LEGISLATIVE ENERGY HORIZON INSTITUTE CONCLUDES FIRST SESSION IN RICHLAND, WA

Richland, WA -- The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) brought together 34 state and provincial legislative energy leaders in its 2014 class for the first thirty hours of the acclaimed certificate program August 23 – 26 in Richland, Wash.

In its sixth year, the Institute offers policymakers the chance to dramatically improve their knowledge of the energy infrastructure and delivery system, enhancing their ability to make the complex policy decisions that will be necessary to ensure the region has a stable, secure and affordable energy supply and delivery system. The three-and-a-half day session in Richland focuses its in-depth curriculum on how energy infrastructure operates, and the complex issues associated with electricity, natural gas and petroleum infrastructures, regulations and interdependencies.

"It is critical that citizen legislators get this basic boot camp of how our energy infrastructure works, is built and operated so they make informed policy decisions about our energy future," said Jeff Morris, Institute Director.

Outside of thirty hours of class time on electricity, oil and gas, integrating renewables, alternative fuels for transportation and the smart grid, most of the class toured the Columbia Nuclear Generating station and the Nine Canyon Wind Farm, both operated by Energy Northwest.

Over 100 policymakers have attended the Institute. Those completing the 60 hour executive course get a Certificate from the University of Idaho in Energy Policy Planning. These Alumni have gone on to become leaders in their respective state and provincial governments in energy, chairing energy or environment committees. Two out the three Western Canadian Energy Ministers have graduated from the program.

The next in-person session will take place in Washington, D.C. November 13 – 15, 2014.

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ABOUT LEHI
The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) educates legislators on the North American energy infrastructure and delivery system. The Institute was created through a partnership between the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) and the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) along with the University of Idaho and the Department of Energy. High turnover in legislatures decreases the institutional knowledge of complex energy issues. Legislators who develop energy policy often lack a comprehensive understanding of how energy infrastructure operates. The complex issues associated with electricity, natural gas and petroleum infrastructure; regulation governing this infrastructure; and interdependencies are just some of the areas that legislators must understand to make responsible and informed policy decision.

Class of 2014

Alaska
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative Doug Isaacson  
Representative Bryce Edgmon

Alberta
MLA Alana DeLong  
MLA David Dorward

Arkansas
Representative Lane Jean

British Columbia
MLA Mike Bernier

California
MLA Sebastian Ridley-Thomas

Colorado
Representative Dominick Moreno  
Senator Matt Jones

Florida
Representative Jose Felix Diaz

Idaho
Representative Kelley Packer  
Representative Phylis King  
Representative Janet Trujillo

Illinois
Senator Dave Koehler

Minnesota
Senator John Hoffman

Montana
Representative Patricia Peppers

New York
MLA Angelo Santabarbara

Oregon
Representative Jeff Reardon  
Representative Mark Johnson  
Senator Arnie Roblan

Visiting LEHI

Western Governors Association

Representative Dan Saddler  
Senator Joe Uecker

Texas
Representative Ken King

Washington
Representative Cindy Ryu  
Representative Chad Magendanz  
Representative Zack Hudgins  
Staff Debbie Driver  
Staff Clay Hill

Western Governors Association

Policy Staff Christopher Scolari

Finishing Course in 2013 DC session

Alberta Minister Cal Dallas

Washington Senator Andy Billig  
Northwest Territory Min. David Ramsay

Ohio
Senator John Hoffman

Oregon
Representative Jeff Reardon

Representative Mark Johnson  
Senator Arnie Roblan

Representative Caddy McKeown

Senator Alan Olsen

Senator Bill Hansell

Quebec
MNA Guy Bourgeois