12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL

# LEGISLATORS FORUM

JUNE 20-22, 2012 - GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

MANITOBA | MINNESOTA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA

# 12th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS FORUM

Wednesday, June 20 - Friday, June 22, 2012
Grand Forks, North Dakota

## Background

The **International Legislators Forum (ILF)** is an annual meeting of legislators from Manitoba, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. It provides an opportunity for delegates to share information, understand problems, build relationships, and develop collaborative agreements on a wide variety of issues relevant to the participating jurisdictions. Forums have been hosted in Winnipeg and Gimli, Manitoba; St. Paul and Moorhead, Minnesota; Brookings and Pierre, South Dakota; and Fargo, Bismarck and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The Legislators Forum grew out of the International Flood Mitigation Initiative (IFMI), which developed agreements to mitigate flooding in the Red River Basin following the 1997 flood. However, through its annual meetings, the Legislators' Forum has considered many other issues on a much broader range of topics that have directly impacted the region. These discussions have addressed water quantity and quality, regional energy production and transmission, renewable fuels, human and animal health and food safety, methamphetamines, rural access to health care, broadband technology, outmigration and immigration, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), tourism and other public policy issues. Over the years, the delegates have found that their jurisdictions have mutual concerns and similarities (even across an international boundary) and that programs and efforts that originate in one jurisdiction to deal with public policy issues can be useful in other jurisdictions.

The discussions during the annual meetings have transcended politics and ideology and have been practical and common sense in their approaches. Additionally, the delegates have formed long-lasting friendships that have enabled them to stay in touch and to help each other deal with their shared challenges.

The Forum's 12th annual meeting was hosted in Grand Forks, North Dakota, June 20 – 22, 2012. 25 legislators (see sidebar) from the four jurisdictions attended the 2012 Forum that addressed **energy** (production, future needs, transmission, regulation, etc.), **water** (the Red River and Missouri River Basins), and **cross-border** trade issues (economic impact, the Beyond the Borders Initiative, policies, regulation, etc.).

*In an effort to be more environmentally sensitive, reduce printing costs, utilize available technology, and provide a document array that is concise and user-friendly, the final report from the 2012 International Legislators Forum is being presented in a summary format with supporting materials available online.*

*The event information will be offered in this summary document, while the presentations (including a synopsis provided by each presenter) and the key points from the follow up discussions will be posted by topic on the Consensus Council's website: http://www.agree.org/ilf/*

*The recommendations and conclusions developed by the participants will be featured in the concluding section of this publication.*

*All ancillary materials (including biographical and contact information on delegates, dignitaries and presenters, handouts and other meeting materials, and links to related documents) will also be available on the website. Actual presentation materials are displayed according to the issue (water, energy, trade) in files identified by the name of the presenter. These files include copies of the actual PowerPoint presentations and a brief synopsis of the presentation. Any additional handout materials related to the topic/presentation will also be found in the respective file*

# WORKING EVENTS:

## Wednesday, June 20, 2012

### Pre-Meeting Activities

**Pre-Meeting Tour – "Flood Mitigation on the Red" – Highlights of What Has Been Done in the Grand Forks Area and How It's Working**

A guided, pre-meeting tour of the Grand Forks area provided delegates, spouses, staff, and the members of the Dutch delegation (see sidebar) with an opportunity to review the flood mitigation and recovery efforts. **Kevin Dean** from the Grand Forks Information Office, and **Kim Greendahl**, Grand Forks Greenway Specialist served as tour guides, providing information and answering questions on the 2-hour bus and walking excursion through residential, commercial, recreational and improved areas of the flood plain (bios and a tour itinerary may be viewed on the website).

**ILF Steering Committee Meeting**

Members of the ILF Steering Committee (see sidebar) met briefly prior to the Forum to review the agenda and finalize the logistics and arrangements.

**Opening Reception**

The delegates, spouses, presenters and staff gathered for an informal reception at the University of North Dakota (UND) Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) where they were offered refreshments and received a warm welcome from Senator **Ronald Sorvaag** (R-ND), Representative **Lois Delmore** (D-ND) and UND President, **Dr. Robert Kelley. Tom Dennis**, a former member of the International Flood Mitigation Initiative welcomed the members of the Dutch Delegation and provided some background remarks. This was followed by a response from **Ingwer de Boer**, the Netherlands, General Director, "Room for the River" project. **Dr. Gerald Groenewold**, Executive Director of the EERC, offered a presentation of the center's work along with a brief tour of some of the facilities.

