

U.S. State Commitments With Foreign Governments

Edited by Ryan Scoville

WINNER OF THE 2025 NEW PRODUCT AWARD

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U.S. states frequently enter into arrangements with foreign governments to cooperate on issues ranging from economic development to environmental protection. For example, in 2017, California signed an agreement with Quebec to limit CO2 emissions. In 2019, New Jersey and the Indian state of Gujarat adopted a sister-state agreement to foster cultural and economic ties. And in 2022, Indiana and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum of understanding to expand trade relations.

Available in print and online database formats, *U.S. State Commitments with Foreign Governments* provides the full text of hundreds of these kinds of arrangements. To compile the collection, the editor filed over 650 freedom-of-information requests, including one with every major administrative agency in each of the fifty states. State officials responded by delivering copies of **more than 750 commitments totaling more than 3,500 pages**. The book contains a curated set of roughly one quarter of these commitments, along with notations that explain context, highlight significant legal issues, and identify helpful academic sources. The online database includes the full collection.

This is the most comprehensive source of its kind. It serves as an innovative, subnational analogue to official compilations of international agreements to which the United States is a party—namely, *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements* (UST) and the *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* (TIAS). And it is an essential resource for scholars of international law and U.S. foreign relations law, political scientists who study paradiplomacy, federal and state policymakers, and the voting public.



Users are able to browse the database by State (U.S.), Country, or the following 14 subject areas

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- Tourism
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- Transportation

WHY STUDY STATE COMMITMENTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS?

UNCOVER A DEVELOPING DIPLOMATIC FRONTIER

While the U.S. federal government has traditionally been the face of international relations, states are now stepping onto the global stage to shape policy on issues from trade to the environment.

ANALYZE AN OPAQUE PRACTICE

Despite the significance of U.S. state commitments with foreign governments, states generally have not been required to disclose them to Congress or the public. As a result, most of the commitments have avoided publicly scrutiny.

ASSESS PRACTICAL BENEFITS AND RISKS

Recent commitments are often beneficial, but some might subvert U.S. national interests and undermine federal foreign policy.

UNDERSTAND THE LAW IN PRACTICE

The contents of the commitments shed new light on U.S. constitutional law and public international law as applied at the state level.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Ryan Scoville is a Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School, where he teaches and writes on U.S. foreign relations law and international law. His research has been published in leading academic journals such as the *Michigan Law Review*, the *Duke Law Journal*, the *European Journal of International Law*, and the *Yale Journal of International Law*, and has been cited in a number of national media outlets, including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *Foreign Policy*. Professor Scoville holds a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

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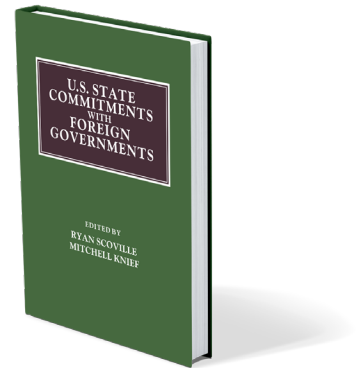
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- Customers will not be invoiced again until the next edition is released, which is tentatively slated for 3-4 years after the publication of the first edition. At that time, the database will be updated with new agreements obtained via freedom-of-information requests.



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