

News Release - For Immediate Release November 1, 2017 Contact: Michael Reeves (806) 775-2338 <u>Michael.Reeves@portstoplains.com</u>

Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19), co-chairs Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus

A bipartisan Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus has been formed, and inducted as a Congressional Member Organization for the 115th Congress. This Caucus will serve as an informal group of Members dedicated to issues related to rural transportation and rural economic development in America's Heartland, with a focus on the corridor running from Texas to North Dakota and Montana, and educating other Members on the importance of this area is feeding, fueling, and clothing America's cities and urban areas.

Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19), co-chair of the Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus says,

"Middle America provides the food, fuel, and fiber that strengthens and protects our nation, but that's only true when we can get the product to market. The Ports-to-Plains corridor is strategically located to facilitate billions of dollars in trade, create jobs, and increase economic efficiency by connecting rural areas to urban America, regional trade centers, and international transportation facilities.

"I'm honored to share the significance of this corridor and its needs by co-chairing the newly created Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus, alongside my House Co-Chairs, Representatives Smith, Gonzalez and Cuellar, and our counterparts in the Senate, Senators Heitkamp and Fischer."

Congressman Jodey Arrington is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives serving the Nineteenth Congressional District of Texas. He serves as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, House Budget Committee, and Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at http://www.portstoplains.com/.