

“Geography has made us neighbors... Economics has made us partners.”

— President John F. Kennedy
Address to Parliament of Canada, 1961



We share the world's longest secure common border, vibrant democratic institutions and a longstanding legacy of friendship. Common values and geography make Canada the natural destination for President Obama's first foreign visit.

But the bonds between Canada and the U.S. are much more than cultural. The two nations share the world's largest and most comprehensive trading relationship, supporting millions of jobs in each country. In 2007, total trade between Canada and the U.S. topped \$560 billion, and Canada is a larger market for U.S. goods and services than all 27 E.U. nations combined. In today's troubled economy, the value of our economic

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interdependence can not be overstated.

These are two irrevocably linked nations, and nowhere is this more apparent than in U.S.-Canada energy interdependence. The countries share the largest energy trade relationship in the world, with Canada supplying more oil and natural gas to the U.S. than any other foreign supplier. Second only to Saudi Arabia in proven petroleum reserves, Canada is poised to securely supply even more oil and natural gas to the U.S., while industries on both sides

of the border innovate and invest in technologies to enhance environmental responsibility.

It is against this backdrop of shared values and mutual dependence that President Obama and Prime Minister Harper meet February 19th in Ottawa. As President John F. Kennedy famously told the Parliament of Canada, “Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder.”



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