



# EAST

## RESOLUTION # CAUS-2026-01

### RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE STATES AND U.S. TERRITORIES AND CANADA

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**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada have shared a deep and enduring friendship for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada remains the leading export market for the majority of CSG East member states, and in 2025 the eleven CSG East states exported approximately \$49 billion in goods to Canada and imported approximately \$73 billion in goods from Canada, in addition to an estimated \$25 billion in services exports, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau data compiled by the Embassy of Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 2,300 Canadian-owned businesses operate across CSG East member states, employing approximately 224,000 workers, in addition to the many thousands of jobs supported in the region by exports to Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada-United States trade is built on long-standing binational supply chains, with approximately 76 percent of Canadian goods exports to the United States consisting of raw materials, parts, and components used by manufacturers in the United States to produce higher value goods; and

**WHEREAS**, the trading and business relationship between CSG East states and U.S. territories and Canadian provinces is driven by decades of agreements and policies to make the flow of goods and services easier, including the U.S. – Canada Free Trade Agreement of 1989, the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994, and the U.S. – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) of 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties to the USMCA conducted the agreement's first joint review on July 1, 2026, and the agreement remains in force as the parties enter a period of annual review, underscoring the value of stable and predictable rules for the businesses, workers, farmers, and communities of the Eastern Region; and

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**WHEREAS**, cross-border energy infrastructure increasingly links the Eastern Region to Canadian generation, with the New England Clean Energy Connect entering commercial operation in 2026 and the Champlain Hudson Power Express set to deliver Québec hydroelectricity to New York City, advancing grid reliability, energy affordability, and emissions reduction on both sides of the border; and

**WHEREAS**, the bonds between our peoples extend beyond borders, with families and communities sharing a special relationship built on mutual respect, shared values, and a common history; and

**WHEREAS**, cross-border travel between Canada and the United States declined substantially beginning in 2025, affecting tourism-dependent communities, ports of entry, and small businesses throughout the Eastern Region, and has shown signs of renewed growth in recent months; and

**WHEREAS**, tensions at the national level have tested the bilateral relationship, making sustained dialogue and practical, subnational collaboration among state, provincial, and territorial legislators more valuable than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the CSG East states and U.S. territories and Canadian provinces share many of the same interests including:

- promoting border security,
- tackling nonmarket practices by third countries,
- promoting sustainable, secure, and affordable energy production and reliable cross-border transmission,
- increasing supplies of critical minerals,
- sustaining integrated supply chains and cross-border commerce,
- supporting tourism, education, and cultural exchange,
- promoting global peace and security, and
- strengthening democratic institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, this unique relationship has fostered peace, prosperity, and stability across North America, between countries that share the world's longest nonmilitarized border; and

**WHEREAS**, history, geography, commerce, security, and shared democratic values underpin a close relationship between the United States and Canada:



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CSG East Canada-U.S. Relations Committee supports and encourages member jurisdictions to work closely with Canada and its provinces to further strengthen and promote bilateral relations in areas such as trade, economy, energy, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we support the continued growth of economic cooperation, including the free and fair trade of goods and services, to the mutual benefit of both nations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee affirms the value of sustained subnational engagement irrespective of developments at the national level, and will continue to convene its members through virtual and in-person policy events, provincial and state capital visits, and regular communication with member jurisdictions; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee encourages all CSG East member jurisdictions to make formal appointments to the Canada-U.S. Relations Committee, and supports expanding committee engagement through additional officer and liaison positions, including for the executive and judicial branches of government; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee encourages increased participation by Canadian members across all CSG East policy committees, so that Canadian policy perspectives are reflected throughout the work of the Conference; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee welcomes its continued collaboration with the Eastern Trade Council on cross-border energy, trade, and investment issues, and supports programming at the CSG East Annual Meeting that convenes members and partners from both countries; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we will work together to build upon our shared history and special relationship for the benefit of future generations, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the CSG East Canada-U.S. Relations Committee recommends the inclusion of discussion sessions on the Canada-U.S. relationship and discussions on how to strengthen that relationship at the next Council of State Governments national annual meeting, and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to CSG East member jurisdictions, to the CSG East Executive Committee, and to CSG National officers.