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April 2017

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PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison and Deputy Director Brandon Hardenbrook met last week with Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly to discuss PNWER's work on disaster resilience planning and innovative U.S.-Canada border solutions. Secretary Kelly praised the United State's friendship with Canada, noting that a streamlined secure border would...[read more](#)

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The Trump administration and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross have indicated the renegotiation of NAFTA as a top priority, but uncertainty still remains regarding the specifics of a renegotiated trade deal. In light of expected NAFTA renegotiation, PNWER has formed a NAFTA Modernization Taskforce with representatives from...[read more](#)

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Secretary of Homeland Security Visits PNWER

PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison and Deputy Director Brandon Hardenbrook met last week with Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly to discuss PNWER's work on disaster resilience planning and innovative U.S.-Canada border solutions.



PNWER's Matt Morrison, Brandon Hardenbrook, & CBP's Michele James speak with DHS Secretary John Kelly

Secretary Kelly praised the United State's friendship with Canada, noting that a streamlined secure border would be beneficial to both nations.

Morrison and Hardenbrook shared best practices for engaging stakeholders and improving the U.S.-Canada border. The meeting also included Michele James, Director of Field Operations for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Over the years, PNWER has worked closely with CBP and regional stakeholders to improve border security while

enhancing legitimate trade and travel. The PNWER Border working group played a significant role in facilitating stakeholder recommendations included in the joint U.S.-Canada Beyond the Border Action Plan. For the past two years, the working group has also been involved in preclearance efforts to better facilitate the movement of trade and people across the US-Canada border.

The March 31st dialogue with Secretary Kelly also highlighted the successes of PNWER, the Center for Regional Disaster Resilience, and their partners in helping the region to better understand the importance of the shared responsibility of resilience, preparedness, and mitigation and recovery planning. It is through the building of these trusted relationships that solutions to regional issues are found.

PNWER provided several recommendations to DHS on building resilience by engaging with the public and private sector, facilitating cooperation, and establishing trusted partnerships.

These recommendations include:

1. Focus on interdependencies and coordination at the regional level.
2. Incentivize greater public-private partnerships and regional collaboration.
3. Increase investment in mitigation and recovery planning.

PNWER also provided priority recommendations on improving the US-Canada border, which include:

1. Continue to seek stakeholder input on improving border security and utilize the region as a testbed for new technology to improve throughput.
2. Continue to expand the NEXUS program. Utilize the platform for new innovative programs such as the known employer pilot.
3. Work with transportation stakeholders in developing preclearance technical design standards and seek innovative solutions such as utilizing new technology and shared space with CBSA during the rollout of the preclearance program.



PNWER & Sec. Kelly discuss disaster resilience planning and border security and trade

NAFTA: What's Next?

The Trump administration and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross have indicated the renegotiation of NAFTA as a top priority, but uncertainty still remains regarding the specifics of a renegotiated trade deal.

In light of expected NAFTA renegotiation, PNWER has formed a NAFTA Modernization Taskforce with representatives from each of PNWER's jurisdictions and the private sector. The Taskforce will develop an overarching list of principles and recommendations for a modernized NAFTA document that can be provided to the new US administration, Congress, and Canadian partners. The Taskforce has also formed three subcommittees examining U.S.-Canada trade and commerce, labor mobility, and tourism under the context of NAFTA.

Prior to renegotiation, the White House must officially notify Congress of its intent to renegotiate NAFTA. Most recently, [a draft letter](#) circulating in Congress has indicated the possible approach that the administration will take in renegotiation.

Secretary Ross is expected to officially notify Congress of the administration's intentions sometime in the next few weeks. Official notification will set into motion the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), or "fast-track", procedures under which NAFTA will be renegotiated. Under TPA, Congress will maintain an influential consultative role before, during, and after trade negotiations.

In addition to Congress, TPA procedures requires input from several advisory committees comprised of state, local, and industry representatives. These committees include a 30-member Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, multiple policy advisory committees, and 17 sector-specific committees.

"The important role that Congress, state, and private sector representatives will play in trade talks provides an opportunity for us as a region to closely examine the impacts of NAFTA and utilize our connections to provide positive recommendations on negotiations.", said PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison.

While the administration has indicated their desire to negotiate a new trade deal quickly, it is likely that negotiations will not officially start until later this year and will extend into late 2018. Several questions still remain, such as the specifics of the administration's trade priorities and whether the administration intends to renegotiate NAFTA trilaterally or bilaterally.

For more information on the PNWER NAFTA Modernization Taskforce, please contact Nate Weigel at nate.weigel@pnwer.org.



PNWER participates in NAFTA roundtable with Members of Parliament from the Standing Committee on International Trade hosted by the Canadian Consulate General in Seattle

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An investment in PNWER offers:

- The reach of a cross-border, region wide network of private sector and government officials
- A gateway to hundreds of regional economic development resources
- A strong voice for business and government across five states, three provinces, and two territories and to the federal government in Washington D.C. and Ottawa
- A private sector council, which helps businesses develop new relationships with partners, vendors, and suppliers on both sides of the border
- Participation in PNWER's 20+ working groups that focus on finding solutions to the issues that matter to you

[Click here](#) for more information on sponsorship opportunities, or contact Jennifer Grosman at jennifer.grosman@pnwer.org.

Policy Tours at the PNWER Summit in Portland



Policy tours are an exciting way to see and experience more of Oregon while you are in Portland for the Summit. Sign up for policy tours when you [register](#). If you've already registered, you can still go back and edit your registration. Register early as each tour has a limited number of available slots.

We currently have three tours for attendees to select, but we will be adding a few more over this next month that highlight Oregon industries. See the current list of policy tours [here](#).

Explore energy efficiency and sustainability in Oregon's Willamette Valley on Sunday, July 23 from 1pm - 6pm. This tour will visit green office campuses as well as a leading Oregon winery incorporating sustainability. A wine tasting will be included on the tour. Cost: \$25

On Wednesday, July 26, get some fresh air and experience Portland by foot during the Sustainable and Resilient Portland Walking tour. This tour will visit cutting-edge buildings incorporating the latest building materials, seismic upgrades, and energy efficient techniques. Cost: \$10

Get an insider's look on what it takes to meet the region's energy demands during a full day tour to Bonneville Dam on Thursday, July 27. Participants will tour the infrastructure and hear from experts on hydropower generation, transmission siting and storage needs. This tour has strict security requirements and requires advance registration. There are no exceptions to this- so please be sure to sign up early if you would like to attend. Lunch will be included. Cost: \$25

Join PNWER at the 27th Annual Summit in Portland



Register at regonline.com/pnwer2017summit

Early bird registration rates end April 30.

When: July 23-27

Where: Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, Portland, Oregon

Visit: www.pnwer.org/2017summit.html

[See the agenda](#)

With an annual attendance of more than 550 legislators, business leaders, academics and local government representatives, the PNWER Summit in Portland, Oregon will produce collaborative solutions to key regional issues.

The PNWER Annual Summit addresses challenges to growth, trade and environmental stewardship across 10 jurisdictions in the U.S. Pacific Northwest and Western Canada. Network with leaders from the Northwest states, provinces and territories and explore the beauty and innovative practices of Oregon on guided policy tours.

Make a lasting impact in your area of focus and drive policy solutions year-round with key leaders in the field by joining one of PNWER's Working Groups.

Email info@pnwer.org, call 206-443-7723 or visit pnwer.org to learn more or get involved.

News in the Region

[Trump's Homeland Security chief says he wants less restrictive Canadian border](#)

- The Toronto Star

[\\$3 million supports new tools to fight invasive mussels](#)

- BC Gov News

[Trump's tone on NAFTA shifts in letter](#)

- The Denver Post

Partner Events

Oregon's Energy Future

When: April 18, 2017

Where: Portland, Oregon

Eleven years strong, Oregon's Energy Future is the state's signature clean energy event, connecting policy with practice and addressing the industry's current challenges and opportunities.

In a plenary format, speakers and panelists will explore how Oregon can continue as a clean energy leader amidst the changing political landscape. Speakers will also focus on markets and strategies for energy projects and efficiency, and how to create new opportunities through equity and inclusion.

The Agenda offers something for everyone, with panel sessions on policy, renewables and efficiency.

- How Oregon can continue as a clean energy leader amidst the changing political landscape
- Markets & strategies for energy projects and efficiency
- How to create new opportunities through equity and inclusion

Full information here or at www.energyfutureconf.com/or17

12th Annual Energy and Construction Best Practices Summit

When: June 1 & 2, 2017

Where: Centralia College, Centralia, WA

The Center of Excellence for Clean Energy and the Construction Center of Excellence present the 2017 Best Practices Summit in the Alta Common at Centralia College in Centralia, WA to engage educators, professionals, organized labor representatives and economic and workforce developers working in or with the energy and construction industries.

Click [here](#) for more information

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Follow us and see PNWER photos on [Flickr](#)

ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) was created in 1991 by the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

It is a statutory public/private non-profit dedicated to increasing the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region, while maintaining and enhancing our natural environment.

Our overarching goals are to:

- Coordinate provincial and state policies throughout the region
- Identify and promote "models of success"
- Serve as a conduit to exchange information.
- Promote greater regional collaboration
- Enhance the competitiveness of the region in both domestic and international markets
- Leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington D.C.
- Achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural environment

PNWER's 19 working groups develop yearly action items at our Summits to continually advance policy initiatives with public and private stakeholders.

Learn more at PNWER.org.

Thank you to our Sponsors



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