



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

## NEWS RELEASES

### Welcome to a new and important year

for decisions that will affect our regional economies and transportation systems over the next ten or more years. It has been well documented that the cost of doing nothing is greater than the cost of addressing the issue. Federal and State/Province elected officials need challenged to look at the connection between the economy and the transportation system. Declining infrastructure increases costs to the consumer and affects the profitability of companies that do business in the Ports-to-Plains Alliance region of North America. Increased fuel costs, affecting transportation and manufacturing as well as consumer costs, increase the cost of every item in your home and business.



#### This can be a year of opportunity:

- Congress can pass a Transportation Bill that improves the current decline in infrastructure.
- State legislatures have the opportunity to recognize that transportation and energy affect the state economies.

***This is a year where your voice is extremely important.*** We must hold our elected officials accountable for their actions or inactions. When a **Call to Action** is given, will you take the five minutes it takes to let your elected officials know what you as a voter want for the future?

***Make this the year that you, more than ever, involve yourself in the discussion and communication with your elected officials.***

### Washington DC Fly-in

This is a great opportunity to participate and show your support for the efforts in Washington DC in support of the Ports-to-Plains Region including rural transportation and economic development. The Alliance will be in Washington, DC the week of April 16-20, 2012. Why don't you plan to join us!

Monday is generally the day of travel to get to Washington. Wednesday and Thursday are set aside for Congressional office visits. Tuesday serves two purposes: The Ports-to-Plains Alliance Board of Directors meets in the afternoon and the remainder of the day is set aside to hold meeting that might not be able to be scheduled on Wednesday or Thursday. On Friday morning the Alliance is planning to host a mini-Energy Summit for congressional staff. Travel home or stay and see some of Washington DC on Friday.

**Let us know if you might attend.** We will be reserving a block of rooms and once that is blocked, it is difficult to add rooms. Your final decision can be made later.

### Ports-to-Plains Caucus

Have you noticed we are highlighting the members of Congress that have committed to the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Caucus? We currently have fifteen members. Additionally, it is important to note that Representative Thornberry (TX) does not join caucuses of any kind, but has indicated his support for the efforts of the Alliance Caucus.

**We encourage you to take a moment and send an electronic thank you to your elected officials on this list.**

### Ports-to-Plains January, 2012 Webinar

The next Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar will be on Friday, January 20, 2012 at 10 am CST / 9 am MST. You can be updated and ask questions in one short hour without any additional cost.

Topics include a Federal Update, Washington, DC Fly-in, Transportation Advocacy of Texas, and the Colorado Election Energy Summit.

Watch your inbox for additional information and free registration links.

### Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities

- January 20, 2012 - Ports-to-Plains Alliance Webinar
- February 2, 2012 - [South Dakota Regional Oil Patch Update](#), Belle Fourche, SD
- February 6, 2012 - 2012 Colorado Election Energy Summit, Golden, CO
- February 15, 2012 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- February 15-17, 2012 - [Texas Transportation Forum](#) - San Antonio, TX
- April 16-20, 2012 - Washington DC Fly-in, Energy Mini-Summit, Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
- July 19-20, 2012 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, Limon, CO



## TRANSPORTATION

### [Senate plans swift action on long-delayed transportation bill](#)

Senate Democrats expect to pass a long-delayed surface transportation bill soon after they return to Washington next month.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), chairwoman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said her colleagues have identified a list of offsets that could be used cover the final \$12 billion of the bill's cost...

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance Region covers a nine state region extending from Mexico through Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana into Canada.

The purpose of this report to provide a picture of the trade, specifically by truck and rail, which is using the current transportation system to move goods throughout the north-south Ports-to-Plains region.

Domestic trade within the Ports-to-Plains region, trade with Canada and Mexico, including truck and rail are combined with a look at the role of specific individual border crossing are documented between 2004 and 2010. Leading commodity sectors are highlighted.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance has released reports for four states with the remaining reports coming in the next two weeks.

[Colorado Trade through Ports-to-Plains Region – 2004-2010](#)

[Montana Trade through Ports-to-Plains Region – 2004-2010](#)

[Nebraska Trade through Ports-to-Plains Region – 2004-2010](#)

[New Mexico Trade through Ports-to-Plains Region – 2004-2010](#)

[Canadian companies flock to N. Dakota's Bakken oil play](#)



## ENERGY

### [Economic Opportunity and Energy Security – Not False Choices](#)

Last week the newly appointed head of the Sierra Club, Michael Brune, penned a scathing opinion piece that claimed the Keystone XL pipeline would "cost the American people far more than we can afford." To paraphrase an old saw, the author is entitled to his opinion, but he is not entitled to his own facts.

Indeed, the final environmental impact statement (EIS) issued by the State Department, which worked in conjunction with multiple federal agencies and leading environmental consultants over a two and a half year period, concluded that Keystone XL will be the safest pipeline ever constructed in the United States. The project must comply with more than fifty special requirements, rules, and regulations designed to ensure the project will be safer than the 175,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines that currently criss-cross the entire United States, including portions of the Ogallala Aquifer...

[Wind power poises for a busy year: Five trends to watch in 2012](#)

[Speech: The State of American Energy 2012](#)

[Photos and Context on Oil Sands](#)

[Keystone XL Pipeline Updates](#)

[State Leaders React to EPA's Oversight of ND Oil Patch Issues \(Video\)](#)

[Colorado Takes the Lead in Fracking Regulation](#)

[The lessons behind the North Dakota miracle \(Opinion\)](#)

[More Energy Charts ...](#)

[Belle Fourche to host regional Oil Patch update](#)



**U.S. Senator  
Kent Conrad**

(ND)

**Ports-to-Plains Alliance  
Caucus Member**

## THANK YOU VISIONARIES

*Without our leadership and support, our continued success would not be possible.*

### [Current Members](#)

### [Membership Opportunities](#)

### **Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus**

*Support Rural Transportation and Economic Development*

#### **Co-Chairs:**

Rep. Randy Neugebauer R-TX

Rep. Adrian Smith R-NE

Rep. Ben Nelson D-NE

Senator John Cornyn R-TX

#### **Members:**

Rep. Mike Conaway R-TX

Rep. Bob Filner D-CA

Rep. Quico Canseco R-TX

Rep. Pete Olson R-TX

Rep. Cory Gardner R-CO

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison R-TX

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry R-NE

Senator Kent Conrad D-ND

Senator Mark Udall D-CO

Senator John Hoeven R-ND

Rep. Rick Berg R-ND

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