## Thursday, June 21, 2012

### Plenary Sessions - UND Center for Innovation/James Ray Idea Lab

**Opening**

On behalf of the host state, Representative Lois Delmore (D-ND) welcomed the delegates and officially opened the 12th Annual International Legislators Forum. The delegates completed a round of self-introductions, reviewed the consensus-based decision-making process and related rules, and the meeting agenda and materials.

**Plenary Sessions**

Each session featured presentations provided by individuals distinguished by their knowledge and experience relevant to the topic or track. Following each presentation, time was provided for the delegates to engage the presenters in an interactive dialogue regarding their materials and respective presentations. Summaries of the observations made during the follow-up discussions are posted on the website, organized by issue tracks and presenters. (Please note: The presenter and dignitary bios, contact information, PowerPoint presentations, presentation synopses, handout materials and the key points identified during the follow-up discussions are posted on the website – http://www.agree.org/ilf/).

# ENERGY; WATER; AND CROSS-BORDER TRADE

## Energy Issues

**Updates on the Energy Roadmap with follow up commentary from two industry executives and a review of the progress and successes regarding transmission issues and future industry needs.**

**"The Energy Road Map – An Update"** - The Powering the Plains Initiative and the Energy Roadmap (developed in response to a 2004 Legislators Forum resolution).

- **Brendan Jordan**, Program Director, Bioenergy and Transportation Programs, Great Plains Institute

"Perspectives from the Private Sector" - The perspectives and reflections of two energy industry executives on the energy Roadmap, its progress toward implementation from the standpoint of their respective industries (electric power and bio-energy).

- **"The Future Power Supply"** - **Tom Heller**, CEO, Missouri River Energy
- **"Cellulosic Ethanol – From Green Shoots to Steel"** - **Greg Ridderbusch**, Vice President/Business Development and Strategy, Great River Energy

**"Energy Transmission - Progress and Opportunities for the 21st Century"** - An overview and progress report on regional transmission issues (cost allocation, approval and implementation of multi-value regional transmission projects, implications of federal EPA and FERC regulations, transmission planning between Midwest and other regions, opportunities for Smart Grid, integration of renewables, and electricity storage).

- **Brad Crabtree**, Policy Director, Great Plains Institute

## Water Issues

**<u>The Red River Basin</u>: Cross-jurisdictional water management, efforts and needs, issues and successes including water quality, water flow, coordinated efforts, challenges, barriers and recommendations.**

- **"The Basin and the Flood Report"** - An Overview of the Watershed Flow and Flooding including the final ND/MN Long-term Flood Report. **Lance Yohe**, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission

**"Quality: Nutrient Management"** – An overview of the Basin-wide Nutrient Management Plan. **Nicole Armstrong**, MB Conservation and Water Stewardship

- **"Supply: The Other Side of the Cycle"** – A discussion of water supply issues relative to drought and the potential of cross-jurisdictional apportionment agreements. Representative **Morrie Lanning** (R-MN)

**The Missouri River Basin:** A description of the current status, the complexity of issues, water management, plans and initiatives, basin-to-basin transfer concerns and specific suggestions on jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional responses from the perspective of the state (North Dakota) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

- **"A North Dakota Perspective" - Michelle Klose,** Assistant State Engineer, North Dakota State Water Commission

- **"The Corps Perspective - Lessons Learned from 2011 Flood of Record" - Kevin Grode,** Reservoir Regulation Team Lead, USACE, Northwestern Division's Missouri River Basin Water Management Office

## Cross-Border Trade Issues

**An overview of cross-border trade and the Beyond the Border initiative followed by the perspective of individuals/organizations that are engaged in the daily activities of cross-border trade and the impact of pre-border clearance efforts.**

**"The Big Picture"** - A high-level overview of cross-border trade from the U.S. and Canadian Consuls, including the history and the importance of our trading partnerships, its prosperity and economic benefits, and ideas for how regional legislators can be involved.

