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Resolution # 20148062
Sponsor: U.S. / Canada Relations

RESOLUTION ON RESTRICTIVE PROCUREMENT POLICIES

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

Whereas, the U.S. and Canada enjoy the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world; and

Whereas, trade between the U.S. and Canada supports 8 million jobs in the U.S. and 3 million jobs in Canada; and

Whereas, the economies and supply chains of the U.S. and Canada are tightly integrated; and

Whereas, free, open and reciprocal trade is essential to the economic well-being of both countries and the global competitiveness of North America; 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, the recently enacted "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014" and "Water Resources Reform and Development Act" contain provisions limiting the ability of state and local governments to purchase foreign-sourced iron and steel products used in federally-funded water infrastructure projects; and,

Whereas, these provisions would include materials imported from Canada and would have a deleterious effect on U.S. – Canadian trade;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CSG/ERC supports free and open procurement policies between the U.S. and Canada; and

Be It Further Resolved that the CSG/ERC encourages Canadian and U.S. policymakers to carefully consider the impacts of restrictive procurement policies on the U.S. – Canada trade relationship and seek to exempt Canada from legislation restricting the purchase of foreign goods and services; 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 Eastern Canadian Provinces and the Governors of the Northeastern States.

Adopted August 6, 2014 at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum in Baltimore, Maryland.