



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Cross-Border Economic Summit to be Held in Big Sky, Montana, August 15-19

SEATTLE- Over 310 state and provincial legislators and business leaders from the Pacific Northwest states and western Canada will convene in-person and virtually at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Big Sky, Montana, from August 15-19. This bi-national hybrid event will bring together delegates from the U.S. and Canada to discuss regional economic recovery, renewable energy and resource adequacy, ongoing Columbia River Treaty negotiations, transportation infrastructure, growing costs of wildfires, broadband infrastructure, critical minerals, and more.

Legislators and business leaders from the PNWER U.S. jurisdictions of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon will meet at the Big Sky Resort as PNWER holds its 30th Annual Summit in Big Sky.

The PNWER Summit will feature a number of high-profile plenary speakers who will address attendees during the four-day meeting. The following are just some of the keynotes:

- **Ambassador David Wilkins, Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada**
- **Ambassador Gary Doer, Former Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.**
- **Governor Greg Gianforte, Governor of Montana**
- **Senator Jon Tester, U.S. Senator for the State of Montana**
- **Congressman Matt Rosendale, U.S. Representative of Montana**
- **Neel Kashkari, President & CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**
- **Justin Maxson, Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- **Consul General Brandon Lee, Consulate General of Canada in Seattle**
- **Consul General Sylvain Fabi, Consulate General of Canada in Denver**
- **Scotty Greenwood, CEO of the Canadian American Business Council**
- **Cam Sholly, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park**
- **Bill Avey, Acting Director of Fire and Aviation Management for the U.S. Forest Service**

MORE

The PNWER Summit will also highlight a wide array of regional issues throughout the conference. The following are some of the critical issues that delegates will address in targeted sessions:

- **Regional economic recovery, especially hard-hit sectors like tourism**
- **Electric and natural gas utility CEOs to discuss regional challenges and opportunities in ensuring long-term energy infrastructure and resource adequacy while achieving state and national environmental and other policy goals**
- **Innovative technologies to address energy and infrastructure challenges**
- **Continuing dialogue on renewable energy and supply chains**
- **Necessity of investment in broadband infrastructure for post-COVID economic recovery**
- **Transportation infrastructure and innovations**
- **Ongoing Columbia River Treaty negotiations**
- **Increasing costs of wildfires, wildfire mitigation and response, and discussion of current wildfire policies as well as needed legislation**

“This conference will be a chance for us all to get together again with our friends and colleagues from across the region,” said Senator Mike Cuffe, Montana State Senator and President of PNWER. “We can shake hands and sit down face-to-face which I have missed over this past year! We have a great program planned on a number of topics that are important to Montana.”

“PNWER has long been a valuable forum for substantive discussion of infrastructure and other shared interests across the region – on both sides of the border. Over the past year, PNWER shifted its work online. Now we can resume that work at Big Sky and online. It’s been a privilege to work with Senator Cuffe and the PNWER team during a time that called for focus and creativity,” said Montana Host Committee Private Sector Co-Chair, Bob Rowe, CEO of NorthWestern Energy.

For more information on the Summit, visit www.pnwer.org/2021-summit.

Download a media accreditation form and backgrounder at www.pnwer.org/2021-media.

ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit organization created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and the 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. For more information on PNWER, visit www.pnwer.org.

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