



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

78th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 21 – 24, 2024

Resolution Reaffirming Continued Support of the Relationship and Shared Interests between the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments and Taiwan

- WHEREAS,** Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchanges, and tourism; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan 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 about \$160 billion in 2022; and
- WHEREAS,** Taiwan imported nearly \$4.4 billion worth of U.S. farm products in 2022, making it the sixth largest market for U.S. agricultural products overall, the fourth largest market on a per capita basis among the top ten U.S. agricultural export destinations, and the seventh largest market for U.S. soybeans and corn individually; and
- WHEREAS,** due to its high-quality produce, the United States remains one of Taiwan’s largest sources of agricultural products, supplying more than one-fifth of the country’s major agricultural imports; and
- WHEREAS,** the landmark 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) advances mutual security and commercial interests by stipulating that “wherever the laws of the United States refer or relate to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to Taiwan;” and
- WHEREAS,** negotiations for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) between Taiwan and the United States are an important step toward further strengthening bilateral trade between our countries, thereby increasing U.S. exports to Taiwan and creating bilateral investment and technical collaboration through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation measures; and

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- 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 so forth; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) reaffirms its commitment to the strengthening and deepening of the ties between the 11 U.S. Midwestern states, which comprise the U.S. portion of the MLC, and Taiwan, R.O.C.; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC reaffirms its support for the Taiwan Relations Act and supports Midwestern businesses choice to refer to Taiwan as Taiwan; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC endorses Taiwan’s efforts to secure the signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) with the United States, and reiterates its support for a closer economic and trade partnership between the 11 Midwestern states and Taiwan; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC continues to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations, and supports Taiwan’s aspiration to make more contributions in international societies; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

Adopted this 24th day of July, 2024 at the 78th MLC Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio