



## NEWS RELEASES

### House members submit testimony supporting Rural Transportation

[Statement to House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#)

"Do not forget rural America" is the message a contingent of nine members of the U.S. House of Representatives from five different states delivered to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in joint testimony on policy priorities for the surface transportation reauthorization bill.

"Our message today is quite simple – in developing the programs and policies in the new legislation, please do not forget rural America," the statement says.

Congressmen joining to submit the testimony are Denny Rehberg (R-MT), Rick Berg (R-ND), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), Mike Conaway (R-TX), Francisco Canseco (R-TX) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX). All represent districts along the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor.

"I am pleased to join Representatives Adrian Smith, Denny Rehberg, Rick Berg, Cory Gardner, Mac Thornberry, Michael Conaway, Francisco Canseco and Henry Cuellar in submitting testimony to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit encouraging support for America's rural transportation infrastructure. The Subcommittee has provided Members the opportunity to share their policy priorities as we continue work on the surface transportation reauthorization bill," said Rep. Randy Neugebauer.

"The maintenance and improvement of our nation's rural transportation network is crucial to countless sectors of our economy," said Neugebauer. "Rural highways connect urban centers, offer opportunities to transport goods to our coastlines and borders for export, and allow our agricultural producers to feed the country and the world. It is imperative that surface transportation legislation provide balanced and fair support for the needs of rural America, and I look forward to working on this issue in the coming months."

The testimony highlighted the importance of rural highways to our national economy, particularly in agriculture production and export, domestic energy production. Rural highways also have a higher fatality rate of accidents.

The testimony noted that new legislation must address balanced policy meeting the transportation needs of metropolitan areas and rural areas, and recognize that solutions that work in large cities may not work in small towns. The testimony also encourages the new transportation legislation to include a focus on rural connectivity and mobility, freight transportation and rural highway safety.

"As a corridor that represents rural areas it is important that we work together to ensure that we have a strong voice. We appreciate these members of congress banding together and standing up for rural America," said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves.



### Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities

- May 22-25 - WINDPOWER 2011, Anaheim, CA
- June 13-14 - 3rd Annual Symposium on Mileage-Based User Fees, Breckenridge, CO
- June 18-20 - Western States Transportation Alliance Annual Meeting, Bismarck, ND



## TRANSPORTATION

### Reagan, Clinton star in push for transportation bill

The unlikely duo of Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton is featured in a new ad campaign from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association and the American Public Transportation Association. The groups are using the former presidents from opposite ends of the political spectrum to try to build bipartisan support for a six-year transportation spending bill. The radio spot features Reagan making the case for spending more on transportation....

### Rural road project discussed in Alliance and Congress

#### Nebraska: Roads funding bill passes

#### Could Texas someday track drivers electronically, charge a vehicle-mile-traveled tax instead of a gas tax?

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Saskatchewan: Port plan moves forward for S.W. region

The focus is now on the Saskatchewan government to improve the province's highway infrastructure for increased trade with the U.S.

Aaron Murray, of Derek Murray Consulting and Associates (DMCA), presented the Corridor for Competitiveness business case with John Parker, general manager of Community Futures Southwest, at the Entrepreneurial Centre in Swift Current May 10.



## ENERGY

### Wind turbine near Golden heralds new player in U.S. market

The biggest of three wind turbines rising above the high plains along Colorado 93 north of Golden was dedicated Tuesday by officials from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Alstom S.A., a French power manufacturer eyeing the U.S. market...

### Few Lasting US Green Jobs from Generation-Focused Subsidies

### House to Vote on American Energy Bills to Ease Pain at Pump, Create Jobs, Reduce Foreign Dependence

PTP 2011 Washington D.C. Fly-In



### Ports-to-Plains Alliance Members Visit Capitol Hill

## New Members Elected to Ports-to-Plains Board



During the recent quarterly board meeting in Washington, D.C., three new members were elected to serve on the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors.