- **Timothy L. Cipullo**, Consul & Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate Winnipeg

- **Michael Flaherty**, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, Office of the Consul General of Canada, Minneapolis

**"The Day-to-Day Issues"** – The perspective of individuals and organizations that are engaged in the daily activities of cross-border trade and the potential positive impact of pre-border clearance models - how provincial/state initiatives can improve the flow of goods across the border.

- **Reynold Martens**, Executive Vice President, GHY International, President, GHY USA, Inc.

- **Diane Gray**, CEO, CentrePort Canada

# OTHER EVENTS:

**The delegates, spouses, guests, presenters and dignitaries attended a number of events designed to offer them opportunities to socialize, engage in discussions, interact, share information and build relationships throughout the Forum. These events included:**

## Opening Day Luncheon

Mayor **Michael Brown** (Grand Forks, ND) welcomed the participants to an opening day luncheon. He offered the hospitality of his city and acknowledged the historical and policy connections between the Red River, the City of Grand Forks and the Legislators Forum.

Former North Dakota Lt. Governor, **Lloyd Omdahl**, provided the luncheon address sharing with the participants his perspectives and provocative questions regarding civility in our political systems and society.

## Social and Dinner

On Thursday evening, the participants shared dinner and time together at the North Dakota Museum of Art. Senator **Ronald Sorvaag** (R-ND) and Representative **Lois Delmore** (D-ND) welcomed everyone and introduced the dignitaries and guests. **Timothy Cipullo**, Consul & Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate Winnipeg, and **Michael Flaherty**, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, Office of the Consul General of Canada, Minneapolis, provided remarks outlining the unique, historical and mutually rewarding friendship and trade relationship between the United States and Canada. Besides an opportunity to socialize and browse the various exhibits, the participants paused to honor and remember the late Senator **Tom Fischer** (R-ND), a long-time Forum steering committee member, participant, and friend, with the presentation of a plaque to his widow, **Margaret Mowery**.

## Legislators' Breakfast

**Discussions & Reflections**

The Legislators took advantage of their breakfast on Friday morning to hold private discussions on various areas of interest.

# FROM THE FLOOR:

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

This section provides a list of the items identified and agreed upon by the delegates during their final session of the Forum.

## TRADE

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The delegates of the 2012 International Legislators' Forum:

- ***Acknowledge and support*** the need for better education and sharing of information regarding initiatives (such as the Beyond the Border Working Group), legislative and program progress, and the coordination and harmonization of policies, regulations and standards. These efforts should:

  - Assure two-way communications between businesses, constituents and other policymakers;

  - Emphasize the harmonization of policies and regulations (internal to each jurisdiction and external to other jurisdictions) that recognize and promote understanding and collaborative solutions that are efficient, effective and economical; and

  - Increase opportunities to improve understanding.

- ***Support*** the use and expansion of the "Trusted Trader" status program – realizing that some areas will lend themselves more effectively to this approach than others – and the consideration of actions and opportunities to support agricultural trade including issues specifically related to livestock and the country of origin labeling (COOL);

- ***Recommend*** the development of broad-based partnerships to explore, support and promote ways to improve, simplify, and harmonize regulations and streamline processes;

- ***Stress*** the importance of trade and ***promote*** the consistent recognition of the interconnected nature of trade and trade relationships in all legislative initiatives;

• ***Promote and support*** the exploration and development of coordinated efforts with models such as CentrePort Canada to improve overall efficiencies and day-to-day trade activities; and

• ***Support*** the "Beyond the Borders" initiative.

## WATER

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The delegates of the 2012 International Legislators Forum:

• ***Recommend*** that legislators continue to discuss drought issues, affirm the existing activities of states and provinces, and explore, research and promote the development of apportionment agreements for surface and ground water, including the review of existing models;

• ***Request*** further information and education regarding retention options (wetland development, tiling, etc.) as a strategy for both sides of the cycle;

• ***Support and affirm*** the Red River Basin Commission's "Long Term Flood Report" and its recommendations;

• ***Agree*** that nutrient management issues must receive continued research and promote attention and coordinated action at the various governmental levels;

• ***Recognize*** the potential impact of water flow management on wildlife and ***support*** continued assessment and analysis of the interrelated effects;

• ***Recommend*** a review of the water supply allocation policies and practices for the Missouri River basin including clarification of jurisdiction and the potential for a collaborative approach;

• ***Recognize and support*** the ongoing efforts of Manitoba to achieve overall consistency in their LIDAR mapping activities; and

• ***Request*** additional information and a comprehensive report on the current health of the waterways and bodies throughout the region, including identification of problems and their causes, remedies, and wetland/wildlife issues.

## ENERGY

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The delegates of the 2012 International Legislators Forum:

• ***Recommend and support*** the development of clear, consistent, and stable energy policies and regulations that integrate all energy supply options and is market-driven and technologically sound;

• ***Support*** the study of options for co-location of energy infrastructure (pipelines and transmission lines, etc.); and,

• ***Support*** the continued research and development of hydrogen as an alternative fuel source.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS:

The delegates of the 2012 International Legislators Forum:

• Expressed their interest in ongoing communications to provide updates and alerts to all legislators regarding pending and proposed legislation, policies and progress;

• Requested that all delegates be added to the EERC's newsletter mailing list;

• Identified the following topics for consideration by the Steering Committee for inclusion in the 2013 ILF agenda:

- Water cycles, drought and an update on current apportionment efforts;
- Information about fracking;

- An update from CentrePort Canada;

- Information regarding efforts and activities to clarify the water allocation policies and practices in the Red and Missouri River basins;

- A report on the overall health of the water bodies in the region; and

- A presentation regarding soil health, runoff, water tables and their impact upon nutrient management.

## Adjourn – 2013 in Manitoba

Delegates were asked to complete an evaluation form and provide any additional suggestions they may have for future issues/topics.

They were thanked for their attendance and participation and the Manitoba delegation invited everyone to the 13th Annual International Legislators Forum in Manitoba.

The 2012 International Legislators Forum was adjourned by consensus of the delegates.

## Media Conference

A brief media conference followed the adjournment of the Forum. Members of the local media interviewed representatives of each of the four jurisdictions.

## LEGISLATORS' FORUM ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS/FOCUS

**During all annual meetings of the Legislators' Forum, water issues have been a topic of conversation in the context of flooding, drought and water quality. In addition, each year has had a specific focus and at least one highlight issue. Those issues include:**

***MB 2001*** **- Sponsorship of 2 Nations Tours, a program among the four jurisdictions that continues today.**

***MN 2002*** **- Memorandum of Understanding among legislative leaders in the four jurisdictions to meet annually and provide substantial support for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (and analogous programs in Canada) in order to address flooding, drought and water quality issues.**

***SD 2003*** **- Establishment of a regional renewable fuels working group called Powering the Plains (PTP) and beginning efforts to bring emergency management officials from the four jurisdictions together to enhance cooperation and coordination across borders.**

***ND 2004*** **- Beginning of significant efforts to study methamphetamine and pharmaceutical issues across borders in order to address addiction issues and alternatives to incarceration.**

***MB 2005*** **- Building on the agreements to address methamphetamine issues across borders, broadened the discussion to include addressing all inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues together.**

***MN 2006*** **- Emphasized the importance of basing water related public policy issues on sound science. Supported the efforts of the four jurisdictions' Attorneys General to address methamphetamine and criminal justice issues and their signing of an inter-jurisdictional Amber Alert MOU to enhance mobilization in the case of child abduction.**

***SD 2007*** **- Provided broad support for the Regional Energy Roadmap that had been developed by the PTP participants, supported the enhancement of broadband technology, especially in rural areas of the four jurisdictions and expressed significant concerns to the US Department of Homeland Security and other relevant US and Canadian entities about the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).**

***ND 2008*** **- Highlighted issues related to rural community development, health and infrastructure issues, including the need for further enhancement of broadband technology in the region and continued the ongoing discussions of water (LIDAR mapping), energy and cross-border identification issues.**

***MB 2009*** **- While specifically focusing on Lake Winnipeg, the delegates developed agreements to address regional water quality and quantity issues, regional energy issues and cross-border security, identification and tourism.**

***MN 2010*** **- Discussions centered on water issues in the Red River basin and included recommendations and requests from the Red River Basin Commission regarding management, impoundment, retention and diversion. Energy, commerce, border security and the media were also highlighted.**

***SD 2011*** **- In addition to updates and discussion on the developments in the Red River Basin, the focus of the Forum was on research and development efforts within the four jurisdictions and the existing and potential opportunities for collaborative initiatives.**

# A DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION FROM THE NETHERLANDS…..

Having its origins in the International Flood Mitigation Initiative (IFMI) following the Red River flood of 1997, the 2012 International Legislators Forum became an opportunity to "close a circle" in a sense.

