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Press Release

For Immediate Release

August 29, 2016

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Governor Hassan, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Advance Regional Collaboration at Annual Conference

New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Adopt Resolutions on Economic Development and Ecological Connectivity, Discuss Efforts to Combat the Heroin and Opioid Crisis

BOSTON – Continuing her efforts to advance regional collaboration to support economic development, to respond to climate change and to combat the heroin and opioid crisis, Governor Maggie Hassan joined her fellow New England Governors and the Eastern Canadian Premiers yesterday and today at the 40th Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in Boston.

“The New England states and the Eastern Canadian provinces are inextricably linked, and regional collaboration on issues such as economic development, energy and the environment, and combating the heroin and opioid crisis is critical to our efforts to support the people and businesses of New Hampshire and to preserve what makes our state special,” Governor Hassan said. “This year’s sessions were another important step forward to advance our regional partnerships, and I am confident that by continuing to focus on the initiatives that we have laid out together we can continue to make our region – and our state – stronger.”

The NEG/ECP adopted three non-binding resolutions on commitment to regional collaboration, economic development and ecological connectivity at this year's conference.

The first resolution reaffirms the NEG/ECP's commitment to regional cooperation and public-private partnerships, as well as acknowledges the critical contributions by individuals, organizations, businesses, government agencies and other stakeholders to the continued success of the annual conference.

The economic development resolution follows a recommendation of an economic development report issued at this year's conference, which came in response to [a resolution adopted at the 2014 meeting hosted by Governor Hassan in New Hampshire](#). Per the report's recommendations, the economic development resolution establishes an NEG/ECP committee focused on economic development and trade that develops a yearly Work Plan to include collaborative measures and regional activities to support the region's economy and businesses; identifies trade promotion and economic development as a focus of the 2017 conference in Prince Edward Island; and launches an annual business forum to be held at each year's conference to promote economic development and trade partnership opportunities. New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development Commissioner Jeff Rose was a co-lead on the economic development report.

Recognizing the importance of protecting the environment to the region's economy and high quality of life, the NEG/ECP also adopted a resolution on ecological connectivity, climate change and biodiversity conservation. This resolution focuses on advancing efforts to restore and maintain ecological connectivity; encouraging collaboration between state and provincial governments on ecological conservation and restoration activities; promoting sustainable land and aquatic system management; exploring opportunities to improve habitat connectivity through transportation programs; identifying transportation needs to address movement and terrestrial wildlife, water quality and flood resiliency challenges posed by climate change; incorporating habitat connectivity into land use planning and policies; pursuing opportunities for collaboration on controlling invasive species and the spread of wildlife disease; promoting the region's vibrant forests and associated industries; and establishing a working group through the NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment to coordinate and report on these efforts through 2020.

During a private meeting, the New England Governors also extensively discussed regional collaboration to

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combat the heroin and opioid crisis and strategies that have been implemented in the individual states.

“The heroin and opioid crisis is the most pressing public health and public safety challenge facing our state and our region, devastating families, businesses and communities across New England up to Eastern Canada,” Governor Hassan said. “As we work to implement our comprehensive strategy in New Hampshire to support law enforcement and strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery and to highlight the need for emergency federal funding, we also know that regional collaboration remains a critical part of our efforts to combat this horrible epidemic and save lives.”

Earlier this year, as Vice Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) Health and Human Services Committee, Governor Hassan helped lead efforts with the committee chair, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, to develop [the NGA Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction](#), which more than 45 Democratic and Republican Governors signed and marked the first time in more than 10 years that governors have developed a compact through NGA to spur coordinated action on an urgent national issue.

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