



**72nd Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

July 9 – 12, 2017

**Resolution Endorsing the Continued Support of the Relationship
and Shared Interests 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 the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, peace and prosperity with the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States ranks as Taiwan's second largest trading partner, Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral trade reached \$65.3 billion in 2016; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is an important trading partner for the 11 Midwestern states which make up the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of The Council of State Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** negotiations between Taiwan and the United States are an important step toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for entering into a Free Trade Agreement between our countries, thereby increasing Midwestern states' exports to Taiwan and creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation measures; 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 is capable of and willing to fulfill its responsibilities and to collaborate with the world to deal with the challenges of humanitarian aid, disease control and so forth; 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 endorses Taiwan's efforts working toward a Free Trade Agreement with the United States; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC continues to support Taiwan's appropriate participation in international organizations which impact the health, safety and well-being of its people, and supports Taiwan's aspiration to make more contributions in international societies; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

Adopted this 12th day of July, 2017 at the 72nd MLC Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa