

Final Report

**Minister Mel Knight and MLA George Groeneveld
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) State Capital Visit
Olympia, Washington
January 17-18, 2011**

Overview:

Minister Mel Knight, PNWER President, and MLA George Groeneveld, Chair of the Alberta PNWER Delegate Council, served as Alberta's legislative delegation during meetings with state legislators and the PNWER State Capital Visit to Olympia, Washington, January 17-18, 2011.

Mission Objectives:

The mission was successful in meeting the following objectives:

1. Profile to Washington legislators and officials that Alberta is a resourceful, responsible energy producer and a strong supporter of greater economic co-operation with the U.S.
2. Explore areas of mutual interest and opportunities to enhance trade in the Pacific Northwest.
3. Highlight the importance of efficient trade corridors between Alberta and the U.S. that includes efficient movement of goods through the border.
4. Promote Alberta-U.S. ties.

Results:

On January 17, 2011, Minister Knight and MLA Groeneveld, in conjunction with the Canadian Consulate General Office in Seattle, held a roundtable with 10 Washington State legislators, officials from state agencies, and the private sector to discuss energy security and responsible development of Alberta's energy resources and the oil sands, low carbon fuel standards and related topics. This was the second meeting that Alberta has undertaken with Washington legislators and officials on energy policy since July 2010. Washington legislators were very appreciative of the meeting and delved into a variety of issues including pipeline projects and equipment shipments, break-even prices for oil sands production, and relative carbon footprint of oil sands crude. They stressed the importance of getting the message out to Americans about the role of Canadian energy.

On January 18, 2011, Minister Knight and MLA Groeneveld participated in PNWER's visits with a wide variety of Washington legislators. This provided an opportunity to discuss regional and current issues such as U.S. and Canadian budget challenges and the recovery from the recession. In addition, Alberta's progress in terms of energy and oil sands development and the commitment by the province as a responsible and secure supplier of energy to the U.S. was highlighted. Meetings were held with Washington's Lieutenant Governor, House and Senate leadership officials, and legislators from various committees.

Delegation:

Honourable Mel Knight
Minister, Sustainable Resource Development

George Groeneveld
MLA, Highwood

Stacey Leighton
Executive Secretary, Office of the Minister
Sustainable Resource Development