

MEDIA RELEASE

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Montana Governor Steve Bullock to Highlight Opening of Economic Summit in Big Sky

BIG SKY – Montana Governor Steve Bullock will address more than 500 leaders in government, business and academia from the northwest United States and Western Canada at the 25th Annual Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Summit, held July 12-16 in Big Sky, Montana.

Bullock will speak at 1:15 p.m. Monday, July 13 in the Missouri Ballroom of the Yellowstone Conference Center, immediately following Royce Engstrom, president of the University of Montana.

"It is an honor to host this large gathering of respected business and policy leaders from around the region right here in Montana," said Bullock. "I look forward to sharing Montana's economic and policy achievements with our neighbors, learning from their accomplishments, and working together to increase collaboration on critical issues that transcend our regional boundaries."

Matt Rose, executive chairman of the BNSF Railway Company will give an opening keynote address on transportation challenges in the region on Monday morning at 8:15 a.m. in the Missouri Ballroom.

Ambassador Bruce Heyman, U.S. Ambassador to Canada, will speak at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday about the billion-dollar-a-day trade relationship between Canada and the United States, as well opportunities to expand trade through the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Policy sessions taking place Monday include: transportation, energy, market access, forestry, invasive species, agriculture, expanding natural gas markets, workforce development, cyber security and disaster resilience and arctic issues.

The economies of Pacific Northwest states and Western Canada are closely linked; member jurisdictions represent a regional combined GDP of more than \$1 trillion.

ABOUT THE PNWER SUMMIT

Held in alternating member jurisdictions each year, the annual PNWER summit draws hundreds of key business leaders, legislators and community leaders from PNWER's 10 states, provinces and territories. The PNWER Summit fosters regional and international cooperation to develop solutions to common challenges, build a sustainable economy and protect our environment and the quality of life in our communities.

See the Summit agenda, list of speakers and travel information at www.pnwer.org/2015Summit. Download a [Media Accreditation Form](#). Return to Mark.Stayton@pnwer.org.

ABOUT PNWER

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