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## RESOLUTION # EX2016-01

### RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

**Whereas**, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States are long-standing friends with a shared historical relationship and the dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, and rule of law; and

**Whereas**, Taiwan is one of the United States' key trading partners, with the two-way trade volume between the United States and Taiwan reaching US\$66.6 billion in 2015, making Taiwan the United States' 9th-largest trading partner; and,

**Whereas**, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer since 2009, and will continue supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in other international organizations such as the international Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and,

**Whereas**, in order to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with the United States, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) and a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the US in the near future; and,

**Whereas**, the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) is an important channel for dialogue on trade and investment issues between the United States and Taiwan and not only helps to forge a closer US – Taiwan relationship but also boosts Taiwan's chances to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and,

**Whereas**, the Eastern Regional Conference of The Council of State Governments (ERC/CSG) member state jurisdictions, which include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a long-standing working relationship with Taiwan; and,

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that ERC's member jurisdictions noted above support the development of even closer economic relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan; and,

**Be It Further Resolved** that copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Secretary of State and Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**Adopted August, 10 2016 CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum Québec City, Québec**