



**71st Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

July 17 – 20, 2016

Resolution in Support of the “Protein Highway” Initiative

- WHEREAS,** the United States and Canada have the largest trading relationship in the world, with bilateral trade valued at \$759 billion in 2015, a connection that benefits the economies of both countries; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. and Canada have an integrated agricultural sector industry, with \$47 billion in bilateral agricultural trade in 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** the states and provinces of the U.S. Midwest/Great Plains and Canadian Prairies region are well positioned to be key players in the development of value-added plant proteins for domestic and global markets; and
- WHEREAS,** the region possesses strong capabilities in producing and processing a number of crops that are ideal feedstocks for processing into value-added protein products for human consumption, pet foods and aquaculture; and
- WHEREAS,** the region is known for its high quality agricultural production, innovative human and capital resources and proximity to business, population, transportation and education centers; and
- WHEREAS,** by 2025, the “Protein Highway” region of the U.S. Midwest/Great Plains and Canadian Prairies will lead the world in the sustainable production and processing of highly-nutritious plant proteins for humans and animals, thereby promoting regional economic success; and
- WHEREAS,** the “Protein Highway” initiative – which will create an innovation hub among the states and provinces of the U.S. Midwest/Great Plains and Canadian Prairies that facilitates collaboration among world class researchers to develop novel, value-added products from regional protein crops – connects ideas with entrepreneurs, enables companies for scale-up and showcases the regional plant-protein opportunities to investors in agricultural innovation; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference supports the “Protein Highway Initiative”; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this 20th day of July, 2016 at the 71st MLC Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin