



# CSG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

September 19–22, 2013 | Kansas City

## THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW US/CANADA INTERNATIONAL TRADE CROSSING

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### Resolution Summary

The resolution supports construction of the New International Trade Crossing (NITC) between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. NITC will assist in growing the Canada-US trading relationship, already the largest in the world valued at \$710 billion; and one that currently supports 8 million jobs in the US and 2.4 million jobs in Canada. NITC will provide much-needed additional border capacity and redundancy for North American exporters with 21st-century infrastructure and technology, meeting post 9/11 regulatory requirements. Governments in Canada are bearing most of the financial responsibility for the new span at Detroit, including all of the work on the Canadian side and \$550 million of road work on the Michigan side – totaling \$4 billion. The resolution urges the US government to provide the necessary funds to construct a new US Customs plaza – at a cost of approximately \$250 million.

### Additional Resources

- State of Michigan: <http://www.michigan.gov/buildthisbridge>
- Website providing all the background on the bi-national NITC study process: <http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com/>
- NITC advocacy site: <http://buildthedricnow.com/>

### CSG Management Directives

- CSG staff will post the approved resolution on CSG's Web site and work with Congress, federal agencies, and stakeholder coalitions to advocate for US support of the New International Trade Crossing and the US Customs plaza.



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**WHEREAS**, Canada, including the member provinces of the Council of State Governments (CSG), is the largest foreign trade partner for the United States and the largest export destination for 38 states; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada, including the member provinces of the CSG, purchased more than \$710 billion in goods and services from the United States in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 8 million U.S. jobs depend on Canada-U.S. trade, and

**WHEREAS**, 2.4 million jobs in Canada depend on trade with the U.S., and

**WHEREAS**, Canadians made approximately 44.4 million visits to the United States in 2012, spending \$16.6 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans made 19.6 million visits to Canada in 2012, spending \$6.6 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, President Obama and Prime Minister Harper issued joint action plans in December 2011 to boost security, trade and travel between our countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the current bridge between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, is 84 years old and carries one-fourth of all U.S.-Canada trade, consisting of 20,000 vehicles and approximately \$420 million in value daily; and

**WHEREAS**, the New International Trade Crossing (NITC) will have an enormous impact on the Canadian and U.S. economies, creating 10,000 to 15,000 construction jobs in Michigan and Ontario and thousands of indirect jobs throughout the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Michigan and Transport Canada have signed an agreement whereby the private sector, pursuant to a public-private partnership, will finance and build the NITC. The partnership will maximize private-sector



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participation and financing by allowing for public ownership of the bridge and private financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the bridge while protecting the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2012, by a 60-40 margin, Michigan voters defeated Proposal 6 – which sought to amend Michigan’s Constitution to make the construction of any new links to Canada almost impossible; and

**WHEREAS**, state legislatures in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Alabama have all passed resolutions urging construction of the NITC, and Ontario, a CSG member province, has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the approach to the NITC; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2013, the U.S. government issued a presidential permit allowing for land acquisition and construction of the NITC to proceed.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of State Governments recognizes that the NITC is vital to ensuring the ongoing viability of existing trade between the United States and Canada and will lay the foundation for future productivity, growth and economic stability of local economies across the Midwest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CSG fully supports the CSG project and urges the U.S. government to appropriate the necessary funds for construction of the U.S. Customs Plaza, so that work can commence on the project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of September, 2013 at CSG’s National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri