



"Serving Western Legislatures"

RESOLUTION 09-03

Resolution Supporting Open and Reciprocal Trade By and Between the United States, Canada and Mexico

WHEREAS The Council of State Governments – *WEST* (CSG-*WEST*) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that serves as a platform of regional cooperation and exchange of information among legislators of the 13 Western states of the United States of America;

WHEREAS the geographical region covered by the CSG-*WEST* encompasses the United States – Canada and United States – Mexico border regions;

WHEREAS the United States, Canada and Mexico are three sovereign and independent nations, each possessing a strong national and regional identity;

WHEREAS the United States, Canada and Mexico are strategic partners through the North America Free Trade Agreement and share a common interest in the economic, social and political sustainability of North America;

WHEREAS the United States is both Canada and Mexico's largest trading partner;

WHEREAS the United States, Canada and Mexico face significant challenges and opportunities to enhance the competitiveness and prosperity of North America, including easing the movement of people and goods among all three countries;

WHEREAS, trade between the United States and Canada:

- Supports 7.1 million American jobs, including 1.6 million in CSG-*WEST*'s 13 states;
- Of the 13 states represented by CSG-*WEST*, Canada is the leading export destination for four states, including Colorado, Oregon, Montana and Wyoming; the second-leading destination for six states including Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Washington; and the third, fourth and eighth leading export destination for Alaska, New Mexico and Hawaii;
- Total two-way trade between Canada and the 13 CSG-*WEST* leading states is \$92.9 billion;
- CSG-*WEST* members believe it is important that the United States and Canada maintain their commitment to keeping their respective markets open and accessible to Canadian and American producers of good and services as this advances the goal of North American competitiveness and will help strengthen the economic structure within both countries;

CSG-*WEST*

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WHEREAS, trade between the United States and Mexico:

- U.S. good exports to Mexico were \$134 billion in 2006, up 11.5% from 2005. U.S. goods imports from Mexico were \$198.3 billion in 2006, up 16.6% from 2005;
- Since NAFTA implementation in 1994, U.S. exports to Mexico have risen 223% and Mexico's exports to the U.S. have grown 396%;
- The United States and Mexico share 53 land ports of entry, with more than 2.3 million pedestrian and 300,000 vehicle crossings daily;
- CSG-WEST members believe it is important that the United States and Mexico maintain their commitment to keeping their respective markets open and accessible to Mexican and American producers of good and services as this advances the goal of North American competitiveness and will help strengthen the economic structure within both countries;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- CSG-WEST encourages state and provincial governments to embrace and adopt open procurement policies between United States – Mexico and United States – Canada;
- CSG-WEST, through its international programs and effort, promote secure, fast and smart border policies and strategies that enable the development of 21st Century border crossings;
- CSG-WEST undertake concerted efforts to build regional awareness and appreciation of the mutual benefits of an open trade system among the countries of North America;
- For the second consecutive year, the North America Summit is an example of CSG-WEST's efforts to build regional awareness, cooperation and appreciation of the mutual benefits of the open trade that exists between the United States, Canada and Mexico;
- That this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state and provincial officials, including pertinent legislative committees; and
- CSG-WEST expresses its commitment to continental, regional strategies that promote open and reciprocal trade to strengthen economic competitiveness.

**Adopted by CSG–WEST Executive Committee on October 8, 2009
Assembled in Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico**