

PNWER WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

AGRICULTURE



Larry Doke, MLA
Saskatchewan



Patrick Kole
Vice President
Idaho Potato Commission

Purpose: Provides input on agriculture trade issues to key decision makers in Ottawa and D.C. Focuses on agriculture trade with a primary examination of the USMCA and the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Action Plan.

BORDER



Sen. Mike Cuffe
Montana



Laurie Trautman
Director
Border Policy Research Institute

Purpose: Serves as a top forum for U.S.-Canada border coordination and collaboration by providing input on preclearance and recommendations for potential pilots in our region.

CROSS-BORDER LIVESTOCK HEALTH



Dr. Tahnee Szymanski
Asst. State Vet
State of Montana



Janice Tranberg
President and CEO
AB Cattle Feeders Assoc



David Moss
General Manager
Canadian Cattleman's Assoc

Purpose: Exchanges information on animal health issues and emergency response to emerging and foreign animal diseases. Develops a common understanding of disease policies,

DISASTER RESILIENCE



Rep. Cindy Ryu
Washington



Brad Richy
Director
ID Office of Emergency Management

Purpose: Works to create public-private partnerships, develop action plans, and undertake pilot projects and activities to improve regional disaster resilience cooperation and emergency preparedness.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Richard Gotfried, MLA
Alberta



Gynii Gilliam
President
Jobs Plus Inc.

Purpose: Shares case studies of initiatives that can be replicated, including innovative financing opportunities, rural economic development, Indigenous business development, and urban-to-rural economic drivers.

ENERGY



Rep. Derek Skees
Montana



Dan Kirschner
Executive Director
Northwest Gas Association

Purpose: Strives to find ways to provide sustainable energy for North America that is clean, safe, affordable, and reliable while meeting low carbon targets and lowering the region's overall carbon footprint.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Rick Glumac, MLA
Premier's Liaison to WA State
British Columbia



Paul Manson
CEO
DC Grid Development Corporation

Purpose: Addresses the convergence of environmental sustainability and economic development, while promoting the region's competitiveness in addressing environmental challenges with innovative solutions.

FORESTRY



Sonya Germann
State Forester
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources



Travis Joseph
President
American Forest Resource Council

Purpose: Promotes collaboration between forest managers, landholders, legislators, agency staff, non-profits, and academics dedicated to healthy and sustainable forest management, conservancy, and wood products research.

INNOVATION



Sen. Mia Costello
Alaska



Nirav Desai
CEO
Moonbeam Exchange

Purpose: Channels the strengths of the region's resources into a collaborative, comprehensive effort to maximize economic benefit and respond to the competitive landscape of the global economy.

INVASIVE SPECIES



Rep. Terry Gestrin
Idaho



Kate Wilson
Commission Admin
MT Dept. of Nat. Resources and Conservation

Purpose: Establishes a regional defense against invasive species threats by bringing together state and provincial partners to collaborate on initiatives and coordinate on strategic partnerships and information-sharing.

MINING



Sen. Keith Regier
Montana



Tammy Johnson
Montana Mining Association

Purpose: Identifies best practices for environmental sustainability while fostering responsible economic development, engaging with Indigenous groups to improve the quality of life in the region.

TOURISM



Sen. Michelle Stennett
Idaho



Dave Cowen
CEO
The Butchart Gardens

Purpose: Develops a more interconnected tourism region and facilitates collaboration among industry and public partners throughout the region. Tourism is one of the largest economic drivers in several PNWER jurisdictions.

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TRADE



Sen. Mike Cuffe
Montana



Laurie Trautman
Director
Border Policy Research Institute

Purpose: Works with stakeholders to provide input to federal partners on issues impacting trade between the U.S. and Canada, including the USMCA, the impact of tariffs, and the regulatory cooperation council (RCC).

TRANSPORTATION



Sen. Chuck Winder
Idaho



Bruce Agnew
Director
Cascadia Center

Purpose: Collaborates on public policy of transportation corridors and gateways, shares best practices on technology development, infrastructure financing, and addresses the challenges of multi-modal market access to global markets.

WATER POLICY



Sen. Jim Honeyford
Washington



David Hill
Director of Development
University of Lethbridge

Purpose: Addresses regional water policy issues and connects legislators, private-sector, and universities to identify best practices to improve water security, climate change adaptation, and water storage options.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Sen. Lisa Wellman
Washington



Russ Kinghorn
Director to Engineers
Engineers and Geoscientists of BC

Purpose: Provides member policymakers, governments, academia, and industry with ideas and advice in support of regional workforce policies that promote education, worker retention, and mobility within the region.



Clockwise from top right: Innovation co-chairs AK Sen. Mia Costello; Nirav Desai, CEO of Moonbeam; Steve Myers PNWER Senior Program Manager; and Margaret O'Mara from the University of Washington have a virtual PNWER Innovation working group planning session.