



Resolution # 6

Proposed by: Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Committee

**68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference  
of  
The Council of State Governments**

Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel  
St. Paul, Minnesota

July 14 – 17, 2013

**Proposed Resolution on Trade with Cuba**

- 1       **WHEREAS,**       Cuba relies on imports for 75 percent of its food, creating a huge potential market for  
2                           U.S. farmers and ranchers; and  
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- 4       **WHEREAS,**       U.S. producers have been able to take advantage of some of that demand with the  
5                           passage of a 2000 law allowing limited trade with Cuba, in spite of a trade, travel and  
6                           economic embargo that has been in place since 1962; and  
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- 8       **WHEREAS,**       the Midwest stands to benefit from the market opportunities that greater trade with  
9                           Cuba would provide; according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, total agricultural  
10                          exports to Cuba from the U.S. since 2001 had reached \$4 billion as of December  
11                          2012, and if current trade restrictions are removed, each Midwestern state could  
12                          average between \$60 million and \$150 million annually in trade; and  
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- 14       **WHEREAS,**       the U.S. trade, financial and travel restrictions against Cuba hinder the export of the  
15                          Midwest's agricultural and food products; now therefore be it  
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- 17       **RESOLVED,**       that the Midwestern Legislative Conference supports efforts to remove trade, financial  
18                          and travel restrictions to Cuba; and be it further  
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- 20       **RESOLVED,**       that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.