During the original IFMI process (1997-1998) the participants had an opportunity to visit the Netherlands, tour and learn about their historic efforts, activities and techniques in flood mitigation. Not only did the participants learn a great deal, but they were warmly welcomed and met and made some very good Dutch friends.

This year, a delegation of six individuals from the Netherland's Room for the River Programme* were touring flood mitigation projects and initiatives in the United States and with some minimal schedule and plan juggling, the timing allowed them to "sit in" on the water-related components of the Forum and attend the opening reception.

**Tom Dennis**, the opinion editor at the Grand Forks Herald and an original member of the IFMI project provided an introduction and welcome to the delegation during the reception and **Ingwer de Boer**, the General Director for the Programme Directorate Room for the River, offered the legislators a brief overview of their initiative on Thursday afternoon.

**Left to right: Hans Pieterson** (US Coordinator for the Rijkswaterstaat), **Ingwer de Boer** (General Director, Dutch Room for the River Project), **Col. William J. Leady** (Commander, Sacramento District Corps of Engineers), **Liesbeth van Riet-Paap** (Manager of Stakeholder Relations, Room for the River Project), **Ingrid Klokke** (Procurement and Risk Manager, Room for the River Project), **Rick Kuggelein** (Project Manager for Vegetation, Room for the River Project)

**Dutch Delegation:**
**Ingwer de Boer**, General Director, Room for the River
**Liesbeth van Riet Paap**, Board Member, Room for the River
**Ingrid Klokke**, Program Manager, Room for the River
**Rick Kuggeleijn**, Senior Advisor/RWS Centre for Water Management
**Hans Pietersen**, Senior Advisor/RWS Centre for Water Management

**Paul Bourget**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
**Tom Dennis**, Former Member/International Flood Mitigation Initiative

Please note: Biographies and other supplemental information regarding the Dutch delegation is posted on the website (http://www.agree.org/ilf/).

**Room for the River progremme is a government designed plan intended to address flood protection, master landscaping and the improvement of environmental conditions in the areas surrounding Holland's rivers. Completion of a basic package of forty projects is foreseen for 2015, with an overall budget of €2.2 billion.*

***Received: August 27, 2012, via email***

***"……. I would like to thank you and your colleagues very much for generously sharing your knowledge, experience and time with us. The visit of my Dutch delegation from the Room for the River Programme last June was perfectly organized and gave us a deeper understanding of the challenges and ambitions along the Red River of the North basin.***

***I really have to compliment you and your team on the excellent work you are doing. The passion, determination and commitment to the various challenges faced within the world of water management and public safety was at the very least, inspiring for us all. The additional insights gained during this visit, associated with these various water challenges have certainly left a lasting impression with us. We look back with a certain amount of awe, but mostly appreciation for the very valuable visit we made to the USA last June. ……..***

***I would appreciate if you could share our compliments to all who contributed …..***

***Kind regards,***

***Ingwer de Boer"***

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LEGISLATORS' FORUM (LF) 2001-2011

The Legislators' Forum (2001 through 2011) has discussed, developed agreements and taken action on:

• ***Secured*** a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from respective legislative leaders in all four jurisdictions to continue the annual meetings.

• ***Learned*** about differences in structure and process in the respective states and provinces.

• ***Learned*** that the delegates share many of the same issues and values and wish to learn more from each other about best practices for addressing them together.

• ***Interacted*** annually with the Canadian Consul General, based in Minneapolis, and the US Consul and Principal Officer in Winnipeg, both of whom have been significant supporters of the LF efforts.

• ***Shared*** information and agreements reached at the LF meetings with the federal governments in both countries through the respective Consuls.

• ***Sponsored*** and helped initiate what has become "2Nation Tours," involving the travel and tourism agencies of all four jurisdictions.

• ***Supported*** the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), especially in the states because it is aimed at enhancing the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the US.

