



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

July 9 – 12, 2017

Resolution on Open and Reciprocal Trade in North America

- WHEREAS,** the United States and Canada have one of the largest trading relationships in the world, and Canada is the United States' largest export market, valued at \$322 billion in goods and services; and
- WHEREAS,** the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) believes that free, open and reciprocal trade between our two countries will continue to strengthen the economies of both nations; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2016, trade between the United States and Canada totaled over \$1.7 billion in goods and services every day, supporting 9 million jobs in the U.S., including nearly 1.7 million in the Midwest; and
- WHEREAS,** Canada is the leading export destination for 32 U.S. states, including 9 of the 11 MLC member states, with most Midwestern states running positive overall trade balances with Canada, and with Mexico as well; and
- WHEREAS,** in the more than 20 years since the three countries entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), North American trade has tripled from \$340 billion (in 1993) to \$1.2 trillion (in 2016); and
- WHEREAS,** North American integration under NAFTA has helped to make the region more competitive in the world economy by providing highly integrated and valuable supply chains, common rules and harmonized regulations that increase the speed and global competitiveness of our businesses, driving investment and imbedding value in each others' economic success, and providing jobs in North American communities that depend on efficient and effective supply chains; and
- WHEREAS,** agricultural trade has benefited under NAFTA, which removed trade barriers for U.S. farmers to sell products such as corn, beef and pork, which in turn increased the sale of U.S.-made farm equipment and supplies in North America; and
- WHEREAS,** Canada and the U.S. both support making targeted improvements to NAFTA that build on the enormously successful North American partnership and our shared competitiveness in the global marketplace; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC commemorates the commitment of the U.S. and Canada to NAFTA; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC continues to encourage our countries to respect the spirit of NAFTA by promoting policies that support and enhance the integrated nature of our supply chains and economies that provide jobs in our respective communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC supports improvements that enhance the commitment and the success of NAFTA; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

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