

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Kelsey Larson  
(206) 443-7723  
[Kelsey@Pnwer.org](mailto:Kelsey@Pnwer.org)

### **Washington Sen. Kevin Ranker Passes the Gavel to New PNWER President**

Washington State Senator Kevin Ranker, President of PNWER for the 2013 – 2014 year, has formally passed the gavel to incoming President the Honourable David Ramsay, Northwest Territories Minister of Minister of Justice and Industry, Tourism, and Investment, as well as Minister responsible for the NWT Public Utilities Board.

The PNWER president heads the executive committee, which is the decision-making body of PNWER. The president also represents the organization in annual visits to Washington, D.C., Ottawa, and state and provincial capitals within the region. The PNWER president and vice-president must be elected officials. These two posts alternate annually between elected legislators from the United States and Canada.

Sen. Ranker's many achievements during his PNWER presidency have been a highlight of his tenure in the position. Under Sen. Ranker's leadership:

- PNWER kicked off 2014 with visits to four of the region's capitals, and brought a significant delegation this June to Ottawa to discuss the Region's concerns with our federal ministers. We also held our third Arctic Forum at the US Capital Building in Washington, DC with many of our members and the entire Congressional delegation from Alaska.
- We held the first ever Climate and Energy Dialogue in Banff, Alberta in November where representatives from all our jurisdictions discussed ways we can lower our carbon footprint by working together.
- We held the Sixth Annual Legislative Leadership Academy during our Winter Meeting in Banff, Alberta which helps leaders in both countries understand the practical differences between our two political systems.
- PNWER has continued to provide input from regional stakeholders to both federal governments for the Beyond the Border Initiative and Regulatory Cooperation Council announced by President Obama and Prime Minister Harper in February 2011.
- Together with our partners, including the University of Idaho, US Department of Energy, and Natural Resources Canada, and the National Conference of State Legislators, PNWER expanded the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) certificate program from a two-year course to an annual program. This program is designed for legislators to understand how the region's energy infrastructure functions, and is a great example of how PNWER has been proactive to fill an important need. The 4th LEHI class will commence this August in Richland, WA.

"PNWER is the best example there is of what can be accomplished when states, provinces and countries work together to advance the goals of their governments, businesses and their people," Ranker said. "It was an absolute honor and privilege to serve as President of such an exemplary organization that will only continue to thrive under President Ramsey's leadership.

"My time with PNWER is far from over. I will do everything I can to continue to maximize the potential of our beautiful corner of the world for the betterment of our district, our state and our country."

PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison said, "Sen. Ranker has been an outstanding leader for the state of Washington, and has put an outstanding effort into working regionally to find solutions to cross-border issues."

### **ABOUT THE PNWER SUMMIT**

Over 500 state and provincial legislators, business and civic leaders, and local government organizations are meeting this week in Whistler, BC for the 24th Annual PNWER Summit. Working Sessions will focus on topics including: LNG Exports, Energy and Environment, Invasive Species, Agriculture, Innovation, Trade and Economic Development, Mining, Tourism, Water Policy, and Workforce Development. A special session will feature the US Ambassador to Canada and the Canadian Ambassador to the US on the Canada-US Border. Another special session will bring together state, provincial, local, and federal jurisdictions from both nations to examine the Columbia River Treaty. For the detailed agenda, go to: <http://www.pnwer.org/2014summit.html>

### **ABOUT PNWER**

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit 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.