



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

1   **Resolution on the Need for the U.S. Federal Government to Support Trade and Investment in the**  
2   **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

3   **WHEREAS**, the COVENANT is an agreement entered into between two separate, but equal sovereign  
4   entities, namely the United States government and the government of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI),  
5   and

6   **WHEREAS**, the COVENANT was negotiated over the course of twenty-seven (27) months; unanimously  
7   approved by the NMI people in June of 1975; approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in July of 1975;  
8   by the U.S. Senate in February of 1976 (Public Law 94-241 (90 Stat. 263)); and signed in 1976 by President  
9   Gerald Ford, and

10   **WHEREAS**, the COVENANT embodies the desire and promise of the U.S. to the NMI people and  
11   government to achieve a progressively higher standard of living as part of the American economic  
12   community, including developing the economic resources and facilitating sound policies needed to be self-  
13   reliant and sustainable, and

14   **WHEREAS**, the U.S. federal government committed in the COVENANT to facilitate the establishment of  
15   offices in the U.S. and abroad by the Northern Mariana Islands to promote local tourism and other economic  
16   or cultural interests of the Northern Mariana Islands (Article IX, Section 904(b)), and

17   **WHEREAS**, tourism in the NMI officially began in February of 1976, when NMI enabling legislation  
18   created the Marianas Visitors Bureau, and

19   **WHEREAS**, since that time, NMI tourism has been the primary economic pillar and driver, welcoming  
20   almost 727,000 visitors in its heyday in 1997, generating hundreds of millions of dollars into the fragile island  
21   economy, creating jobs, alleviating social hardships, and helping increase the quality of life of islanders, and

22   **WHEREAS**, since the heyday, NMI tourism dropped to about 500,000 visitors annually and the industry  
23   remains volatile, constantly exposed to high risk largely from external factors and items associated with its  
24   primary tourism markets across neighboring Asia - Japan, South Korea, and China, and

25   **WHEREAS**, tourism is dependent on a coordinated system which includes adequate airline direct service  
26   and seat capacity, adequate regional and international investments and trade, proactive and steadfast  
27   marketing, and a steady flow of diverse tourists visiting on a regular basis year-round, and

28   **WHEREAS**, since becoming a Commonwealth in political union with the U.S., no American investor has  
29   invested in any major business and/or remained in the NMI and all trade and investments have been from  
30   foreign investors to date,

31   **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)  
32   supports the U.S. federal government honoring the promises of the COVENANT to assist the NMI achieve

33 a progressively higher standard of living of fellow American citizens as part of the American economic  
34 community, and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NLGA encourages the federal government, states, and other U.S.  
36 territories to include opportunities for the NMI in trade, business, economic, and investment fairs across the  
37 country and internationally, and

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NLGA encourages the federal government, as committed in the  
39 COVENANT, to facilitate the establishment of offices in the U.S. and abroad by the Northern Mariana  
40 Islands to promote NMI tourism, economic, and cultural interests, which may include developing trade and  
41 investment packets tailored to the NMI, and

42 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the NLGA supports efforts by NMI government leadership to confer  
43 with U.S. federal leaders on these issues and to work with trade and investment related organizations  
44 throughout the U.S. and its close allies and partner countries from the international community.

Sponsors: Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, NMI; Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, CT; Additional Co-Sponsors: Lt. Gov.  
Matt Michels, SD; Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, VT; Lt. Gov. Osbert Potter, VI