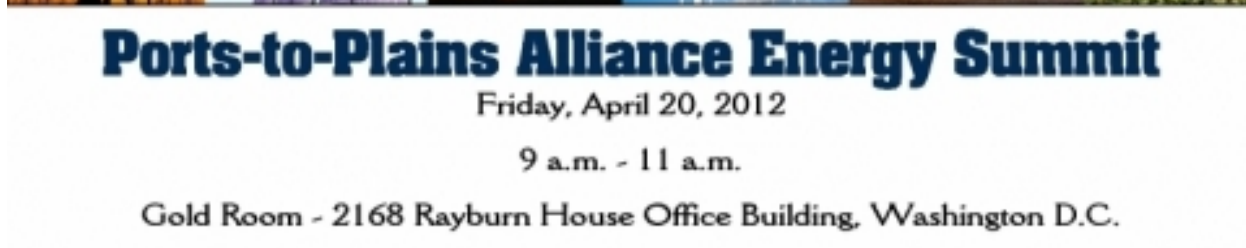




PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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



Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Summit

Friday, April 20, 2012
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Gold Room - 2168 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C.

Energy is a major issue affecting every American, whether it is gas prices at the pump or utility bills. The energy industry is also a major employer throughout the Ports-to-Plains region. Our communities produce a diverse portfolio of energy sources from traditional sources such as oil and gas to renewable sources such as wind. Learn directly from those in the industry how energy issues affect our local jobs and economies.

INVITED AUDIENCE: CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS, CONGRESSIONAL STAFF, PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

RSVP: (806) 775-3373, duffy.hinkle@portstoplains.com

AGENDA TOPICS: OIL & GAS PRICES AND THE CONSUMER, ELECTRICITY AND THE ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

See complete article on the 2012 Ports-to-Plains Energy Summit below under ENERGY.

NEWS RELEASES

As the U.S. House of Representatives continues to determine how to move forward towards a Transportation Reauthorization Bill, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance will be visiting Congressional offices encouraging ... Following the Congress office meetings, on Friday, the Alliance will host the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Summit on Capitol Hill (see article below). The Alliance will be represented by the 22 people who have committed to the effort listed below:

Washington DC Fly-in This Week

Colorado: Beverly Haggard - Lamar, Joe Kiely - Limon, Cathy Shull - Fort Morgan and Patricia Vice - Genoa

Montana: Bob Sivertsen - Havre

Nebraska: Deb Cottier - Chadron

North Dakota: Brad Bekkedahl - Williston, Cal Klewin - Bowman, Brady Pelton - Dickinson, Brent Sanford - Watford City, Vicky Steiner - Dickinson

South Dakota: Blaise Emerson - Rapid City

Texas: John Bertsch - Plainview, Ramsey Cantu - Eagle Pass, Chris Cornell - San Angelo, John Fness - Sonora, Duffy Hinkle - Lubbock, Dwain Morrison - San Angelo, Michael Reeves - Lubbock

Alberta: Dave Bronconnier - Washington, DC, Tristan Sanregret - Washington, DC

Other: Jack Schenendorf - Washington, DC

Congressional offices that have committed to hearing the Ports-to-Plains Alliance's message of rural transportation and economic development and the role of the Ports-to-Plains Region in the North American economy include:

Colorado:
*Senator Mark Udall
Senator Michael Bennet
Rep. Scott Tipton
*Rep. Cory Gardner
Rep. Mike Coffman
Rep. Doug Lamborn

Montana:
Senator Max Baucus
Senator John Tester
Rep. Denny Rehberg

Nebraska:
*Senator Ben Nelson
Senator Mike Johanns
*Rep. Adrian Smith

New Mexico:
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan

North Dakota:
*Senator Kent Conrad
Senator John Hoeven
*Rep. Rick Berg

South Dakota:
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator John Thune
Rep. Kristi Noem

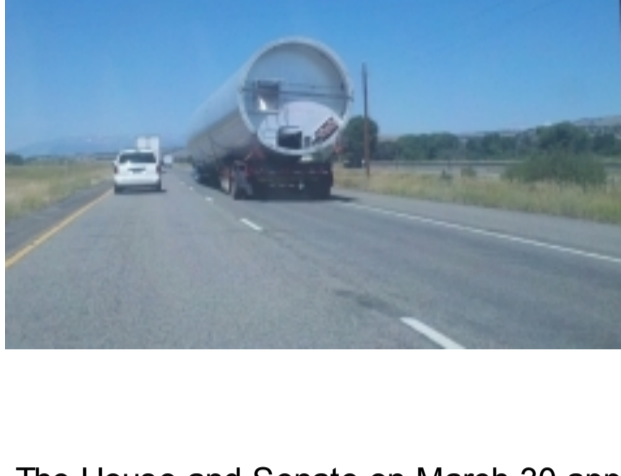
Texas:
*Senator John Cornyn
Rep. Mac Thornberry
*Rep. Randy Neugebauer
*Rep. Mike Conaway
*Rep. Francisco "Quico" Canseco
Rep. Henry Cuellar

* Members of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Caucus

While in Washington the Alliance will also be meeting with the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works staff, Consumer Energy Alliance, and will participate in the Nebraska and Montana weekly breakfasts.

Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities

- April 16-19 - Washington DC Fly-in, Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 20 - **Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Mini-Summit**, Washington, DC
- June 4-6 - **Transportation Logistics for the Oil & Gas Industry**; Houston, TX
- July 12 - Colorado Regional Ports-to-Plains Meeting, Byers, CO
- July 12-13 - Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors Meeting, Limon, CO **CHANGED DATE**
- October 2-4 - Ports-to-Plains Alliance Annual Conference, Medicine Hat, AB



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Remains Major Issue as Congress Returns to Washington Next Week

When Congress returns from its Easter recess next week, the fate of the surface transportation program is expected to be high on its agenda.

Transportation Weekly and Politico both reported this week that House leaders directed staff to prepare another 90-day extension of the current authorization through September.

The House and Senate on March 30 approved HR 4281, a clean 90-day extension of the current surface transportation authorization, known as SAFETEA-LU, through June 30, 2012. It was the 9th extension of the current authorization...

A Federal Role in Freight Planning and Finance

Congestion within the U.S. freight system has increased dramatically in the past few decades, costing travelers, consumers, and businesses billions of dollars each year. A federal policy is offered to address the challenges faced by the U.S. freight network in an environment dominated by declining revenues and public resistance to increasing taxes.

U.S. House must clear up bottleneck over transportation

"Bridges and highways are not necessarily Republican or Democrat. Everybody needs them," argued Tom Trotter, AFL-CIO legislative representative.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wildhorse set to begin extended hours

The Port of Wild Horse will switch to extended summer hours on Thursday, marking the second-straight year the border crossing will be open longer hours in the spring.

It also marks a synchronized effort between the two agencies that patrol the international border.

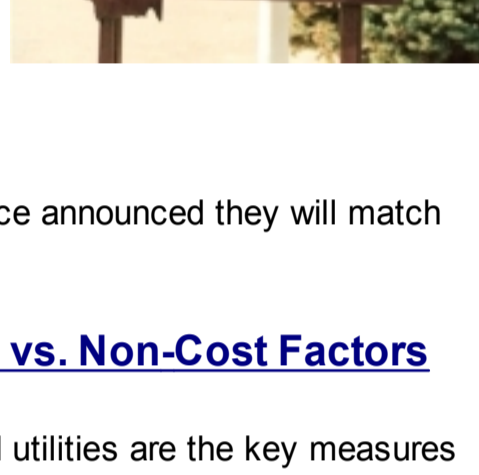
The crossing between southeast Alberta and north-central Montana will be open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., seven days a week, until Oct. 30, according to a press release by the Canadian Border Services Agency.

On Tuesday in Montana, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection service announced they will match the Canadian hours...

Where to Locate Manufacturing Plant: Business Costs vs. Non-Cost Factors

Consideration of cost components such as labor, taxes, real estate and utilities are the key measures most companies use to decide where to locate plants. However non-cost factors often end up being the decisive factor.

KPMG recently released its 2012 Global Competitive Alternative study that measured 26 significant cost components in each market, as they apply to 19 industries over a 10-year analysis horizon...



ENER

Ports-to-Plains Alliance Energy Summit this Friday in Washington DC

After two successful energy summits in 2010 and 2011 in Colorado, the Ports-to-Plains Alliance decided to take the energy and economic message to Washington DC this year. Congressional staff had indicated that they rarely get a chance to attend these types of events because of time and travel. The Alliance has created an agenda designed to provide a two-hour overview that looks at the economics of energy and the relationship to the transportation system in the Ports-to-Plains region, North America's Energy Corridor.

The 2012 Energy Summit will be held on Friday, April 20, 2012 from 9:00am to 11:00am in the Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn House Office Building.

The first section will focus on **Oil and Gas Prices and the Consumer**. New energy opportunities for North America in the Ports-to-Plains Region are growing quickly. These opportunities are largely dependent upon the decisions of regulators. What are these key opportunities and what affect will these opportunities have on consumer oil and gas prices? Topics will include Hydraulic Fracturing and Domestic Opportunities; Keystone XL Pipeline and Energy Security; and Incentives. What Incentives? Speakers will include Lee Fuller, Vice President of Government Relations, Independent Petroleum Association of America.

Electricity and the Economy will be emphasis in the second section. There is not a sector of the economy that is not affected by the cost and availability of electricity. Renewable energy is providing many of our rural communities in the Ports-to-Plains region an economic shot in the arm as well as creating a growing manufacturing sector across the region. At the same time coal provides the majority of electricity in the nation while creating rural jobs. How can we create an electric future that supports the economy and the consumer? Topics will include Renewable Energy Production Tax Credits and Rural Communities, The Future of Electricity Generation ... It's a Long Haul and Policy ... Policy ... Policy. Speakers include John L. Cohen, Vice President, Government Affairs, Alstom, Inc.; Rick Gordon, Chairman, Tri-State Generation & Transmission and Michael Reeves, President, Ports-to-Plains Alliance.

The final section will share **Energy and Transportation**. The Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridors create the backbone transportation corridor for North America's Energy Corridor. With domestic energy production booming in the region, the stresses on the rural transportation system is also booming at a time when transportation funding is slowing. What are the opportunities to address economic opportunity with a transportation system that is safe and reliable? Topics will include North America's Energy Corridor, Pilot Permitting Proposal and Opportunity connected to opportunity ... Transportation, Energy and the Economy. Speakers will include Vickie Steiner, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties and Joe Kiely, Vice President of Operations, Ports-to-Plains Alliance.

In addition to the information provided by the speakers, each participant will receive an energy handbook compiled by the Ports-to-Plains Alliance providing a library of information for future reference.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance appreciates the support of the Summit sponsors: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., TransCanada, Valero Energy and Enbridge.

During the event follow the information on Twitter at @PortstoPlains #2012PTPEnergy. Following the event the presentations will be made available at www.ptpblog.com/official-blog-for-ptp-alliance/.

The Western Energy Corridor

The energy resources concentrated along the Rocky Mountains and northern plains in Canada and the United States (U.S.) are world class, as measured by their diversity, magnitude, and longevity. This area, informally referred to as the Western Energy Corridor (WEC), is strategic to meeting the increasing energy demand in Canada, the U.S., and internationally. These energy resources, collectively, also provide a foundation for regional economic development, including a platform for moving the region's energy products up the value chain...

US governors add support for extension of wind tax incentives

Pickens Reviving Plans for Texas Wind Power at Smaller Scale

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