



**70th Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

July 12 – 15, 2015

**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 major trading nation (the world's 14th largest trading economy in 2014) and is a vibrant democracy that has strong economic, cultural and historical ties to the United States, and values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and human rights that greatly benefit both nations; and
- WHEREAS,** bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States in 2014 reached \$62.2 billion (U.S.), which was 7.84 percent higher than 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** as of the end of June, 2015, Taiwan is the United States' 10th-largest trading partner, surpassing Brazil and Saudi Arabia, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest, after mainland China; 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 \$23.5 (U.S.) billion as of December 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** in November 2012, the United States formally included Taiwan in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, making Taiwan the 37th nation to be included in the program and the only country in the program that does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with the United States. Since Taiwan was admitted to the program, the number of Taiwanese traveling to the United States has risen by 20 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan and the United States have continued bilateral consultations in a series of 12 work conferences about the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and have made significant progress; and
- 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 hopes to work via regional economic bodies to further develop bilateral and multilateral trade with the United States and other nations in the Asia-Pacific region, seeking to join the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and

- WHEREAS,** Taiwan and mainland China signed a landmark trade agreement, the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010, and signed the Cross-Strait Trade in Services Agreement in June 2013. These trade agreements have opened up immense opportunities to Taiwan investors, including those who are from the United States, and continues to expand to provide additional benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** support from the United States has provided an important force for Taiwan in continuing to promote cross-strait reconciliation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Minister of the Executive Yuan's Mainland Affairs Council has met with mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council Minister four times since February 2014, becoming an important milestone in the development of peace and prosperity between the two nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the development of international civil aviation in a safe and orderly manner is the supreme cause of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan's airspace accommodates 14 international flight routes, and Taiwan's air traffic controllers help direct 1.3 million international flights through Taiwan's airspace per year; and
- WHEREAS,** without Taiwan's participation, international flight plans, regulations and procedures that the ICAO formulates will be incomplete and unsafe; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez, President of ICAO, sent a letter to Ms. Shen Chi, Director General of the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA), inviting her to lead a delegation to the 38th Session of the Assembly of ICAO to be convened September 24 to October 4, 2013, in Montreal, Canada, as his guests under the name "Chinese Taipei"; and
- WHEREAS,** U.S. Department of State spokesperson Jen Psaki and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx have both expressed their support for this development; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan's request to participate in ICAO is fully in line with the U.S. government's policy of supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in United Nations' specialized agencies; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC welcomes the resumption of TIFA talks between the United States and Taiwan and expresses support for Taiwan's efforts to secure entry into the TPP, 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 BIA with Taiwan; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC endorses Taiwan's meaningful participation in the ICAO as an observer; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and international officials.

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2015 at the 70th MLC Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota