



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

76th Annual Meeting

of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of

The Council of State Governments

July 10 – 13, 2022

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 \$218 billion in goods and services in 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2021, bilateral trade between the United States and Canada totaled over \$1 trillion 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,** Canada is the leading export destination for the majority of U.S. states, including nine of the 11 MLC member states; and
- WHEREAS,** in the nearly 30 years since the U.S. and Canada entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), U.S. exports to Canada are up 191% and Canada exports to the U.S. are up 187%, growing at a faster rate than U.S. trade with the rest of the world; and
- WHEREAS,** North American integration under NAFTA and the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) 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 and the USMCA, 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 Canadian agriculture exports to the U.S. have grown 92%; and

- WHEREAS,** Canada, the U.S. and Mexico supported making targeted improvements to the USMCA to build on the enormously successful North American partnership and our shared competitiveness in the global marketplace; 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; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2022 at the 76th MLC Annual Meeting in Wichita, Kansas

The Council of State Governments
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