



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

75th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 11 – 14, 2021

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 ninth-largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral goods and services trade reached \$104.7 billion in 2019; Taiwan is also an important trading partner for the 11 Midwestern states that make up the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC); and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. 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; it 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

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2021 at the 75th MLC Annual Meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota

- WHEREAS,** Taiwan donated millions of surgical masks and a large number of critical supplies in support of the United States' and Canada's frontline medical workers, as well as many others in need since the outbreak of Covid-19, demonstrating Taiwan's willingness and ability to make substantial contributions in the global pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) commemorates the 42th anniversary of the enactment of the TRA by the U.S. 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; now therefore be it
- 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 to international organizations; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2021 at the 75th MLC Annual Meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota