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RESOLUTION # CA3016-01

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE “PROMOTING TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2016”

Whereas, the Council of State Governments’ Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 ERC member states from Maine to Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and five ERC member eastern Canadian Provinces; and

Whereas, CSG/ERC has long supported the free flow of travel and trade across the U.S. – Canadian border consistent with each country’s security needs; and,

Whereas, expedited inspection and clearance for passengers and freight moving between the U.S. and Canada is in the best economic interest of both nations; and,

Whereas, the U.S. and Canada have engaged in successful pre-inspection and preclearance programs on a limited or pilot basis; and,

Whereas, in March 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Barack Obama announced an agreement in principal to expand passenger preclearance operations to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport, and Montreal Central Station; and,

Whereas, a continued barrier to expansion of pre-inspection and preclearance operations is the lack of a formal agreement between Canada and the United States addressing legal protections and accountability for U.S. officers operating in Canada; and,

Whereas, legislation (H.R. 4657 and S. 2612, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016) has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to help resolve this issue by ensuring that the U.S. has proper legal authority to prosecute U.S. officials engaged in pre-inspection and preclearance operations if they commit crimes while stationed in Canada;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that CSG/ERC urges the U.S. Congress to expeditiously pass, and the President to sign, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016; and,

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Secretary of State of the U.S., the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Minister of International Trade of Canada, the Secretary of U.S. Homeland Security, the Minister of Public Safety of Canada and the Premiers and Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of the ERC member Canadian Provinces and the Governors of the ERC member States.

Adopted _____ CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum Québec City, Québec