



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### **CANADA, OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH**

During the past three years I have had the opportunity to work the Canadian Consulate General's office on issues involving cattle, agriculture, oil and gas. As I work with the Canadians on strengthening Colorado's agriculture exports and energy imports, I have observed that not only does Canada and the United States share similar ideals and democratic principles, but she is also our most important defense and trade partner.

The relationship between the two countries is over two hundred years old and our trade relationship is the most comprehensive in the world. Over 7.1 million American jobs depend upon our trade with Canada, including 124,000 jobs in Colorado. Top exports from Colorado to Canada include \$312 million in chemicals, \$227 million in meat products and \$87 million in medical supplies. Colorado's exports to Canada amount to \$3.5 billion dollars annually and growing. While all other markets are shrinking, our export markets to Canada continue to grow and will help us emerge from our economic downturn.

Not only is Canada our best agriculture partner in the world, but Canada is also the top source for U.S. crude oil imports and natural gas, and Colorado purchased almost \$1.1 billion of energy from Canada in 2007.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs was founded in 1958 when a formal agreement was signed by the two countries and is charged with air defense and control for both the United States and Canada. The command for NORAD is stationed in HD19 at Peterson Air Force Base, east of Colorado Springs.

The United States and Canada have a special military and defense relationship. Our troops have fought together in most conflicts since World War II, including the Korean War, Gulf War, Kosovo War, Iraq and Afghanistan. Canadian troops arrived in Afghanistan to support U.S. forces in January 2002 and almost 3,000 Canadian Forces personnel are currently deployed in Afghanistan alongside troops from Fort Carson and Buckley.

Canada's dedication and commitment to the United States makes it our most important international relationship. Her ideals and principles of liberty, freedom and property rights are closer to the United States than any other country and it is because of Canada's extraordinary bond with Colorado that I sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 10-005 on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to honor that relationship. Join me in celebrating our long lasting friendship with the Canadians by thanking them when you have an opportunity. If you wish to view the formal presentation of the resolution visit [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) and view Video/Audio broadcasts of proceedings.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of HD19!

Marsha Looper

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