



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

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

July 21 – 24, 2019

### 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 eleventh largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral goods and services trade reached \$94.5 billion in 2018; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan is an important trading partner for the 11 Midwestern states which make up the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC); and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship between the United States and Taiwan, as well as to advance their mutual security and commercial interests, and the TRA has served as the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations and has helped to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; 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 has undertaken a policy of "steadfast diplomacy" in its international relations. 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; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC commemorates the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act by the United States Congress, and reiterates its support for a closer economic and trade partnership between the United States and Taiwan, and commends and supports Taiwan's mature and vital democracy; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC endorses Taiwan's efforts to secure the signing of 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 such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Civil Aviation Organization, which impact the health, safety and well-being of its people, and supports its aspiration to make more contributions in international organizations; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

*Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019 at the 74<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois*