



RESOLUTION 11-02

Regarding

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

WHEREAS, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is the premier economic organization in the Asia-Pacific region aimed at fostering growth and prosperity by facilitating economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, established in 1989 by 12 countries including the United States, APEC today includes 21 countries that account for 55 percent of global GDP, purchases 58 percent of U.S. goods exports, and comprises a market of 2.7 billion customers; and

WHEREAS, APEC member countries include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, The United States, and Viet Nam; and

WHEREAS, the United States will host APEC in 2011 for the first time since 1993, at a series of events which will include ministerial and senior level meetings in Washington, D.C., Big Sky, Montana, and San Francisco, California; that will culminate in the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 2011; and

WHEREAS, APEC forums will address a wide-range of economic issues critical to the long term prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and will include a bottom-up effort by technical officials, senior officials, experts and the participation of the private sector to ensure that high-level commitments are translated into tangible progress; and

WHEREAS, issues to be addressed include the elimination of barriers to trade and investment, the creation of better business environments, and the establishment of a level economic playing field in the region; and

WHEREAS, APEC initiatives lay the foundation for high-standard, comprehensive trade agreements – including the Trans-Pacific Partnership – which will help the United States strengthen economic ties within the region; and

WHEREAS, the convening and timing of the 64th Annual Meeting of the Council of State Governments – *WEST* (CSG-*WEST*) in Honolulu, Hawaii from July 30, 2011 through August 2, 2011, provides a strategic opportunity to discuss the relevance of APEC in the Western region and serve as a conduit for state legislators to promote solutions and greater subnational cooperation for the consideration of APEC Leaders; and

WHEREAS, during the CSG-*WEST* Annual Meeting, the prestigious East-West Center, based in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a key partner of the 2011 APEC Host Committee, will convene a forum entitled “Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation: Challenges, Trends and Opportunities for the U.S. and Western States”; and

WHEREAS, this forum will highlight the progress of APEC ministerial meetings by three leading experts and provide a platform for dialogue among participating legislators and other stakeholders on topics such as U.S.-Asia trade policy and global energy outlook; and

WHEREAS, CSG-*WEST* policy committees will consider a variety of issues which correlate to the topics to be considered by APEC Leaders, including energy, trade, transportation, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, state or subnational legislative institutions play an important role in the policy-making process of their respective states or subnational governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

- The leadership and membership of CSG-*WEST*, representing the 13 U.S. Western states, applaud the APEC partners including the APEC countries, the National Center for APEC, the APEC 2011 USA Host Committee, the APEC 2011 Hawaii Host Committee, The East-West Center and others for convening APEC in the United States in 2011 and working to promote free-trade and economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and
- The leadership and membership of CSG-*WEST* declare that the U.S. Western states have an interest and stake in the outcome of the agreements executed by APEC countries on a variety of issues including energy, economic development, education, finance, trade facilitation, emergency preparedness, science and technology, transportation, and counter-terrorism, among others; and
- CSG-*WEST* encourages APEC to engage with Western state legislators and other subnational stakeholders from APEC countries to strengthen a regional vision utilizing a bottom-up approach and to identify opportunities on how states or subnational governments can contribute to the policy objectives of APEC within their legal and legislative jurisdictions.

Adopted by the CSG-*WEST* Executive Committee on August 2, 2011
Assembled at the 64th Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii