



## *Pacific NorthWest Economic Region*

---

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

July 11, 2023

### **32nd Annual Cross-Border Economic Summit to be Held in Boise, July 16-20**

Over 450 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](#)'s (PNWER) 32nd Annual Summit in Boise, Idaho, from July 16-20. This bi-national hybrid event will bring together delegates from the U.S. and Canada to discuss North American energy and food security and sustainability, regional infrastructure, critical minerals, workforce housing, emergency management directors roundtable, agriculture directors roundtable, passenger rail, and more.

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

- **Ambassador David Wilkins, Partner, Nelson Mullins, and former U.S. Ambassador to Canada**
- **Ambassador David Jacobson, Vice Chair, BMO Financial Group, and former U.S. Ambassador to Canada**
- **Ambassador Gary Doer, Senior Business Advisor, Dentons, and former Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.**
- **Governor Brad Little, State of Idaho**
- **Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke, State of Idaho**
- **Minister Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Government of British Columbia**
- **Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck, State of Washington**
- **Minister Sandy Silver, Minister of Finance, Government of Yukon**
- **Scotty Greenwood, President and CEO, Canadian American Business Council**
- **Halimah Najieb-Locke, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Resilience, U.S. Department of Defense**
- **State and Provincial Legislators**

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

- **Developing a Bi-National Framework on Energy Security and Sustainability**
- **Finding Innovative Solutions toward Food Security and Meeting Global Demand**
- **Critical Minerals & the Future of North American Security and Sustainability**
- **Roundtable of State Department of Agriculture and Provincial Agriculture Leaders**
- **Roundtable of State and Provincial Emergency Management Directors**

Additionally, PNWER's [Regional Infrastructure Accelerator \(RIA\)](#) Program and the City of Boise are partnering to co-host the region's second annual Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit on July 19 and 20 in Boise during the PNWER Annual Summit. This joint track will focus on the economic benefits of robust railroad infrastructure for both freight and passenger rail. Afternoon technical assistance sessions will help attendees understand current funding and financing opportunities available, and how the Northwest can strategically invest in rail for future regional economic prosperity.

### **FOR MEDIA**

Fill out the media credential form and access PNWER backgrounder and other materials at [www.pnwer.org/2023-summit-media](http://www.pnwer.org/2023-summit-media). For more information on the Summit and to view the full agenda, visit [www.pnwer.org/2023-summit](http://www.pnwer.org/2023-summit).

### **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](http://www.pnwer.org).

###