



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **The Role of the States and Federal Government for Success in the Global Economy**
2 **A RESOLUTION REGARDING TRADE, INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT, AND EXPORTS**

3 **WHEREAS**, the United States is the world’s largest economy; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. is the largest exporter and importer of goods and services in the world, according to
5 the World Trade Organization; and

6 **WHEREAS**, trade is critical to America’s prosperity – fueling economic growth, supporting good jobs at
7 home, raising living standards, and helping Americans provide for their families with affordable goods
8 and services; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) says the U.S. had exports of goods and services of \$2.2
10 trillion in 2016, supporting an estimated 10.7 million jobs; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the International Trade Administration (ITA) says an estimated 26% of all manufacturing
12 jobs were supported by exports and an estimated 24% of agricultural jobs (including the related
13 industries of forestry, fishing and hunting) were supported by exports in 2014 (latest data available);
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, U.S. International Trade Commission says U.S. jobs supported by exports pay up to 19%
16 more than the U.S. national average; and

17 **WHEREAS**, both the states and territories and the federal government have a role in trade, in attracting
18 international investment, and in export promotion, particularly to help small- and medium-sized
19 businesses, that have joined larger corporations in the global economy; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the USTR has authority to negotiate international trade agreements on behalf of the United
21 States, and those negotiations can have a major impact on the states, territories, and American
22 businesses, employers, employees and consumers; and

23 **WHEREAS**, states and territories play a key role in assisting businesses in exporting their products and
24 services; in attracting investment into their respective states and territories; and in gathering and
25 communicating trade policy concerns on behalf of their businesses, workers, and residents to the
26 federal government; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the states, territories, and federal government recognize that while America is an
28 outstanding national with the largest economy in the world, other nations’ economies are growing
29 thereby decreasing America’s share of the world Gross Domestic Product from 40% in 1960 to 25% in
30 2016, according to the World Bank.



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- 31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the states, territories, and federal governments recognize
32 the enormous value of trade agreements economically and as strategic accords and that trade
33 agreements should be crafted and maintained with diligence.
- 34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) asks the
35 federal government to collaborate regularly and meaningfully with states and territories to promote
36 U.S. exports, attract foreign investments, and negotiate or renegotiate international trade agreements.
- 37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA encourages the federal government to craft trade policy
38 which protects state and territorial legislative, judicial, and regulatory authority and collaborate with
39 states and territories on trade policy that may impact state or territorial practice or policy on
40 procurement, investment and services.
- 41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports international trade agreements which create open,
42 transparent, and fair global markets while ensuring the trading partners of the U.S. adhere to the terms
43 of the agreements.
- 44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports the provision of resources to equip the USTR to
45 meaningfully collaborate with states and territories in representing the U.S. in trade negotiations and
46 agreements, which may include the development of state and territorial economic and sovereignty
47 impact statements for international trade and investment agreements under negotiation.

ADOPTED, this day, the 16th of March, 2018.

Sponsors: Lt Governor Mike Cooney (D – Montana), Lt. Governor Spencer Cox (R – Utah), Lt Governor
Matt Michels (R – South Dakota)