• ***Supported*** the establishment of a 600-mile "Greenway" from the source of the Red River and on its tributaries to its termination in Lake Winnipeg. The efforts to develop it have expanded and continue today.

• ***Supported*** the Prairie Public Television/Radio "River Watch" program, which was linked to the Greenway and other flood control and mitigation efforts throughout the region and helped to secure multiple years of funding for that program, as well as the Greenway, from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

• ***Discussed*** mutual water quality issues and the many water quality problems that are shared among the jurisdictions and agreed that it will be essential to work together to address those issues.

• ***Advanced*** the discussion about the enhancement of renewable fuels and energy transmission capacity in the region, which was responsible, in significant part, for the work done by the Great Plains Institute (GPI), Powering the Plains (PTP) process and the work of the Midwest Governors Association.

• ***Encouraged*** agricultural harmonization legislation and regulation at the national levels in both countries and contacted the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in support of the work of the Agriculture Harmonization Working Group and broadening, expediting and prioritizing that work.

• ***Supported*** pilot projects for pesticide labeling applicable across US and Canadian borders - now applied to 3 pesticides.

• ***Authored*** letters of support to appropriate agencies in the US and Canadian federal governments to encourage the adoption of a regional inter-jurisdictional action process in case of disease outbreak to ensure the containment and quick eradication of these outbreaks in the region. These included handling food safety and security in an economical and efficient manner by using inter-jurisdictional expertise and scientific technology and brought responsible agency people from all four jurisdictions together between several annual LF meetings to begin their work together in this area.

• ***Supported*** an emergency management mutual aid agreement and emergency management experts working together across borders.

• ***Facilitated*** a meeting of the three Attorneys General and the Justice Minister to provide updates on inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues, progress on dealing with methamphetamine, and to sign an agreement to develop an "Amber Alert" system throughout the four jurisdictions to assure quick, coordinated service in the event of child abductions.

• ***Supported*** inter-jurisdictional sharing of best practices in "healthy living."

• ***Supported*** greater rural access to medicine to ensure access to appropriate health care for all citizens in the region.

• ***Encouraged*** the public and private sectors in this region to work together to enhance broadband technology and other infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

• ***Supported*** a regional effort to enhance rural and community development, beyond simply economic development and including support for immigration.

• ***Contacted*** the Department of Homeland Security, other relevant agencies and states' Congressional offices and requested that they do all they can to ensure border crossings for citizens in the US and Canada remain as seamless as possible. Emphasizing the belief that the two countries share so much in terms of history, culture, mutual relations and issues that: "Whatever decisions are made with regard to implementation (of cross-border identification requirements), there needs to be sufficient time to develop a thorough, comprehensive and accurate cost-benefit analysis of all proposed solutions; sufficient time to implement the regulations; and sufficient time to ensure that all privacy concerns are adequately addressed. Finally, the regulations need to be affordable by states and provinces and their citizens." The delegates share a belief that their input has had a significant impact on achieving the delay and reconsideration of many border-crossing identification regulations.

• ***Recommended*** the development of mutually supportive research and development initiatives and agreements that would clarify and enhance collaborative efforts.

• ***Agreed*** that water issues relative to the Red and Missouri rivers be considered and addressed from a "basin-wide" perspective

# THANK YOU!!

A number of individuals, agencies, groups, businesses and organizations provided assistance, sponsorship and expertise to support the many aspects and components of the 2012 International Legislators Forum.

Although it is not possible to identify everyone, the Steering Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who provided support and assistance in so many ways. They helped to make this year's Forum a reality and a success.

**2012 International Legislators Forum Sponsors:**

Sponsors and Events:

- Morning Breaks – Moore Engineering and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Luncheon – Barr Engineering
- Dinner – Canadian Consul General
- Box Lunches – AE2S
- General
  - Basin Electric Power Cooperative, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives & Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
  - Brookings Area Economic Development Corporation
  - Greater Grand Forks Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
  - Missouri River Energy Services
  - Red River Basin Commission
  - SD Soybean Processors

A special thanks to all of our planning group partners, the presenters and their staffs, who shared so graciously and patiently of their expertise and knowledge, and who took time from their very busy schedules to assist in planning, preparing, developing and providing information and materials.

**Facilitated by:**

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