



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 July 2014

Canadian Parliamentarians Attend Meeting of U.S. Midwestern State Legislators

From 12-16 July 2014, a delegation from the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG) attended the 69th annual meeting of the Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) in Omaha, Nebraska. The members of the delegation were the Honourable Jane Cordy, Senator, the Honourable Scott Tannas, Senator, Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P. and Mr. John Rafferty, M.P.

MLC members drafted nine resolutions that will be submitted to appropriate individuals in the members' home states and provinces, as well as to the U.S. Congress. The MLC's Midwest-Canada Relations Committee discussed a number of bilateral issues, such as cross-border mutual aid in times of emergency, ways to address selected U.S. border measures, and pilot projects designed to move the inspection of goods away from the shared border.

As a result of its discussions, the Midwest-Canada Relations Committee proposed two resolutions. The first resolution involves commemoration of the commitment of the United States and Canada to the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA) and continued encouragement of respect for the spirit of NAFTA by avoiding policies that are inconsistent with the integrated nature of supply chains in, and the economies of, the two countries.

The second resolution involves a request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to reconsider its proposed fee increase for agricultural quarantine inspections, and to continue to move to pre-clearance inspections and other measures that are based on a reasonable risk assessment in relation to products entering the United States from Canada.

The MLC is a regional association of state legislators from 15 jurisdictions from 11 U.S. states and four affiliated Canadian provinces (see Appendix). The purpose of the MLC is to foster regional intergovernmental cooperation in the U.S. Midwest through the joint consideration of common problems, the interchange of information and ideas, the sharing of knowledge and experience and, as appropriate, the pursuit of collaborative efforts to

improve state government. Information about the MLC is available at www.csgmidwest.org.

It should be noted that the views expressed in this news release are specific to the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group and, as such, may not reflect the views of our United States counterparts.

The Canada-United States IPG aims to find points of convergence in respective national policies, to initiate dialogue on points of divergence, to encourage the exchange of information and to promote better understanding among legislators on shared issues of concern. Additional information on the Group can be found at www.parl.gc.ca/ia/us.

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APPENDIX

States in the Midwestern Legislative Conference

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Michigan

Minnesota

Nebraska

North Dakota

Ohio

South Dakota

Wisconsin

Affiliate Canadian Provinces in the Midwestern Legislative Conference

Alberta

Manitoba

Ontario

Saskatchewan