



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### Resolution On The Importance Of Continued And Expanded Access To Export Markets For Agriculture

WHEREAS: America's farmers and ranchers, which represent the heart of America's rural communities, look forward to working on efforts to modernize the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in ways that preserve and expand upon the gains already achieved through this important trade agreement.

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

WHEREAS: Agriculture is the heart of rural America, providing employment along the value chain to ensure U.S. and global consumers have access to high-quality, safe, and affordable food.

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

WHEREAS: Per the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service, global exports generate 20 percent of U.S. farm income; therefore, continued trade is vital for creating markets for U.S. farm and food products, while supporting U.S. jobs and rural economic activity.

WHEREAS: Over the past 25 years, the share of U.S. production exported around the globe has steadily risen in terms of both value and volume, proving food and agricultural exports are a successful and valuable part of the U.S. economy.

WHEREAS: NAFTA, passed in 1993, created integrated agricultural markets in Mexico, Canada and the United States; bringing great benefits to American farmers, ranchers and food processors.

WHEREAS: U.S. food and agriculture exports to Mexico and Canada have more than quadrupled, growing from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38.6 billion in 2015.

WHEREAS: Canada and Mexico, combined, were the destination for an average of almost one-third of total U.S. agricultural exports from 2013-2015.

WHEREAS: The U.S. can work together with Canada and Mexico to preserve the core benefits of NAFTA while modernizing the now over 20-year-old trade agreement for the benefit of our intraregional agriculture trade—and for our countries farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The National Lieutenant Governors Association recognizes North American intraregional food and agriculture trade is now largely free of tariffs and quota restrictions—helping the U.S. agriculture to expand exports in North America. The Association further recognizes



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36 barriers still exist for U.S. agriculture exporters and there are opportunities to reduce non-tariff trade  
37 barriers and remaining tariffs that continue to impede our exports in the North American marketplace.

38 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The National Lieutenant Governors Association  
39 supports preserving and expanding upon the gains the agriculture sector has achieved within the North  
40 American market through NAFTA, and strengthening our competitiveness around the globe.

41 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The National Lieutenant Governors Association  
42 supports actions to facilitate expanding exports and recognizes these actions would help to strengthen the  
43 agricultural sector and promote overall economic growth.

Sponsors: Lt. Gov. Mike Parson, MO; Lt. Gov. Dan McKee, RI