

PNWER convenes Arctic Policy Leaders in D.C.

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) hosted the Fifth Annual North American Arctic Leaders Forum on March 3 at the U.S. Capitol.

The event provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss national priorities in the Arctic, sustainable development for Arctic people and North American, as well as global, perspectives on this increasingly important region.

Participants included the entire Alaska congressional delegation, key officials from the U.S. and Canada, Arctic policy experts and private sector stakeholders.

Alaska State Rep. Bob Herron, chair of the PNWER Arctic Caucus, shared insights on the importance of North American leadership in Arctic policy and the critical role the region plays in the U.S. and Canada.

As in the past, Sen. Lisa Murkowski was instrumental in planning and executing the event, and we were honored to hear from her and from U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan and U.S. Rep. Don Young. The delegation agreed that Alaskans need to be part of Arctic climate change and energy policy developed by the federal government. They stressed the strategic importance of Alaska to the U.S. and the importance of including local voices into any policy affecting the Arctic.

Admiral Robert Papp Jr. (ret.), Arctic Special Representative for the U.S. Department of State, discussed the United States' Arctic priorities and the One Arctic theme as the US chairs the Arctic Council.



From left to right: U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, PNWER VP Rep. Mike Cuffe, MT and Rep. Bob Herron, AK

John Higginbotham, senior distinguished fellow at Carleton University and senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, closed out the session with a talk on the Arctic from both global and North American perspectives, challenging both governments to invest greater resources in responding to common challenges in the North American Arctic.

PNWER's [Arctic Caucus](#) will meet next on July 18 in Calgary during our next [Annual Summit](#).



U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Alaska Congressional Delegation offered perspectives on U.S. Arctic policy at the forum.

Presentations

- Rep. Bob Herron: [National & Subnational Arctic Policy - Alaska Perspective](#)
- Arthur Mason: [Inside the Arctic Energy Salon: The Social Life of a Promise-Disappointment Cycle](#)
- Drue Pearce: [Sustainable Development and Economic Security in the Arctic](#)