**Gilberto (Gil) M. Cisneros** served on the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors from July 2008 until August 2010 where at that time he resigned due to business obligations. He was re-elected to the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors where he will now continue his service. Gil also serves as president and CEO of [Chamber of the Americas](#), Denver, Colorado.

Gil is also Chairman of the Chamber of the Americas Foundation. He co-founded the Chamber of the Americas in 2001. In 1993, he co-founded the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Rocky Mountain Region, and was first president and then executive director until April 30, 2001. As president of Grupo Cisneros Internacional, Denver, Colorado, an international consulting firm, Cisneros helps U.S. companies develop Latin American markets. With his broad range of contacts on both continents, he is also able to assist foreign firms wanting to export to the United States.

When asked about why Gil believes in Ports-to-Plains, he commented, "My rationale is simple. This organization best serves the needs of trade in the NAFTA countries. I have worked over the last 17 years promoting trade in Latin America."

**Beverly Haggard of Lamar, Colorado** was elected to replace resigning board member, Leroy Mauch. Beverly was born and raised on a farm north of Lamar, CO. She attended school in the Lamar area and graduated from Lamar High School. She is a alumna of Lamar Community College.

Beverly works as a sergeant at the Bent County Correctional Facility and part time at the Hickory House Restaurants. She has enjoyed serving on the Lamar City Council for nine years. For fun and enjoyment Beverly loves riding her Harley. She loves making her annual trip to Sturgis, SD for the Big Bike Rally.

**John Paul Friess of Sonora, Texas** was elected to replace resigning board member, Max Howorth. He grew up on a ranch in Sonora, Texas, where he learned that stewardship of land and animals is hard, but rewarding work. An early fascination with science, especially geology, led him to a career in oil and gas exploration; following formal training in geophysics at Texas Tech University. These grand plans were put on hold for a couple of years while the U.S. Army required his services as an infantry platoon sergeant in Vietnam.

Once the career plans were resumed, John worked for Phillips Petroleum, Mobil Oil, and Conoco. His Conoco work was in international exploration with many overseas assignments, including two years in Egypt. Following retirement from Conoco, John spent two years as Visiting Associate Professor in Oklahoma State's School of Geology teaching graduate courses in geophysical exploration. He then spent 6 years as a consultant for a small independent oil company in Oklahoma. John moved back to the ranch in Sonora in 2004, and since that time has been busy with volunteer work, mostly civic and church affairs. He is currently president of [Sonora's Economic Development Corporation](#) and treasurer of the Sutton County Health Foundation. He has also led efforts of the local transportation committee to address the pros and cons of a reliever road for the Ports-to-Plains route through Sonora.

John believes that it is crucial that the Sonora area maintain representation on the PTP board. Sonora is situated at the intersection of the Interstate 10 and PTP. This part of the PTP corridor is the largest section of two-lane remaining (60 miles north of Sonora and 90 miles south). The southern leg connects Sonora to Del Rio and Ciudad Acuna, the nearest access to Mexico. John believes that PTP will bring industrial growth and jobs to small towns in West Texas, thus broadening their economic base. He looks forward to working with a coalition of like-minded individuals whose collective efforts can influence highway construction in low population areas.

## 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@portstoplastains.com](mailto:michael.reeves@portstoplastains.com)

Joe Kiely  
Vice President of Operations  
PO Box 9  
Limon, CO 80828  
P: 303-586-1787  
F: 719-775-9073  
[joe.kiely@portstoplastains.com](mailto:joe.kiely@portstoplastains.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@portstoplastains.com](mailto:duffy.hinkle@portstoplastains.com)

Cal Klewin  
Executive Director  
Theodore Roosevelt Expressway  
PO 1306 22 E Broadway  
Williston, ND 58802  
P: 701-577-8110  
[cal@trexpressway.com](mailto: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@portstoplastains.com](mailto:debbie.stevenson@portstoplastains.com)

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



[www.portstoplastains.com](http://www.portstoplastains.com)

LEARN • PARTICIPATE • JOIN

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

This email was sent to .  
To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.