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Contact:

Matt Morrison, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Economic Region

206-443-7723 / Cell: 206-399-4026; Matt.Morrison@pnwer.org

Brandon Hardenbrook, Chief Operating Officer, Pacific Northwest Economic Region

206-443-7723; Brandon.Hardenbrook@pnwer.org

PNWER Statement on the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) applauds the bipartisan introduction of the Promoting Travel, Commerce and National Security Act in the House and Senate on Tuesday. The act includes bipartisan legislation to implement US-Canada preclearance, which will improve national security and streamline commerce and travel between Canada and the United States.

Preclearance gives US Customs and Border Protection and Canada Border Services Agency officers the authority to conduct border security inspections in the opposite country before departure. Preclearance is a key element of the [US-Canada Beyond the Border Action Plan](#).

PNWER hosts monthly calls with our Preclearance Task Force, consisting of public and private border stakeholders, to develop a preclearance implementation strategy in our region once the agreement is finalized. The group also has developed a [white paper](#) explaining some of the expected benefits of preclearance to our region and beyond. PNWER has worked with congressional staff in the Pacific Northwest and across the country to help explain the economic and security benefits of the agreement.

Preclearance will enhance the region's \$55 billion travel and tourism sector by making cross-border transit more efficient for business travelers, tour operators, and independent leisure travelers. It will greatly benefit the two-nation vacation concept by making travel to both countries easier and more secure.

"Preclearance is a priority issue we have pushed to implement as part of the Beyond the Border Action Plan. Making border crossings faster is always beneficial to our region's interconnected travel and tourism economy and we're glad to see this bill introduced," said Matt Morrison, executive director of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region.

"We will continue to look for opportunities to advance new pilots to enhance our economic competitiveness and will keep moving preclearance forward until it is fully implemented in both countries."

Preclearance will be a major focus of PNWER's Annual Summit taking place July 17-21 in Calgary, Alberta. For more information please see <http://www.pnwer.org/2016-summit.html>

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Yukon. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region; identify and promote "models of success;" and serve as a conduit to exchange information.