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PRESS RELEASE 559

North America: The World's Most Competitive Region—INDEX Stands with the Mexican Government to Safeguard Supply Chain Integration

INDEX, representing Mexico's export manufacturing and maquiladora industry, voices deep concern over the U.S. government's decision to impose tariffs on Mexico and Canada—an action that threatens the successful trade framework that has made North America a global leader in competitiveness.

For over 50 years, the export manufacturing sector has been a driving force behind industrial innovation, fostering the development of specialized manufacturing, creating millions of direct and indirect jobs, and boosting regional economic growth. Key industries such as auto parts, advanced electronics, machinery, and medical devices have flourished thanks to a deeply interconnected supply chain.

The repercussions of this tariff decision are far-reaching and damaging on both sides of the border. It puts factories, jobs, and communities at risk, while also jeopardizing access to critical goods and essential products. The symbiotic relationship between Mexico's manufacturing sector and the U.S. industrial base is undeniable, making these tariffs a lose-lose scenario for all involved.

The Real Impact of Tariffs on Manufacturing and Trade

If enacted, these tariffs could trigger a domino effect with serious economic consequences:

- Reduced production due to declining demand.
- Job losses and hiring freezes, impacting families and communities.
- Lower foreign direct investment, as reinvestment in Mexico's manufacturing sector slows.
- Stalled expansion and relocation projects, undermining North America's competitiveness.
- Disruptions in cross-border manufacturing integration, particularly in industries like automotive, where components can cross the border up to nine times before becoming a finished product.

A Call for Stability and Collaboration

INDEX stands firmly with the Mexican government in its efforts to resolve this issue. We are confident that the right steps will be taken to protect the integrated North American supply chain that has fueled economic growth for decades.

We offer our full support and expertise to President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration to help restore trade stability and uphold the rules established under the USMCA (T-MEC). Our shared goal remains clear: to safeguard jobs, strengthen manufacturing, and drive prosperity across Mexico, the United States, and Canada.