15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS FORUM

JUNE 24-26, 2015 - DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

MANITOBA | MINNESOTA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA

2015 International Legislators Forum Jurisdictional Delegates

Manitoba

*Honourable **Gord Mackintosh**, Minister of Justice and Attorney General – St. Johns

MLA **Dave Gaudreau** (NDP) - St. Norbert

MLA **Jim Maloway** (NDP) - Elmwood

MLA **Wayne Ewasko** (PC) - Luc du Bonnet
(unable to attend)

MLA **Reg Helwer** (PC) - Brandon West
(unable to attend)

MLA **Shannon Martin** (PC) - Morris
(unable to attend)

*MLA **Dennis Smook** (PC) - La Verendrye

Minnesota

*Representative **Dan Fabian** (R) – District 01A

Representative **Ben Lien** (DFL) – District 04A

Representative **Jason Metsa** (DFL) – District 06B
(unable to attend)

Representative **Jeff Backer** (R) – District 12A

*Senator **Kent Eken** (DFL) – District 04

Senator **Lyle Koenen** (DFL) – District 17

Senator **Carrie Ruud** (R) – District 10

Senator **Bill Weber** (R) – District 22

North Dakota

*Representative **Lois Delmore** (D) - District 43

Representative **Curt Hofstad** (R) - District 15

Representative **Dennis Johnson** (R) - District 15

Representative **David Monson** (R) - District 10

Senator **Joan Heckaman** (D) - District 23
(unable to attend)

Senator **Larry Luick** (R) - District 25

Senator **Philip Murphy** (D) – District 20

Senator **Carolyn Nelson** (D) - District 21

*Senator **Ronald Sorvaag** (R) - District 45

** Identifies Members of the ILF Steering Committee*

South Dakota

Representative **Mary Duvall** (R) – District 24

Representative **Spencer Hawley** (D) - District 7
(unable to attend)

Representative **Steve McCleerey** (D) – District 1

Representative **Fred Romkema** (R) - District 31

*Representative **Roger Solum** (R) - District 05

Senator **Terri Haverly** (R) District 35

*Senator **Scott Parsley** (D) - District 08

Senator **Jim Peterson** (D) – District 4

*Senator **Larry Tidemann** (R) - District 07
(unable to attend)

Senator **Mike Vehle** (R) – District 20

15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS FORUM (ILF)

Wednesday, June 24 – Friday, June 26, 2015
Deadwood, South Dakota

Twenty-nine legislators representing North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba and Minnesota, along with support staff, experts, presenters, dignitaries and sponsors, gathered in Deadwood, South Dakota, from June 24 to June 26, 2015 for the 15th International Legislators Forum (ILF).

The International Legislators Forum is an annual opportunity for delegates to meet, learn, share information, understand problems, build relationships, and develop collaborative approaches and solutions on a wide variety of issues relevant to and affecting the participating jurisdictions. The Forum evolved from the International Flood Mitigation Initiative's (IFMI) development of agreements to mitigate flooding in the Red River Basin following the 1997 flood.

Through its annual meetings delegates have addressed a wide variety of issues related to water - quantity and quality; regional energy - production, transmission, and renewable fuels; human and animal health and food safety; methamphetamines and law enforcement; rural access to health care; broadband technology; outmigration and immigration; the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI); tourism; cross border trade; economic and workforce development; and other significant public policy issues. These efforts have resulted in agreements that have directly and indirectly impacted the region.

This year's Forum was hosted by the South Dakota delegation and focused on:

- **Transportation** (infrastructure and regulation via highways and railways);
- **Workforce and economic development** (models and efforts to address current and future needs); and
- **Water** (updates, regulations and initiatives in the Missouri River Basin).

Presenters and panelists shared their expertise, offered topic specific information and engaged the delegates in follow-up discussions and interactions (PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other materials specific to each presentation can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: *www.agree.org*.) All presentations include facilitated discussion times allowing delegates and experts to interact and discuss the topics more fully.

