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**Adopted Unanimously by the ERC Executive Committee on
Wednesday, August 18, 2010 during the CSG-ERC Annual Meeting 2010**

**Resolution on Free and Open Procurement Policies between the
U.S. and Canada**

WHEREAS the United States and Canada enjoy the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world; and

WHEREAS trade between the United States and Canada supports 8 million jobs in the United States and 3 million jobs in Canada; and

WHEREAS restrictive trade provisions threaten 11 million jobs and \$593 billion of bilateral trade, with serious economic impacts for both countries; and

WHEREAS free, open and reciprocal trade is essential to the economic well being of both countries and the global competitiveness of North America; and

WHEREAS the members of the Council of State Government's Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) Executive Committee adopted a resolution in December 2009 that celebrates the benefits of this open two-way trade system; and

WHEREAS the governments of both countries have signed the Agreement on Government Procurement, which came into effect on February 16, 2010, and foresee further discussions between the parties in order to expand, on a reciprocal basis, the current commitments regarding market access for government procurement on a permanent basis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CSG/ERC urges the governments of the United States and Canada to move quickly to reach a permanent agreement on the implementation of free and open procurement policies with respect to market access, on a reciprocal basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State of the United States, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the United State Trade Representative, the Minister of International Trade of Canada, and the Premiers and Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of the six Eastern Canadian Provinces and the Governors of the 11 ERC Member Northeastern States.