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Governor Shapiro's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery at the Atlantic Council Conference

Philadelphia, PA – Today, **Governor Josh Shapiro** delivered the keynote speech at the Atlantic Council's Front Page event at the University of Pennsylvania, before participating in a fireside chat on why foreign policy matters to Pennsylvanians.

See below for the Governor's remarks as prepared for delivery:

> *It's an honor to welcome the Atlantic Council to Pennsylvania for your first Front Page event here in our Commonwealth. Thank you for the invitation to address you this morning.*
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> *We gather at a critically important juncture at home and abroad, here in the cradle of liberty 250 years after our Founders, just a few blocks away, declared our independence from a king and set ourselves on a path of self-determination.*
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> *Since then, Pennsylvania has always been a place that thinks beyond our borders.*
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> *In fact, it was Pennsylvania's own Benjamin Franklin – Founding Father, innovator, godfather of this fine University, and my own predecessor as leader of this great Commonwealth – who secured America's first ally in France.*

Because even then, our leaders understood one simple truth, which has been reinforced through two World Wars, a Cold War, and when terror came to our shores: we are safer and more prosperous when we stand together.

That lesson is sadly lost on President Trump and his enablers, who have taken a wrecking ball to the global economy, launched unprovoked attacks with words and weapons, and undermined the alliances that have long kept us safe.

Their chaos, cruelty, and corruption has made us less secure at home and abroad.

The chaos of starting a war in Iran – with no clear rationale or plan – that they now have no idea how to end, while prices skyrocket here.

The cruelty of siding with Putin in his brutal war against Ukraine.

The corruption of selling out America to whoever gives Trump the biggest plane or makes the largest investment in his kids' funds.

On November 3, the American people said "Enough!" and began the process of closing this sorry chapter of American history.

And with the end of that chapter, we have the opportunity to develop a new foreign policy.

A foreign policy that ends conflicts, ensures America's strength and prosperity at home, and enables us to lead abroad where it matters most.

That new construction requires us to first be honest: For a generation after the Cold War, we pursued a foreign policy that left too many Americans worse off economically.

We underestimated the impact of free trade on communities here in Pennsylvania and beyond where generations of Americans clocked in at the factory to support their families and pursue a better life.

We asked too little of our alliances, both in sharing the burden of our common defense and in harnessing our collective economic strength.

And, we sat idly by as China poured money into the industries of the future, came to dominate the supply chains and critical infrastructure we depend on every day, and then flooded our markets with the goods we used to make.

Put simply, we forgot that our economy and security are inseparable. That what a nation makes, invents, and produces shapes its prosperity and its safety.

That when we build with our friends and allies, we create more good jobs, bring down costs, and make what we need to stay safe here at home.

Our alliances have largely succeeded in keeping us safe for generations, but we have never fully realized their economic potential.

It's time to make shared economic strength a core purpose of our alliances, alongside mutual defense.

To be clear, this does not mean we should surrender our competitive edge, weaken our standards, or ship American jobs overseas.

We must approach every decision by asking what is in America's best interests – and we should expect other countries to act in their self-interest, too.

And so, from the rubble Trump has left us, the task before us is to build economic alliances that advance our mutual prosperity.

Alliances that are good for us, good for our allies, and make us all greater than the sum of our parts.

So, as we gather here today at a summit hosted by the Atlantic Council and sponsored by NATO, we must ask: What does that mean for the Transatlantic Alliance?

As Governor of Pennsylvania, I have seen the benefits of this alliance firsthand and I believe we can build it into something new and better that delivers for the American people.

Here are three ways we can do just that:

First, we should grow our economies and rebuild our industrial strength together.

This starts by building on the already extraordinary investment ties between our economies.

Together, our democracies make up nearly half of the world's economy. Europe and Canada account for over two-thirds of all foreign investment in the United States.

European companies alone employ around 5 million Americans and 200,000 Pennsylvanians across the pharmaceutical sector, advanced manufacturing, retail, and more.

As I told Prime Minister Carney in our bilateral meeting in Toronto earlier this year, we need to make it easier – not harder – for our allies in Europe and Canada to invest in America's economy and create good jobs for American workers.

Right now, we are driving our allies away and, in the process, driving away investment and weakening our economy.

Just look at Canada.

