Resolution from North American Horizons on Panama

**Introduction:** The Panama Canal is one of the most important pieces of human infrastructure created and should be controlled by the United States.

**Summary**: The Panama Canal is the only method one can use to get from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, or vice versa via water and not have to go around the tip of South America or use icebreakers to get around the “North West Passage”. Thus, it is imperative that we not only control it for national and continental economic and national security, but we also expand it and look into constructing an additional canal.

**Whereas** it would take a modern vessel 10-22 days to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans without the Panama canal (Janjevic, 2025). This would not only significantly increase economic transportation costs, it would prevent naval ships from being redeployed in a timely manner, costing money and more importantly, the lives of American citizens.

**Whereas** it is imperative we maintain a significant security presence around the Panama canal to prevent sabotage, infiltration, denial of travel/movement, destruction, or occupation by our enemies.

**Whereas** a 2nd canal in Nicaragua would only cost 20-30 billion dollars and give the United States multiple options for economic and national security (Los Angeles Times, 2006).

We call for the following to secure the Panama Canal:

1. United States military operation, similar to Operation Just Cause in 1989 to establish a permanent security presence around the Panama canal.
2. The building of a canal in Nicaragua that will be maintained, operated, and secured by the United States
3. Expanding the Panama canal for future ship designs and the effects of Climate Change.

Credits:

1. Janjevic, D. (2025, January 8). *Panama canal: What you need to know now – DW – 01/08/2025*. dw.com. https://www.dw.com/en/panama-canal-why-is-trump-interested-in-it/a-71248886#:~:text=Before%201914%2C%20ships%20looking%20to,none%20of%20them%20were%20American.
2. Los Angeles Times. (2006, September 30). *Rival to Panama Canal planned*. Los Angeles Times. https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2006-sep-30-fi-canal30-story.html