



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

## NEWS RELEASES

### Did you realize online registration ends this week for the Ports-to-Plains Energy Summit?

Yes, [online registration](#) ends Friday, April 1 for the Ports-to-Plains Energy Summit, so hurry and register online today so you won't miss out! The Energy Summit is an event where influential leaders in Ports-to-Plains communities, their congressional representatives and energy industry leaders join together to discuss energy and its importance to our economy, security and quality of life as well as address needs regarding policy issues, infrastructure development and investment to support it.

A key to Ports-to-Plains success is the members who are a strong, grassroots alliance with local elected officials, economic developers and business leaders - people whose opinions matter to Congress.

Register now and join us at this annual event, as we learn about issues that affect the rural heartland of America. We will explore together the role of the Ports-to-Plains region in North America's energy economy, energy security and independence, and discuss strategies to promote infrastructure development that supports robust growth, investment and new jobs throughout the region.

#### Who should attend:

- Energy Industry Leaders
- Clean-Tech Industry Leaders
- Economic Development Professionals
- Chamber of Commerce Professionals
- Environmental Professionals
- Municipal and County Officials
- State Legislators
- Trucking / Logistics Professionals
- Interested Citizens

**Thank you [Sponsors](#) for your Support!**

**[REGISTER ONLINE TODAY](#)**

## AGENDA

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

#### Upcoming Ports-to-Plains Alliance Activities

- March 28 - Meetings with community leaders in Del Rio (TX) and Acuna (CU)
- March 28 - Presentation to New Deal (TX) City Council
- March 29 - Presentations to community leaders in Piedras Negras (CU) and Eagle Pass (TX)
- March 30 - Presentation to Burlington (CO) Rotary Club
- March 31 - Presentation to Tahoka (TX) Rotary Club
- April 7-8 -- PTP Energy Summit, Broomfield, CO
- May 1-3 - Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, Regina, SK
- May 2-6 - Ports-to-Plains Fly-in, Washington, DC (Mark Your Calendar Now)
- May 10-11 - Meetings in Saskatchewan
- June 13-14 - 3rd Annual Symposium on Mileage-Based User Fees, Breckenridge, CO



## TRANSPORTATION

### [Bipartisan Infrastructure Bank Bill](#)

A comment by Senator John Thune (SD) in The Hill article below is key to understanding the rural impact of this proposal. "Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) has urged caution in going forward with an infrastructure bank, arguing that it would likely benefit large cities and leave out rural areas." While an infrastructure bank may have beneficial impacts in urban areas, without a new revenue source, it will commit future revenue to debt service...

[Mica Aims for T&I to Complete Transport Bill in May](#)

[House Democrat questions White House plan to open border to Mexican trucks](#)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### [Why North Dakota is Booming](#)

Living on the harsh, wind-swept northern Great Plains, North Dakotans lean towards the practical in economic development. Finding themselves sitting on prodigious pools of oil—estimated by the state's Department of Mineral Resources at least 4.3 billion barrels—they are out drilling like mad. And the state is booming...



[Harvard Business School looks at competitiveness on a state by state basis](#)

[Economic Developers' Roles Change with Oil Boom](#)

[Learning Oil's Lessons \(video\)](#)

[Exports increase through this border](#)



## ENERGY

### [U.S. extends review of Keystone XL; Public to get 90 days for comment](#)

The Keystone XL pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico faced the prospect of more regulatory delays after the U.S. State Department put more conditions on the troubled project.

TransCanada CEO Russ Girling was photographed during a year-end interview in his Calgary office on Dec. 20, 2010. The U.S. State Department on Tuesday imposed new conditions on its review of the Keystone XL project that will delay the project until the end of the year.

Photograph by: Gavin Young, Calgary Herald

The U.S. government late Tuesday said it would seek further comment on environmental aspects of the pipeline before making a decision by the end of the year. A Federal Register notice, to be issued in mid-April, will provide further details, it added.

[Increased Drilling Creates Jobs](#)

[CEA: "Use It or Lose It" Legislation Wrong Approach; Access to Domestic Energy Resources Needed](#)

[Heavy oil gaining weight in energy markets](#)

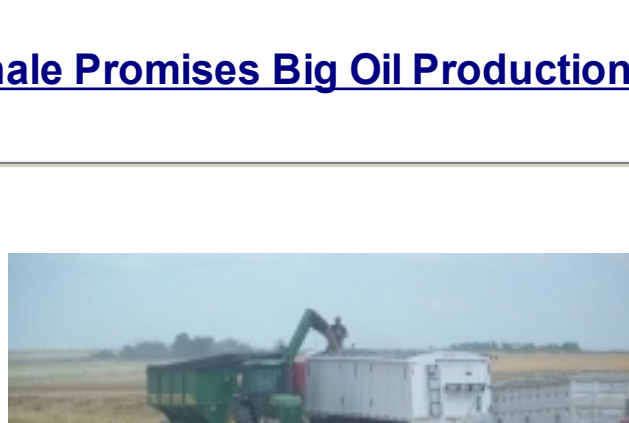
[Interior touts support for coal, oil amid GOP attacks](#)

[Bakken Shale Promises Big Oil Production](#)

## AGRICULTURE

### [Udall Speaks Up For Farmers, Ranchers on Dust Regulation](#)

Last week, Mark Udall sent a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson asking her to consider the impact regulations governing dust could have on rural communities, as her agency begins reviewing air-quality standards.



[Mexican tariffs casting wide net](#)

[EPA Caught Overreaching on Clean Water Act](#)

**ENERGY SUMMIT PORTS-TO-PLAINS**

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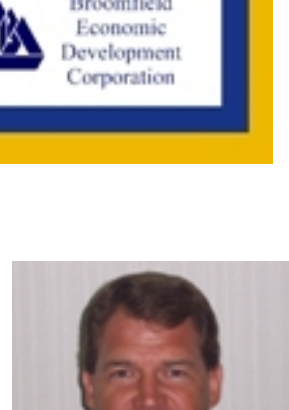
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## Board Member Spotlight

### Todd McKee

Ports-to-Plains Alliance Treasurer



**Todd McKee**  
President & Chief Lending Officer,  
**Peoples Bank**  
Ports-to-Plains Treasurer  
Lubbock, Texas

Todd McKee has served as Treasurer on the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors since 1999 and serves as the [Peoples Bank](#) President and Chief Lending Officer. He earned an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas Tech University and a Graduate Degree of Banking from Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. McKee has been in the banking profession since 1979 after graduating from Frenship High School. He has worked full time in banking since 1983 after graduating from Texas Tech.

Todd is committed to the Ports-to-Plains project and strongly believes in its importance to Lubbock's economic growth as well as to other communities throughout the Alliance. "The Ports-to-Plains region provides food, fuel, and fiber to growing markets, and it is imperative that the highway infrastructure is adequately maintained and improved to facilitate the movement of these goods and services in the safest most efficient way possible," stated McKee.

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