Trump's foolish trade war with our second largest trading partner is leading them to look toward our rivals for investment.

Just this week, Canada signed another trade and investment deal with China to deepen their partnership. That's dangerous for our security and bad for our economy.

The President's reckless use of blanket tariffs against our closest allies must end.

At the same time, we should be finding ways to make creating jobs easier here at home.

That means cutting red tape and welcoming investment from our friends without jeopardizing our environment or weakening protections for our workers, just like we've done here in Pennsylvania.

Let's unleash all forms of American and Canadian energy, including Pennsylvania natural gas, to bring costs down, ensure Europe's energy independence from Russia, and protect ourselves against costly disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Let's create an allied investment platform across the Atlantic that connects capital to projects and fast-tracks permitting, investment screening, tax administration, visas, and more for our allies.

And let's provide tax incentives, long-term contracts, and preferential financing to bring key industries back to our shores.

It doesn't require coercion. Our allies want to invest here – we are the world's biggest and most dynamic economy.

And with that investment, we can lessen our dependency on China.

Because from critical minerals to medical equipment and batteries to legacy chips, our transatlantic partners are facing the same challenge of too much dependency on China.

We need a transatlantic approach that blocks Chinese dumping, screens Chinese investment, addresses China's currency interventions, and fights Beijing's unfair trade practices.

Now, let me be clear: these policies are about bringing investment dollars, jobs, factories, and know-how into our country – not sending them overseas.

That's a fundamental shift from how America has approached our international economic policy in the past.

A shift away from the bad trade deals of the past toward generating investment from our friends and allies that builds resilience against our shared challenges, and produces prosperity and creates jobs here at home.

A policy that delivers for the American people.

A policy that is about making sure American workers do not get left behind again.

Look, I see this as Governor – too many communities across Pennsylvania bear the scars of past policies that gave preferential treatment to goods and capital while those who made those goods in our factories and workshops got screwed.

As we grow our economies together, we need to ensure workers have a seat at the table.

We're showing the way here in Philadelphia, where high school students training to become welders now have a pathway to an apprenticeship with the Philadelphia Building Trades, and then a good-paying job with Hanwha, the South Korean company that invested $5 billion here in our nation's oldest shipyard.

An investment from our allies that is creating thousands of jobs in Philadelphia and will help America build ships again.

Second, we must work together to solve the world's toughest problems.

Too many challenges we face today require more than city, state, or even national action — they require alignment with our allies and partners. And the most pressing challenge that requires collective action is developing guardrails on emerging technology.

Rapid advances in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, robotics, autonomous vehicles, clean energy, and more will transform daily life for Americans.

These technologies have extraordinary potential to improve our health and quality of life, create new industries and new opportunities for the American people.

But they also create new risks that need to be addressed.

AI, in particular, carries massive risks to our communities, to our jobs, and to that very same way of life it promises to change for the better.

Now, I am not a doomer. But AI must make life better for us, not replace us, and G-d forbid, not endanger us.

There are critical steps we need to take here in this country to mitigate the dangers of AI – steps this Administration in Washington has repeatedly refused to take – from ensuring third party oversight of frontier models, to increasing transparency into the labs, to prioritizing safety.

But this problem can't be solved by any one country, even one as advanced as ours.

That is why we must work with our allies in Europe and Asia to build international consensus around regulation and guardrails for AI.

We need to harness AI's potential and manage frontier safety risks, protect our citizens and our technologies, and level the playing field for our companies.

We need to establish clear channels of communication and cooperation between experts in government, intelligence, and industry so we can monitor AI use by non-state actors.

We must make it a global priority to prevent the threat of AI-enabled biological and chemical weapons from being realized.

And we must pool resources to manage the proliferating threat of AI-generated cyber attacks that could overwhelm the world's critical infrastructure and financial and communications networks.

And only the collective weight of America and our allies can push China to play by the same rules and collaborate on AI safety.

Solving that problem by working together will open the door to solving a host of other problems – from climate change to poverty to disease.

This is in our collective interests. We can innovate, compete, and win even while developing international standards.

Third, we should strengthen our collective defense so that our economies are backed by a strong and thriving NATO.

Americans know how costly war and instability can be, and Iran is only the latest example – lives lost, supply chains broken, and higher prices at home for energy and food.

