



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution on The Importance of Agriculture to America and the Importance of World Markets to Agriculture

1 **WHEREAS**, two million farms dot America’s rural landscape and America’s farmers and ranchers
2
3 represent the heart of America’s rural communities, providing employment along the value chain of
4 providing high-quality and affordable food to the world, and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, America’s farmers and ranchers are critical contributors to the U.S. economy, ensuring a
7 safe and reliable food supply, and supporting job growth and economic development – especially in
8 small towns and rural areas, and

9 **WHEREAS**, the productivity of U.S. agriculture is growing faster than domestic demand for food and
10 fiber; consequently, U.S. farmers and agricultural businesses rely heavily on global export markets to
11 sustain prices and revenues, and

12 **WHEREAS**, over the past 25 years, the share of U.S. agriculture production exported around the globe
13 has risen in both value and volume, proving food and agricultural exports are a successful and valuable
14 part of the U.S. economy, and

15 **WHEREAS**, per the Congressional Research Service, global exports generate 20% of U.S. farm income
16 (December 2018); therefore, continued trade is vital for creating markets for U.S. farm and food
17 products, while supporting U.S. jobs and rural economic activity, and

18 **WHEREAS**, The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) alone is projected to bring farmers and
19 ranchers more than \$2 billion in additional farm exports (1.1% nationally), per the U.S. International
20 Trade Commission, and increased quotas on U.S. dairy products under USMCA will benefit American
21 dairy farmers by \$242 million.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association
23 recognizes the productivity of U.S. agriculture is growing faster than domestic demand and the U.S. food
24 and agriculture industry—and the rural communities dependent on it—rely heavily on export markets to
25 sustain prices and revenues.

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** agriculture and the U.S. economy benefit by reducing barriers that
27 impede US agriculture exports to the world.

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** The National Lieutenant Governors Association supports preserving
29 and expanding upon the gains the agriculture sector has achieved from strong exports around the globe.



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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** The National Lieutenant Governors Association supports actions to
31 facilitate expanding agricultural exports and recognizes these actions would strengthen the agricultural
32 sector and promote overall economic growth.

ADOPTED, this day, the 29th of July, 2020.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt
Governor Dan McKee (D – Rhode Island), Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers (D – Kansas)