

Mackinac Island, Michigan
June 1, 2013

RESOLUTION

Trade Facilitation Between Canada and the United States

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada have the largest trading relationship in the world; and,

WHEREAS, the States and Provinces of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region form one of the strongest economic units in the world with a population of over 100 million people; with the fourth-largest GDP in the world (US\$5.5 trillion); with a strong network of research institutions; and an industrial foundation that make it a driver of North American manufacturing; and,

WHEREAS, the States and Provinces of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region believe that free, open and reciprocal trade between our two countries constitutes an engine of strong economic growth and job creation for both countries; and,

WHEREAS, trade between the United States and Canada supports millions of American and Canadian jobs, including nearly 1.5 million in the Midwest, and Canada remains the leading export market for 35 U.S. States, including all member States of the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG); and,

WHEREAS, our economies are highly integrated, with nearly one-third of all bilateral trade between companies that make products together, and that integration is especially strong between the Midwest, Ontario and Québec; and,

WHEREAS, member States and Provinces of the CGLG understand that issues concerning the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence are best addressed through the bi-national, collaborative approach of organizations like the CGLG; and,

WHEREAS, this understanding embraces the sustainable management of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence water system, and also regional economic matters, including shared challenges, such as the renewal of our infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, regional bodies such as the Midwestern Legislative Conference and the Great Lakes Commission have passed resolutions in 2012 encouraging both countries to “keep their respective markets open and accessible to Canadian and American goods and services, which advances the goal of North American competitiveness and helps strengthen the economies of both countries.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec encourage the U.S. Congress and the Administration to look at joint content rules and other options for future federally-supported projects that recognize the integrated nature of the Canadian economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors and Premiers recognize the integrated nature of the Canada-U.S. business environment as a positive asset and agree to seek ways not to undermine the productivity and competitiveness of these integrated North American value chains in a competitive global context.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors and Premiers agree to work together, in a spirit of reciprocity, toward facilitating the adoption of open procurement policies within our region, such as Neighboring State agreements, and ultimately between our two countries, with the understanding that these initiatives would enhance the competitiveness of our regional economy.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state and provincial officials.

Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec on this 1st day of June 2013.