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One of the important areas of subject that we are dealing with here today with multiple players is the role of non-governmental organizations in the Canada-U.S. relations.

We are, indeed, fortunate to have Matt Schaefer here to discuss it. Matt is a favorite of mine. He is a Professor at the University of Nebraska School of Law where he teaches courses in international law, international trade law, international business transactions and international trade law and policy.

In 1999, he served as Director of the International Affairs -- Economic Affairs Office of the National Security Council focusing on WTO and sanction matters.

From 1993 to 1995, he served as consultant to the National Governor’s Association and Western Governors’ Association during the Legislative implementation of the NAFTA and GATT Uruguay Rounds of the multilateral trade agreement.

He received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Chicago. His degree is from the University of Michigan include a J.D., magna cum laude, and a member of the Order of the Coif, an L.L.M. in international law, as well as an S.J.D.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I present Matt Schaefer here today. He is a Director of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute, too.