



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

NEWS RELEASES

[Registration open for 2011 Ports-to-Plains Energy Summit](#)

The 2nd Annual Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Summit will be held in Broomfield, CO on April 7-8, 2011 at the Omni Interlocken Resort.



[Walking the Halls of Congress](#)

Ports-to-Plains Alliance staff was in Washington DC this week with a primary focus on updating newly elected officials and new staff with transportation responsibilities.

[CHRIS CORNELL: Setting the record straight on Ports-to-Plains Corridor](#)

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

- February 16-18 -- PTP Trade Task Force, San Angelo, TX
- April 7-8 -- PTP Energy Summit, Broomfield, CO
- May 1-3, 2011 - Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, Regina, SK
- May 2-6 -- Ports-to-Plains Fly-in, Washington, DC (Mark Your Calendar Now)



TRANSPORTATION

[Bumpy road ahead for transport reauthorization \(Editorial\)](#)

Ray LaHood may be one of the few optimists left in Washington.

In January, the Secretary of Transportation told the SMC3 winter meeting in Atlanta that he believes prospects are good for Congress's passing a new surface transportation bill by the August recess.

I'm not sure what the odds are of a sharply divided Congress coming to terms on such a major funding authorization, but I would suspect they are long. Even though most federal spending on highways comes from the highway trust fund, it seems inevitable that the measure will get caught up in the fierce debate over budget deficits. In fact, a rule adopted by the new Republican House majority at the start of the new Congress makes that all but certain. The rule eliminated the "firewall" that reserved funds in the highway trust fund for highway and transit spending, making it easier to move those revenues to the general fund and in consequence, more difficult to pass long-term spending bills. The House adopted the rule even though a broad range of business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American Trucking Associations, urged members to reject it, arguing it would create too much uncertainty for the long-term planning required for major infrastructure projects...

[Federal FY 2011 Funding Bill Includes Transportation Cuts](#)

[Montana Department of Transportation OKs megaloads bound for Canada](#)

[Texas lawmaker stresses need for funding state's roads](#)

[Is a Vehicle Mileage Tax Coming to a State Near You?](#)

[Senator seeks expiration for highway 'earmarks'](#)

[Disputed oversized loads to start rolling in Idaho](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[Ranch family hopes wind farm powers economic future](#)

On a snowy patch of high ground a mile or two from her ranch house, Eileen Miller stood still just long enough to pose for a picture.

But her hair didn't.

Even on a day that Miller called "very calm," there was enough wind rustling along the rugged ridgeline to ruffle things, including her hair. And most days out here aren't very calm at all.



Eileen Miller of Belle Fourche stands on the open prairie on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011, on her and her husband Mike's ranch. The ranch is located northwest of Belle Fourche and could have wind turbines placed on it.

(Ryan Soderlin/Journal staff)

[Declaration by President Obama and Prime Minister Harper of Canada - Beyond the Border](#)

ENERGY

[CEA 112th Congress Policy Recommendations](#)

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is a member of the Consumer Energy Alliance. We are including both a video talking about the recommendations and the recommendations themselves in this posting.

[Oilsands receive modest approval](#)

[Niobrara: Oil lease interest increasing in Panhandle](#)

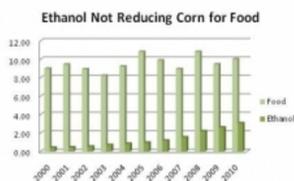
[Hatch: Stop Obama's War On The West](#)

AGRICULTURE

[Response to The WSJ: Ethanol is not reducing the amount of corn for food](#)

While I was amused that The Wall Street Journal would invoke "morality" in one of its editorials, I was stunned by the sheer number of half-truths, miscalculations, and misleading statements that could be wedged into one 600 word anti-ethanol editorial, "Amber Waves of Ethanol."

The article primarily seeks to blame ethanol for higher food prices, and even the failure of two food companies, yet it includes no discussion about the morality of other Big Food companies who managed to thrive during the time period the others failed, by invoking the mythical "food vs. fuel" bogeyman as an excuse to raise their prices and reap record profits. While the "food vs. fuel" PR campaign was wildly successful, it was not the truth, and it still isn't.



[USDA: Farmers can plant genetically modified beets](#)

[Quotes from Oprah tell the story](#)

[Why We Don't Get Snow Days](#)



Mark Your Calendar! 2nd Annual PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE ENERGY SUMMIT

**April 7-8, 2011
Omni Interlocken Resort
Broomfield, Colorado**

Board Member Spotlight

[John Bertsch](#)

Ports-to-Plains Chairman

Ports-to-Plains Members from Plainview and Hale County:

[City of Plainview](#)

[Hale County](#)

[Plainview Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Plainview/Hale County Industrial Foundation](#)

[Plainview Main Street/CVB](#)

[Wayland Baptist University](#)



John Bertsch
Ports-to-Plains Chairman

"I consider Ports-to-Plains, a window to the world for our community. With the expansion of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor we have the opportunity to promote our goods and services to those moving across this great country. Plainview has open space, great schools, and outstanding health care facilities along with affordable property, talented citizens, dedicated workers, fresh water and access to alternative energy needs. All these attributes make this a wonderful place to live, work and do business. With traffic on the Ports To Plains corridor flowing by our door step we simply need to share the news about our assets and those travelers will come back to live, work and retire."

PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE STAFF

Michael Reeves
President
5401 N MLK Blvd. #395
Lubbock, TX 79403
P: 806-775-2338
F: 806-775-3981
michael.reeves@portstoplains.com

Joe Kiely
Vice President of Operations
PO Box 9
Limon, CO 80828
P: 303-586-1787
F: 719-775-9073
joe.kiely@portstoplains.com

Duffy Hinkle
Vice President of Membership & Marketing
5401 N MLK Blvd. #395
Lubbock, TX 79403
P: 806-775-3373
F: 806-775-3981
duffy.hinkle@portstoplains.com

Cal Klew in
Executive Director
Theodore Roosevelt Expressway
PO 1306 22 E Broadw ay
Williston, ND 58802
P: 701-577-8110
cal@trexpressway.com

Debbie Stevenson
Executive Assistant
5401 N MLK Blvd. #395
Lubbock, TX 79403
P: 806-775-3369
F: 806-775-3981
debbie.stevenson@portstoplains.com

John R. Hoehne
Communications Director
Heartland Expressway Association
2620 College Park
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
P: 308-630-6555
mailto:cal@trexpressway.com



www.portstoplains.com

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5401 N MLK Blvd. Unit #395 | Lubbock, TX 79403 | Ph: (806)775-3373

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