

About PNWER

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) provides a trusted platform for collaboration among public, private, academic, Indigenous and non-profit partners, enabling the region to navigate shared challenges and pursue common goals. PNWER was created in 1991 by the U.S. states of Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon; and the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

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.



Lead Delegate

Rep. DeLena Johnson
U.S. Vice President

Educating Energy Policymakers

PNWER is a founding member of the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI), which **educates state and**

provincial policymakers and governors' advisors on the North American energy infrastructure and delivery system. Over the past ten years, more than 500 legislators from across the U.S. and Canada have graduated from this important course focused on North American energy infrastructure and delivery systems. 36 policymakers and staff from Alaska have graduated from LEHI.

Strengthening Cross-Border Trading Relationships

PNWER is actively engaged in the joint review process of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) occurring in 2026. Meetings with Alaska businesses, chambers of commerce and policymakers are informing data-driven recommendations to improve the agreement and flow of goods between the U.S. and Canada.

The Alaska legislature passed a "Recognizing Alaska/Canada Relationship" resolution in July underscoring the vital trade and community connections between Alaska and its neighboring jurisdictions.

Federal Engagement

PNWER leadership met with U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan and Congressman Nick Begich in Washington, D.C. to provide updates on work in Alaska and strengthen connections with delegates from neighboring jurisdictions.



Amplifying Regional Tourism Opportunities

PNWER established a Regional Tourism Council (RTC) in 2023 to promote bilateral coordination between the U.S. and Canada. **The RTC convenes regional leaders to facilitate cross-sector dialogue and contribute to the success of our region as a leader of responsible, sustainable and resilient tourism.** The RTC is composed of an elected official and an industry representative from each PNWER jurisdiction. Idaho's representatives on the RTC are Senator Jesse Kiehl and Tanya Carlson from ATIA.



Innovating the Regional Travel Experience

With grant funding from Pacific Economic Development Canada, PNWER developed a **destination management strategy to improve cross-border travel across the Pacific Northwest.** The funding also is supporting the development of an innovative AI “Know Before You Go” tool that provides information on travel entry and customs requirements for the U.S. and Canada. Explore the tool with the code on the left.

Connecting Transportation Networks - Regional Infrastructure Accelerator

The PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT Build America Bureau. The PNWER RIA provides technical expertise on innovative financing tools for infrastructure upgrades across Alaska. **Regionally, the program delivers education on transportation systems and creative funding models on supply chain and passenger mobility projects that support economic development.**

The PNWER RIA partners with Alaska Municipal League to provide on-the-ground technical assistance in Alaska.

This year, the RIA hosted:

- Virtual “crash course” on federal financing tools
- Briefing on federal surface transportation legislation reauthorization
- Cross-sector educational briefings on regionally-critical topics

Expanding Economic Corridors and Marine Connections

The 2025 Annual Summit featured several multimodal transportation sessions featuring Alaska's trade and transportation network. Representative Kevin McCabe joined a session on economic corridors with policymakers and industry leaders from across the Alaska-Canada west-east corridor for a discussion on the development of multimodal trade corridors.

Senator Jesse Kiehl provided a detailed policy perspective on Alaska's maritime trade corridors during a session on ensuring resilience in supply chains. The panel explored ways to increase resilience in port infrastructure and marine highways that connect Alaska and Washington.

