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US-Canada Relationship Tops Summit Outcomes Cross Border Leaders Release Statement on Tariffs

600 legislators and business leaders attended Economic Summit in Spokane, WA. Spokane, For Immediate Release: The [2018 Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit](#) brought together 600 business and government leaders from across the five states, five provinces and territories that make up the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER). The week long Summit examined the top issues impacting the regional cross border economy.

Many discussions at the Summit focused on the importance of modernizing NAFTA and the impact of recent tariffs on the regional economy. "The Pacific Northwest economy is inextricably woven together. We must work together to find regional solutions to the many challenges we are facing," said, Matt Morrison, Executive Director for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER).

At the conclusion of the Summit, PNWER released the following statement on tariffs.

We believe that new unilateral tariffs between the US and Canada go against the principles of free and fair trade and only harm industries in both countries. When markets are open and goods are transported freely across borders, the result is economic growth, new businesses and more and better job opportunities for individuals.

In addition, over 20 different working group sessions took place at the Summit on a wide range of issues including Transportation, Energy, Tourism, Agriculture, Workforce, Border issues and Innovation. You can find a complete list of action items coming out of the 2018 Summit on the PNWER website at

http://www.pnwer.org/uploads/2/3/2/9/23295822/2018_action_items_final.pdf

Another highlight of the week-long meeting included a listening session conducted in Spokane in reference to the current ongoing [Columbia River Treaty](#) negotiations. Lead negotiators present were Sylvain Fabi, Executive Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs, Global Affairs Canada and Jim Smail, Columbia River Treaty Negotiator, Office of Canadian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Stakeholders shared the benefits and impacts of the treaty focusing on areas including ecosystems, tribal groups, utilities, tourism, agriculture, irrigation, recreation, transportation and more.

Two Columbia River Treaty policy level tours were also conducted for legislators and regional stakeholders as part of the summit agenda which included a trip to Grand Coulee Dam and a two day Study Tour to British Columbia to see the impact of the treaty firsthand. These discussions helped the region better understand the benefits and challenges each side of the border faces in relation to the treaty.

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ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private organization created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and 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 and on the Summit itself, www.pnwer.org/2018summit.