

1 **COMMITTEE:** **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
2 **POLICY:** **WATER CARRIER SUBSIDIES**
3 **TYPE:** **RESOLUTION**

4 **WHEREAS**, Island states and territories across the United States, including those in the
5 Indo-Pacific Command (Indo-PACOM) Region, are mostly dependent on the import of
6 goods.

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8 **WHEREAS**, Island communities rely on transport by water carrier, the majority of these
9 goods are transported as waterborne cargo, unlike communities in the continental U.S.
10 that possess alternative means of transporting goods by truck and rail

11
12 **WHEREAS**, current agricultural specific and aircraft to remote destination subsidies
13 exist within the USDA and USDOT, respectively,

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15 **WHEREAS**, subsidies do not currently exist for general cargo transport to and within
16 U.S. island states and territories.

17
18 **WHEREAS**, due to these island communities' dependency on the import of goods,
19 maritime support in the form of federal water cargo subsidies is necessary to ensure
20 localized economic security.

21
22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
23 (NCSL) urges Congress to fund a broad subsidy for trans-Pacific, trans-Atlantic, and
24 interisland waterborne cargo to improve the affordability of imported goods,

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26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NCSL requests that U.S.
27 Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, the most appropriate federal
28 agency, develop and implement such a federal waterborne cargo subsidies program

29 and that sources of any subsidies may be from existing or newly created federal
30 programs.