Stronger alliances – with stronger allies – can help us keep the peace and avoid the costs of conflict.

Deterrence costs far less than war, and the stability it buys allows our economies to grow and our workers to prosper.

NATO has delivered that for over 75 years.

Its central promise, the Article 5 commitment that an attack on one is considered an attack on all, has only ever been invoked once: when our Canadian and European allies came to America's aid after the horrors of 9/11.

But NATO's greatest successes are the wars that never happened.

That track record – deterring conflicts, maintaining stability, ensuring foreign markets are safe – is the definition of a successful alliance.

Unfortunately, this President has repeatedly raised doubts about whether America would keep NATO's promise.

He dishonors the service and sacrifice of allies who fought with us. And he even threatened to take Greenland from Denmark, one of our NATO allies.

I fully understand the hurt, the anger, and the worry our allies have experienced over these betrayals.

I heard it directly from the more than 20 Ambassadors of EU member states who I was privileged to meet with in Washington last year.

Today, our allies are openly working around us, even preparing to go their own way if they must.

Many world leaders, who tolerated Trump over the last couple of years, have grown tired of his antics and are counting down the days until he's gone. He has become a national embarrassment and his conduct leaves us more isolated.

I believe we are stronger when we stand with our allies, and weaker when America stands alone.

I think Americans understand that our allies deserve our respect – even if our President doesn't. Trust is the essential fuel of our alliances, and we must work to earn it.

So we must make very clear: America must never again waver on whether it will keep NATO's central promise, and we must keep the forces and capabilities in Europe needed to deter aggression.

America must continue to lead NATO forward, for the benefit of our allies and our people.

We must also ensure that the alliance has the resilience to withstand changes of leadership in our countries – even destabilizing ones like our current lame duck president – which can never be permitted to call into question our fundamental commitments to one another.

That is why the voices of Governors, members of Congress, and other leaders here are critical to strengthening this alliance.

At the same time, our allies must hold up their end of the bargain.

For too long, too many of them underinvested in their own defense.

The last three American presidents were right to push our allies to do more.

We welcome their new commitment to substantially increase defense and related spending to five percent of GDP.

Some, like Poland, the Baltic states, and Nordic countries, are far along toward that goal. But all of our allies should work quickly to meet that target.

With more capable militaries, which are able to take on greater roles, our European allies can contribute more to our collective defense.

And a growing European defense industry is good for America's industrial base, too.

We can be partners in co-producing the munitions and air defenses we all need, in factories that employ working people on both sides of the Atlantic.

And, learning from Ukraine's remarkable successes in fields like drone technology and counter-drone defenses, we can make investments to ensure we out-innovate any adversary.

I was proud to welcome President Zelenskyy to a Pennsylvania munitions factory early in the war. As we walked amongst the union workers making these munitions that defend Ukraine from Russian aggression, I told him we must stand with Ukraine until Putin relents, this terrible war ends, and Ukraine is secure and free.

That matters here in Pennsylvania, where we are home to the second largest Ukrainian population in the nation. And it matters for the security of Europe.

The new Democratic Congress should resume critical military assistance to Ukraine and impose the tough sanctions on Russia that the President refuses to employ.

And when the war concludes, with appropriate security guarantees for Ukraine, Ukraine's skill, experience, and technology must be deeply integrated into Europe's defense.

All told, a new transatlantic economic alliance and a stronger NATO are within our reach.

And the same approach can guide how we work with allies and partners in other parts of the world.

Done right, these new economic alliances would bring real benefits to Americans: more investment and good jobs at home, secure supply chains, lower costs, and adversaries who think much harder before threatening the interests of the American people.

We've watched this President's chaotic foreign policy make us weaker and poorer — from our factories to our farms.

Two weeks ago, the American people demanded new ideas for what comes next.

They do not want to go back to the past, and they don't want empty platitudes, either.

They want concrete steps that make their lives better.

And, I've heard from many of our allies loud and clear: I know it will not be enough to simply say "America is back."

We need to demonstrate that our alliance has a new way forward and that we are dedicated to doing the hard work.

We now have a once in a generation opportunity to create a better future.

A better future where American life is more affordable, prosperous, and secure.

A better future where America and our allies stand strong together.

Let's seize that future, together.

Thank you.

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