



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

July 12 – 15, 2015

**Resolution of Support for Improved Energy Transportation  
Infrastructure between the United States and Canada**

- WHEREAS,** Canada and the United States are both committed to achieving North American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS,** North American oil production is at an all-time high, with the United States and Canada now the world's largest and fifth-largest producers of crude oil, respectively; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States and Canada share the world's largest energy-trading relationship and are one another's largest supplier of oil imports and largest customer of oil exports, with approximately \$97 billion (U.S.) in oil traded in 2014, over double the amount traded in 2010; and
- WHEREAS,** oil pipelines are the safest, least carbon-intensive and most economical method of transporting oil; and
- WHEREAS,** increased oil pipeline capacity within North America is critically important to achieving North American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of sufficient energy transportation infrastructure increases our reliance on energy imports from countries outside the region and raises costs for producers and consumers; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal approval process for the construction of new oil pipelines and expansion or re-purposing of existing pipelines should be subject to analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the projects while providing an opportunity for affected parties to submit comments; and
- WHEREAS,** Canada and the United States also have an integrated electricity system with a grid that interconnects over 35 times, allowing both countries to pool energy resources; and
- WHEREAS,** while consumers and businesses can currently rely on the reliability of the grid, aging energy infrastructure and future demands mean that upgrades and enhancements are needed; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference supports improved North American energy infrastructure using a transparent, standardized and science-based approval process that is concluded in a timely manner and is treated consistently from project to project; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state and provincial officials.

*Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015 at the 70<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota*