yet done so to join the parliamentary auto caucus, advocating for the wellbeing of Canada's automotive sector in Ottawa

Signed: Councillor Bryon Fluker

Notice Given On: January 15, 2018