



Eastern Regional Conference

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**Resolution # 2014861**  
**Sponsor: U.S. / Canada Relations**

**RESOLUTION ON TRUCK CARGO PRE-INSPECTION AND  
PRECLEARANCE PROGRAMS**

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Representative Helene M. Keeley  
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Delaware

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Wendell M. Hannaford

**Whereas**, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 Northeast states from Maine to Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and five eastern Canadian Provinces; and

**Whereas**, CSG/ERC has long supported the free flow of travel and trade across the U.S. – Canadian border consistent with each country's security needs; and

**Whereas**, The Buffalo/Niagara Falls crossings are the busiest and most important trade and tourism routes between Canada and New York; and the second busiest freight crossings between Canada and the United States; and

**Whereas**, these crossings accommodate an average of 2 million trucks a year representing approximately \$60 billion in annual trade; and

**Whereas**, the Peace Bridge crossing between Buffalo, NY and Fort Erie, ON is currently the location for a pioneering truck cargo pre-inspection/preclearance program jointly administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Canada Border Services Agency; and

**Whereas**, under the terms of the pilot program vehicles entering the United States receive pre-inspection and pre-screening by U.S. officials on the Canadian side where more space is available, resulting in greater efficiency and safety and less traffic congestion; and

**Whereas**, the pilot program is for a limited duration and there is at this time no formal agreement to continue pre-inspection/preclearance activities following the termination date; and

**Whereas**, a barrier to continuation of pre-inspection and preclearance operations is a lack of agreement between Canada and the United States addressing legal protections and accountability for U.S. officers operating in Canada; and

**Whereas**, legislation has been introduced in Congress to help resolve this issue by ensuring that the U.S. has legal authority to hold U.S. officials accountable if they engage in wrongdoing on Canadian soil; and

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that CSG/ERC urges the U.S. and Canadian governments to act quickly to reach agreement on permanent truck cargo pre-inspection and preclearance operations at the Peace Bridge; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that CSG/ERC urges Congress and the President to enact legislation ensuring that the U.S. has proper authority to prosecute U.S. officials engaged in pre-inspection and preclearance operations if they commit crimes while stationed in Canada; and

**Be it Further Resolved** that CSG/ERC urges both the U.S. and Canadian governments to extend cargo pre-inspection and preclearance operations to other major truck freight crossings;

**Be It Further Resolved** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Secretary of State of the U.S., the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Minister of International Trade of Canada, the Secretary of U.S. Homeland Security, the Minister of Public Safety of Canada and the Premiers and Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of the Eastern Canadian Provinces and the Governors of the Northeastern States.

**Adopted August 6, 2014 at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum in Baltimore, Maryland.**