



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

74th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 21 – 24, 2019

Resolution in Support of the U.S. – Canada Trade Relationship

- 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 more than \$360 billion in goods and services last year, and Mexico is the second largest export destination for U.S. goods and services; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2018, trade between the United States and Canada totaled over \$2 billion in goods and services every day; 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,** Canada is the leading export destination for the majority of U.S. states, including nine 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 25 years since the three countries entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), North American trade has tripled, growing at a faster rate than U.S. trade with the rest of the world; 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 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, as well as U.S.-made farm equipment and supplies in North America, tripling U.S. agriculture exports to Canada and Mexico; and
- WHEREAS,** Canada, the U.S. and Mexico supported making targeted improvements to NAFTA to build on the enormously successful North American partnership and our shared competitiveness in the global marketplace, and developed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to update and modernize NAFTA; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC continues to encourage our countries to promote 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 economic relationship of our countries, including the USMCA as the successor agreement to NAFTA; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this 24th day of July, 2019 at the 74th MLC Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois