

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1435
OFFERED BY MR. STANTON OF ARIZONA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States and Mexico are committed to strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation that benefits the people of the United States and Mexico;

Whereas the United States and Mexico are top trade partners, trading more than \$896,000,000,000 worth of goods and services in 2023;

Whereas United States foreign direct investment into Mexico reached \$130,300,000,000 into Mexico in 2022, and nearly 5,000,000 United States jobs depend on trade with Mexico;

Whereas the United States, Mexico, and Canada will participate in the first review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2026;

Whereas, the Government of Mexico has actively taken steps to expropriate assets owned by American companies;

Whereas Mexican President López Obrador proposed a range of constitutional reforms on February 5, 2024, including specific proposals to modify the structure of the Mexican judiciary, including popular election of judges and justices;

Whereas reforms regarding the judicial system became law on September 15, 2024;

Whereas Mexican judicial branch employees, including judges, magistrates, and others at the Federal, State, and local levels initiated a widespread and indefinite strike on August 21, 2024, in response to proposed judicial reforms;

Whereas Mexico's National Association of Circuit and District Judges, the Mexican Bar Association, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, the United States Chamber of Commerce, and thousands of striking Mexican Federal court employees and magistrates have voiced concerns with the proposed reforms;

Whereas, under proposed judicial reforms, all Federal judges, including Supreme Court Justices, would be directly elected, judicial independence would end, and judicial qualification standards would be reduced; and

Whereas broader constitutional reforms would—

(1) eliminate autonomous institutions overseeing social development policy and education; the energy, hydrocarbon, and telecommunications industries; and enforcement of antitrust and transparency laws;

(2) reduce the size, oversight capacity, and sanctions authority of Mexico's National Electoral Institute; and

(3) impose a prohibition on genetically modified corn: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) raises concern that the proposed constitu-
2 tional reforms would have a long-term negative im-
3 pact on Mexico's democratic institutions, separation
4 of powers, judicial independence and transparency,
5 and security, while undermining its electoral system,
6 National Guard, and independent oversight agencies;

7 (2) expresses deep concern that the proposed
8 constitutional reforms may contradict commitments
9 made in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agree-
10 ment, jeopardizing critical economic and security in-
11 terests shared by the United States and Mexico and
12 weakening North American economic integration;

13 (3) underscores that several aspects of the re-
14 form package undermine United States-Mexico joint
15 efforts to strengthen the rule of law, counter orga-
16 nized crime, and address the scourge of fentanyl and
17 human and arms trafficking among broader bilateral
18 priorities; and

19 (4) reaffirms its commitment to a robust, mu-
20 tually respectful relationship between the sovereign
21 countries of the United States and Mexico.

