RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PRAIRIE REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

WHEREAS, the Central and Prairie Regions of the United States and Canada recognize the importance of comprehensive and coordinated civil emergency preparedness response and recovery measures for natural and technological emergencies or disasters, and for declared or undeclared hostilities including enemy attack and civil strife; and

WHEREAS, the Central and Prairie Regions of the United States and Canada further recognize the benefits of coordinating their separate emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures with that of contiguous jurisdictions for those emergencies, disasters or hostilities affecting or potentially affecting one or more of the jurisdictions in the United States or in Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Central and Prairie Regions of the United States and Canada further recognize that regionally-based emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures will benefit all jurisdictions in the United States and Canada, and best serve their respective national interests in cooperative and coordinated emergency preparedness as facilitated by the Consultative Group through the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Emergency Management Cooperation, renewed on December 12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the New England and Pacific Northwest Regions of the United States have established similar emergency management agreements with their Canadian counterparts which have been approved by Congress.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments supports the establishment of a voluntary agreement to provide for the possibility of mutual assistance among the Central and Prairie Regions of the United States and Canada in managing any emergency or disaster when the affected jurisdiction or jurisdictions ask for assistance, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster or civil emergency aspects of resource shortages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress is encouraged to give consent for the Central and Prairie Region states to enter into an emergency management assistance agreement with Canadian provinces.