

**Resolution to Develop Stronger Ties with China
October 2013**

- Whereas: increasing exports of Midwestern agriculture and manufactured goods is key to growing the Midwest's economy; and
- Whereas: foreign investment creates jobs in the Midwest. In 2010, foreign companies employed nearly 1.1 million workers in the MGA region; and
- Whereas: the Midwest depends on world markets. The Midwest region exported \$291.7 billion worth of merchandise in 2012. China was the region's third largest market, with \$18 billion of merchandise being exported; and
- Whereas: China's agricultural imports reached over \$130 billion in 2012 and China has been the largest market for agricultural products from the United States, with exports totaling over \$30 billion in 2012; and
- Whereas: foreign direct investment into the U.S. from China continues to grow at a significant pace compared to other countries. Chinese direct investment in U.S. businesses saw a record year in 2012, with deals worth more than \$6.5 billion; and
- Whereas: the United States and China both have distinct regions. China also has entities that promote collaboration among governments at the sub-national level similar to the functions of U.S. regional governors' associations; and
- Whereas: the Midwest and China's central provinces have similar agriculture, manufacturing, minerals and food production industries; and
- Whereas: engaging in a region-to-region relationship can further increase economic activity between the U.S. and China; and
- Whereas: the Midwest U.S.-China Association is currently working on opportunities to link Midwestern companies, organizations and associations with their counterparts in the central region of China; and
- Whereas: to be more competitive with the other regions within the United States, the Midwest should work together more to attract investors and companies to the Midwest and then to individual states; now therefore, be it
- Resolved: that the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) initiate efforts to strengthen ties between the Midwest and China, in particular its central provinces; and be it
- Resolved: that the MGA will work with the Midwest U.S.– China Association to expand efforts to promote the region, including region-to-region cooperation and meetings with China's central provinces, relationships with China's central government as well as Chinese companies; and be it

- Resolved: that the MGA work with other international, national, regional and local groups with similar missions of relationship building and investment opportunities, including but not limited to Midwestern states' international trade and investment offices, the U.S. Trade Office at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Congressional offices; and be it
- Resolved: that the MGA initiate efforts to establish meetings between Midwestern government, business and/or education leaders and their counterparts in China, with the first meeting to take place in the Midwest in 2014; and be it
- Resolved: that the MGA will work with states to secure state nominations for the Midwest U.S.-China Association Board of Directors; and be it
- Resolved: that the MGA continue its efforts to renew a positive Midwestern brand and promote the region to domestic and international agencies, business organizations, governments and international bodies; and be it further
- Resolved: that in order to carry out this resolution, the MGA will request appointment to the Midwest U.S.-China Association Board to provide additional assistance, feedback or support as necessary.