

# 2017-2018 Accomplishments

This past year, PNWER's NAFTA modernization task force pushed for 10 recommendations, most of which made it into the final USMCA. We have pushed to end the steel and aluminum tariffs between the U.S. and Canada, which is an ongoing challenge today. We also focused on the Columbia River Treaty, transportation infrastructure, invasive species, and other high priority issues facing the region.

## ANNUAL SUMMIT

Over 600 regional legislators, business leaders, academics, and policy makers gathered in Spokane, WA, on July 22-26. With 27 working group sessions, 6 keynote plenary sessions, and 7 policy tours, attendees had the opportunity to engage in dialogue, strengthen regional relationships, and address the various challenges that affect the region. Videos, media reports, and the work plan to guide PNWER over the next year are available at [www.pnwer.org/2018summit](http://www.pnwer.org/2018summit).

PNWER encouraged the U.S. and Canadian Federal Governments to strive towards a modernized NAFTA that builds upon its current success to further enhance trade and investment in North America. PNWER has communicated with the White House, Department of Commerce, and United States Trade Representative, and presented to the Canadian Parliament on the importance of a tri-lateral NAFTA agreement, Canadian exemption for steel and aluminum tariffs, and the repeal of the tariff on Canadian newsprint. Communications with the White House, the NAFTA Resolution, and Modernization Task Force materials are available at [www.pnwer.org/nafta-modernization.html](http://www.pnwer.org/nafta-modernization.html).



Pictured above: U.S.-Canada panel on tariffs and international trade at 2018 PNWER Annual Summit in Spokane, WA.

## TRANSPORTATION

PNWER has long worked with our partners to establish Harbour to Harbor floatplane service between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., and helped develop a pilot program with CBSA and CBP for bi-national clearance. The one-hour flight is a major boost to tourism and business travelers, and the pilot program began in Spring 2018.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

PNWER continues to showcase Canadian expertise in public-private partnerships and is working with the Administration and the U.S. Congress to develop a regional accelerator to promote public/private partnerships for regional infrastructure.

## CAPITOLS COMPETING FOR CAPITAL

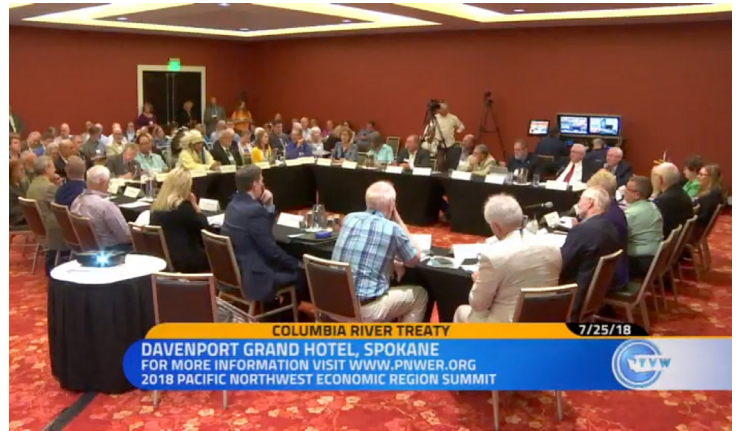
Twenty-five state legislators and executive branch officials spent two days in Silicon Valley examining the latest technologies, their application, and policy implications of 5G telecom infrastructure. The small, hands-on, intensive program provided policymakers a greater understanding of where the industry is going and how policies may affect infrastructure investments in our region.

## COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Another key priority for PNWER this year has been the Columbia River Treaty. The Annual Summit included the first and only joint session with stakeholders with both lead negotiators from the US and Canada; Sylvain Fabi, Executive Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs, Global Affairs Canada and Jill Smail, Columbia River Treaty Negotiator, U.S. Department of State. Stakeholders shared the benefits and impacts of the treaty focusing on ecosystems, tribal concerns, power generation, tourism, agriculture, irrigation, recreation, transportation and more.

PNWER organized a two-day trip to interior B.C. for 50

leaders to learn from Canadian officials and communities about the impacts of the treaty as well as an additional tour to Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State.



## ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

PNWER hosted the 6th Annual North American Arctic Leaders Roundtable held in the U.S. Capital, led by U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan and Rep. Don Young. Representatives from the U.S., Canada, and Greenland, as well as many experts in the Arctic region, discussed collaboration on a North American Arctic strategy.

## ENERGY

The [Legislative Energy Horizon Institute](#), PNWER's annual 60-hour certificate program in energy policy, has graduated over 240 state legislators and Canadian MLAs to date. 40 legislators, including MLAs from B.C. and Saskatchewan, participated in the Institute in Richland, Washington, and met in Washington D.C. in November for the second 3-day course. The Annual Summit featured 5 energy sessions covering grid reliability, battery storage, infrastructure resiliency, and permit reform.

## DISASTER RESILIENCE

- **Earthquake Recovery:** PNWER hosted an [exercise](#) on post-earthquake disaster recovery effort in Seattle. 125 + energy, transportation, healthcare, education, and other sector leaders attended to discuss planning for the post-response long-term recovery process.
- **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS):** PNWER won a national competition and was awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security to develop new technologies to utilize drones to quickly assess earthquake damage to critical infrastructure, including roads and bridges, following an earthquake. The [project](#) is a joint effort between PNWER and Northeastern University in Boston.
- **Cybersecurity:** PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience procured independent funding from DHS to develop a [cyber resilience assessment tool](#) and also a cyber response planning guide for businesses and local governments in the region.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

PNWER supported recent federal action to increase wildfire funding. In the past, PNWER has worked with our Congressional leaders and organized working group sessions focused on healthy forest management policies.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

PNWER was instrumental in securing \$21 million in federal funds for the fight against invasive species for Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana over the past 4 years. PNWER has pushed Canadian federal agencies to support provincial efforts and is collaborating with the provinces on an Invasive Mussel Prevention Framework for Western Canada.

## MINING

Binational legislators were educated on innovative and sustainable mining practices at the 2018 Annual Summit in Spokane, WA. Mining will be a significant focus at the 2019 Annual Summit in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.