



**71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference  
of  
The Council of State Governments**

July 17 – 20, 2016

**Resolution Endorsing Support for Increasing Taiwan’s International Profile and for Strengthening and Expanding Ties between the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments and the People of the Republic of China (Taiwan)**

- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is a vibrant democracy that has strong economic, cultural and historical ties with the United States and shares its values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and human rights that greatly benefit both nations; and
- WHEREAS,** on January 16, 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election, demonstrating again the strength and vitality of its democratic system and confirming Taiwan is a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States ranks as Taiwan’s second largest trading partner; Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral trade reached \$86.9 (U.S.) billion in December 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is an important trading partner for the 11 states that make up the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States is Taiwan’s largest single source of foreign direct investment, having aggregate investments of \$23.6 (U.S.) billion as of December 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has included Taiwan in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; furthermore, on April 4, 2016, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) signed the Joint Statement Regarding Cooperation between TECRO and AIT toward Development of an International Expedited Traveler Initiative for the Global Entry program; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan and the United States have continued bilateral consultations about the Trade and Investment Framework (TIFA) and have made significant progress; and

*Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016 at the 71<sup>st</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

- WHEREAS,** a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) gives investors in both economies greater assurance that the capital they are putting at risk in each other's market will be adequately protected; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has already concluded – or is seeking to negotiate – bilateral investment agreements with nine of its top ten trading partners, and Taiwan is the sole exception; and
- WHEREAS,** opening negotiations for a BIA between the United States and Taiwan will provide more stability for strong two-way investment ties; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan promotes bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States and is seeking to contribute to greater regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan, as a full-fledged democracy that shares the same values with the United States, should be allowed to participate appropriately in international organizations in order to advance the welfare of the 23 million people of Taiwan and further contribute Taiwan's unique experience and expertise to the international community; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference commends and supports Taiwan's mature and vital democracy; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC expresses support for Taiwan's efforts, along with the United States and other friendly Asia-Pacific Rim countries; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC supports and encourages the United States to sign a BIA with Taiwan; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC reaffirms our support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations that impact the health, safety and well-being of Taiwanese citizens and that contribute to the global community; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

*Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016 at the 71<sup>st</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin*