



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

73rd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 15 – 18, 2018

Resolution Endorsing the Continued Support of the Relationship and Shared Interests between the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments and 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 eleventh largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral trade reached \$68.2 billion in 2017; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is an important trading partner for the 11 Midwestern states which make up the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC); 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 Bilateral 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 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 similar challenges; and
- WHEREAS,** the MLC is meeting in Canada, whose bilateral trade with Taiwan exceeded \$7 billion (CDN) in 2017, making Taiwan Canada's fifth largest trading partner in Asia and 12th largest worldwide; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC commends and supports Taiwan's mature and vital democracy; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC endorses Taiwan's efforts in working toward a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC continues to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations which impact the health, safety and well-being of its people, and supports its aspiration to make more contributions in international societies; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, provincial and federal officials.

Adopted this 18th day of July, 2018 at the 73rd MLC Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba