



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

## NEWS RELEASES

### [Ports-to-Plains Alliance Selects Medicine Hat as Site of 2012 Conference](#)

The Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor partners and the City of Medicine Hat are pleased to announce that the Ports-to-Plains Alliance headquartered in Lubbock, Texas has chosen Medicine Hat as the venue for its 2012 Conference and Annual General Meeting October 2-4, 2012.

### [Texas Transportation Forum](#)

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance was strongly represented along with 1300 people interested in Texas transportation at the 7th Annual Texas Transportation Forum in San Antonio, TX on February 15-17, 2012. TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson kicked off the Forum presenting on The New TxDOT. **Director Wilson used Ports-to-Plains Alliance as an example of coalition that works together for the greater good when referencing our role in Proposition 12 funding decision.**

To get a flavor of the Forum see the Twitter feed: <http://e2.ma/click/c69w/43uhkb/g9ixk>

TxDOT will post the presentations here: <http://e2.ma/click/c69w/43uhkb/w1jxk>

Please join us for the  
**3rd Annual West Texas Trade Summit**  
hosted by the  
Southern Trade Task Force  
City of San Angelo Development Corporation/City of San Angelo/San Angelo Chamber of Commerce

Wednesday, February 22, 2012  
Welcome Event  
Top of the Cactus  
36 E. Twohig  
7 PM to 10 PM  
\$20 Welcome event only

Thursday, February 23, 2012  
Conference  
Stephens Downtown Library  
33 W. Bearegard  
9 AM to 4 PM  
\$50 Registration includes welcome event

The Southern Work Group was established by the Ports-to-Plains Alliance to promote trade relations, transportation networking, and other economic development issues of mutual interest between Texas and the Mexican states that follow the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to the coastal ports.

[Full Agenda](#)  
[Online Registration](#)  
[Registration Form](#)  
[Hotel and Other Information](#)

Please plan to join us for this important meeting.

### [Disappointed but not discouraged ... Ports-to-Plains University Transportation Center Application](#)

Texas Tech University, University of New Mexico and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology had submitted an application for a Tier I University Transportation Center (UTC) to USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) in late 2011 that was specifically focused on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. The UTC was designed to study the challenges regarding international logistics, trade law, ecosystem health and sustainability, and workforce development for agricultural and energy commerce along corridors of national significance.

The announcement below did not fund the application, but the concepts remain alive. "Yes, we are disappointed, but not discouraged (!). Working on the proposal for funding helped us to recognize the extent to which our research already dovetails with issues relevant to increasing economic activity along the PTP corridor" said Donna Davis of Texas Tech University following the announcement. "The process also enabled us to integrate research efforts by identifying potential research activities that cross disciplines at TTU and reach beyond TTU to UNM and SDSM&T."

"The support of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, including the Heartland Expressway Association and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association, was greatly appreciated by the universities," said Phil Nash of Texas Tech University. "We were also very pleased with the strong support we received from federal elected officials across the region."...

### [Ports-to-Plains Alliance Sponsors Colorado Energy Summit](#)

The Colorado Energy Summit was held on February 6, 2012 at Colorado School of Mines. The event featured presidential candidates Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum laying out their views on energy policy. During the event the Alliance also provided a live Twitter feed of comments made during the summit. The record of that feed is linked below.

Mr. Gingrich

- I am for an all energy policy
- Support long term permanent tax credit for renewable energy that business can rely on. Not a mandate
- New domestic production royalties 2/3rds to pay down debt 1/3rd to transportation infrastructure
- Keystone pipeline: committed to sign executive order granting permit on first day of my administration

Mr. Santorum

- Natural resource energy is an asset
- No federal taxes on domestic energy. Level the playing field
- I would approve the Keystone pipeline on my first day

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance would like to thank the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Colorado Farm Bureau and Consumer Energy Alliance for hosting this event.

[Colorado Energy Summit: Ports-to-Plains Alliance Live Twitter Feed February 6, 2012](#)

### [Stop dallying and approve pipeline for economy's sake](#)

By Michael Reeves, President, Ports-to-Plains Alliance

More than three years ago, the U.S. State Department began a lengthy and comprehensive environmental study of the Keystone XL pipeline a project that would deliver more than 700,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada, our neighbor, ally and largest trading partner, to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The department worked with scientists, engineers, other federal and state agencies, and the environmental community to make sure they were examining all potential risks and properly considering alternatives.

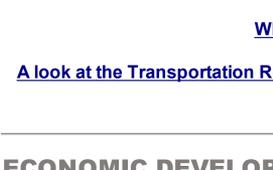
Last August their analysis was updated and released. The State Department's conclusion mirrored that of virtually every other independent assessment: The Keystone XL pipeline will be a safe and necessary addition to America's broader energy infrastructure.

In fact, the study noted that the pipeline would "have a degree of safety greater than any typically constructed domestic oil pipeline system under current regulations," a direct and meaningful rebuttal of critics' baseless accusations that Keystone XL will be prone to leaks and spills.

Indeed, the State Department parried many of the opponents' talking points on Keystone XL...

### [Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities](#)

- February 23-24 - 3rd Annual West Texas Trade Summit, San Angelo, TX
- March 26-28 - [Modular Construction & Prefabrication North America](#), Calgary, AB
- April 2 - Northern Ports-to-Plains Alliance Task Force, Billings, MT
- April 16-20 - Washington DC Fly-in, Energy Mini-Summit, Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
- July 19-20 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, Limon, CO
- October 2-4 - Ports-to-Plains Alliance Annual Conference, Medicine Hat, AB



## TRANSPORTATION

### [Updates on Transportation Reauthorization ... Waiting, Waiting, Waiting...](#)

The House of Representatives began debating Wednesday a surface transportation and energy package, which was split into three parts after 300 amendments were filed with the House Rules Committee. Floor debate and amendments this week were limited to the energy provisions; work on the highway/transit and revenue sections was postponed until the week of Feb. 27 after a delay was announced Wednesday by House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio...

The Senate voted 54-42 this morning to limit debate on a package of committee-approved amendments to a two-year, \$109 billion surface transportation reauthorization measure, falling six votes short of the 60 required. Work is expected to continue behind the scenes during next week's recess to reach an agreement limiting amendments, with floor consideration resuming Feb. 27...

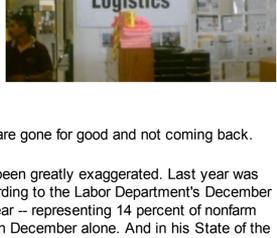
### [White House threatens veto of GOP's highway bill](#)

### [A look at the Transportation Reauthorization Bills passed this week by House Committees](#)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### [Opinion: Manufacturing jobs can come back](#)

Rep. Steve Israel is a Democrat from Dix Hills. Jim D'Addario is chief executive of Farmingdale-based guitar-string maker D'Addario & Co.

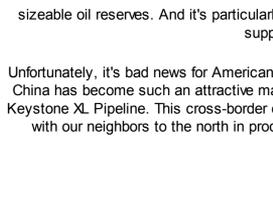


Over the last decade, we've read hundreds of obituaries for American manufacturing. We're told the jobs are headed to cheaper labor markets overseas, and with low-cost shipping and production we just can't compete. We're told America has become a service economy and that manufacturing jobs are gone for good and not coming back.

But reports about the death of American manufacturing have been greatly exaggerated. Last year was the second in a row of increased jobs in manufacturing. According to the Labor Department's December jobs report, 225,000 manufacturing jobs were added for the year -- representing 14 percent of nonfarm payroll employment increases. A total of 23,000 were added in December alone. And in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Barack Obama laid out a plan to create a new era of American manufacturing, including lowering tax rates for companies that manufacture goods and create jobs in the United States and taking away deductions for outsourcing...

### [Acuña insists Ports to Plains crystallization](#)

[English](#)  
[Spanish](#)



## ENERGY

### [Texans Are Baffled by the Keystone Decision: China will get the oil from Canada that could have come to the U.S. -- Texas Governor Rick Perry](#)

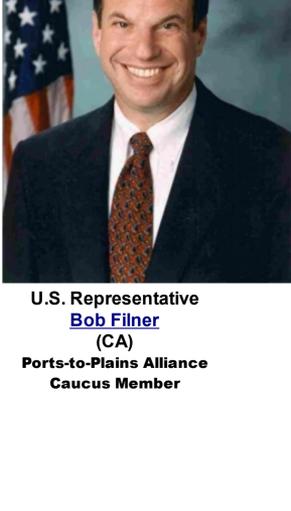
Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in Beijing recently signing an agreement and touting his country's growing energy partnership with China. It's good news for Canada, which is rightfully looking to grow markets for its sizeable oil reserves. And it's particularly good news for China, which needs to keep tapping into fresh supplies to feed its growing economy and mounting demand for oil.

Unfortunately, it's bad news for Americans, particularly when you consider that one of the main reasons China has become such an attractive market to Canada was President Obama's recent rejection of the Keystone XL Pipeline. This cross-border connection would have provided a golden opportunity to partner with our neighbors to the north in producing massive amounts of energy, both for our country and the globe...

### [TransCanada cleared in Keystone review](#)

### [Most Colorado Congress members back wind tax-break extension](#)

### [Obama budget would boost renewables, nix oil and gas tax breaks](#)



## THANK YOU VISIONARIES

*Without your 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 |
| Senator 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 |
| Rep. 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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