



2006 Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Adopted Unanimously at Closing Business Session
August 2, 2006

Resolution Urging the Congress of the United States to Postpone Implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

Whereas, the United States Senate has passed legislation delaying the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) and requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to certify to Congress that certain standards are met before the program moves forward; and

Whereas, the State Department (State) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) do not agree on the appropriate technology to be used for frequent-traveler “PASS Cards”; and

Whereas, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has concluded that the government will be unlikely to resolve technology and program integration issues involving the PASS Card in time to meet the current statutory deadlines; and

Whereas, DHS and State have yet to prepare a regulatory cost-benefit analysis as required by law, including consideration of the extent to which WHTI may discourage tourism and commerce and create border delays; and

Whereas, there has been insufficient consultation and coordination between U.S. and Canadian officials on WHTI implementation, especially regarding the requirements for Canadian citizens entering the U.S.; and

Whereas, both Prime Minister Harper and President Bush have advocated “flexibility” in WHTI implementation;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of State Government’s Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) urges the U.S. Congress to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to postpone implementation of the, Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, except as it applies to travel to the Caribbean nations and territories, until such time as:

1. A comprehensive regulatory cost-benefit analysis is performed; including consideration of the enrollment costs of the PASS Card, and the potential impacts on commerce, tourism and border delays;
2. The technology to be used for the PASS Card program satisfies appropriate security standards which are agreed to by both the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State;

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3. The PASS Card technology is shared with the Government of Canada;
4. All necessary technology infrastructure required to support the PASS Card is in place and operational at ports of entry; and,
5. Consultation and coordination on program design and implementation between U.S. and Canadian officials has taken place to the satisfaction of both governments.

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, the Chairman and Ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee, the House International Relations Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, the Chairman and Ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee; and

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governors and the legislative appointing authorities and minority leaders of the northeast States and the Premiers and Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of the Eastern Canadian Provinces.