



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to  
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland

## NEWS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

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## PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE VISITS CAPITOL HILL

Members of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance made their annual trip to Washington D.C. last week to meet with legislators to discuss transportation issues including shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund, reauthorization of the transportation authorization act MAP-21, which expires Sept. 30 of this year, and the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Alliance members urged Congress to adequately fund the Highway Trust Fund to at least sustain the current levels of spending and ideally find revenues for increased levels of transportation funding. Ports-to-Plains Alliance members told Congress they support elected officials who make the tough decisions to raise revenues necessary for an enhanced federal transportation program. Ports-to-Plains support of increased revenue contingent on fair treatment of funding for rural corridors.

Alliance members also expressed their strong support for the Keystone XL pipeline project and encouraged the Presidential Permit needed for construction to begin. The Alliance believes this pipeline is in the best interest of our nation, as it is critical to our country's efforts to create jobs, reduce our dependence on Middle East and Venezuelan oil, by increasing our access to supplies from Canada, our neighbor and loyal ally, as well as domestic supplies from the Bakken Formation of Montana and North Dakota.

Alliance members attending the meetings in Washington D.C. included: Mary Ballantyne, Washington, DC; Coby Beckner, Clayton, NM; John Bertsch, Plainview, TX; Wilson Bowling, Kimball, NE; Chris Cornell, San Angelo, TX; Deb Cottier, Chadron, NE; David Dorward, Edmonton, AB; John Friess, Sonora, TX; Beverly Haggard, Lamar, CO; David Manning, Washington, D.C.; Dwain Morrison, San Angelo, TX; Milton Pax, Dumas, TX; Gaynelle Riffe, Stratford, TX; Jack Schenendorf; Washington, DC; Cindy Turner, Hot Springs, SD; and Ports-to-Plains Alliance staff members, Michael Reeves and Duffy Hinkle, both of Lubbock, TX; Joe Kiely, Limon, CO; and Cal Klewin, Bowman, ND.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance, based in Lubbock, Texas, is a non-profit, non-partisan, community-driven advocacy group led by mayors, councilpersons, economic development officials, business and other opinion leaders from a nine-state economic development corridor between Texas, and Alberta, Canada. The Ports-to-Plains Alliance 2300-mile Corridor consists of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor, Heartland Expressway, and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.