June 24, 2015
Wednesday

Pre-Forum Event – Sanford Underground Research Facility - Lead, SD

"Technology – Regional Leadership in Research and Learning"

The Forum began with a special pre-Forum event hosted and sponsored by the Sanford Underground Research Facility exploring the current and anticipated developments in physics technology impacting our understanding of the universe. Participants spent the afternoon engaged in a variety of presentations, tours and demonstrations featuring ongoing experiments in dark matter and dark energy, neutrinos and the imbalance between matter and anti-matter, and the development of the Black Hills State University Underground Campus.

Twenty delegates descended nearly a mile in the Homestake Mine's Yates Shaft to the Sanford Underground Research Facility and toured the MAJORANA and LUX experiments' labs.

Senator **Scott Parsley** and Representative **Roger Solum**, South Dakota's ILF Steering Committee Delegates; **Constance Walter**, Communications Director, South Dakota Science and Technology Authority; **Mandy Knight**, User Support Manager, Sanford Underground Research Lab, provided welcomes. Sanford Underground Research Facility staff and team leaders included **Matt Kapust**, Multimedia Specialist; and **Jaret Heise**, Science Director.

Opening Reception – Days of '76 Museum

Representative **Roger Solum** and Senator **Scott Parsley**, South Dakota ILF Steering Committee members, joined the Honorable **Charles Turbiville**, Mayor, Deadwood, South Dakota; the Honorable **Jerry Apa**, Mayor, Lead, South Dakota; and Calamity Jane in providing a warm welcome to the opening reception hosted by **Mark Rambow**, Development Officer of Deadwood History, Inc., and sponsored by **Mike Rodman**, Executive Director of the Deadwood Gaming Association.

June 25, 2015
Thursday

Opening

Senator **Scott Parsley** and Representative **Roger Solum**, South Dakota (host representatives on the ILF Steering Committee) welcomed delegates and observers to the first day of plenary sessions. The Forum's history and purpose were reviewed. Dignitaries, sponsors, work group members, and presenters were recognized and thanked for their time and talent.

The legislators completed a round of self-introductions. The meeting process and rules, the agenda and meeting materials were reviewed. (Note: This is the second year the Forum utilized a fully electronic/digital approach to meeting materials and handouts. Materials were provided to meeting participants on a flash drive and/or were accessible directly on the Consensus Council's website - ***www.agree.org***.)

Plenary Sessions: Day One

Water Issues

During the last few Forums the delegates expressed interest in expanding the water-based discussion and presentations to basins beyond the Red River Valley. The Forum extended its historical purview of the Red River to the Missouri River and an examination of flood control, jurisdictions of importance in managing the river, and the history of controls and policy issues (presentation PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other related materials can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***www.agree.org***).

Section #1 – The Missouri River Basin – What You Need to Know

The presenters provided a hydrological, historical, and legal overview of the Missouri River Basin.

- **Joel Galloway**, Associate Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) North Dakota Water Science Center – "An Overview of the Missouri River Basin."
- **John Cooper**, Natural Resources Consultant/Working Retiree – "The Historical Perspective."
- The Honorable Judge **John Thorson** (ret.) – "River of Promise."

Section #2 – The Missouri River – Promise and Peril

The presenters in this session provided an examination of various management and allocation policies and issues, risk management, inter-basin water transfers, a comparison of the management policies and practices of the United States and Canada, and an outline of the potential conflicts that may arise as the demands on this major resource are exercised.

- **John Cooper**, Natural Resources Consultant/Working Retiree – "Basin Management – What We Have Done."
- The Honorable Judge **John Thorson** (ret.) – "River of Peril."
- **John Davidson**, Professor of Law, University of South Dakota (USD) – "If It Can Happen, It Will."

Luncheon

The Honorable **Jerry Apa**, Mayor of Lead, South Dakota; and The Honorable **Charles Turbiville**, Mayor of Deadwood, South Dakota, welcomed the delegates to Deadwood.

Donovin Sprague, Instructor, Author, and Historian – Black Hills State University, provided the luncheon address about his personal connection to the rich history of the "Great Plains Indian Society."

Workforce Development Issues – Presentations and Discussion

The plenary session on Workforce Development consisted of a description of public-private collaboration in training and education in South Dakota, an examination of the research conclusions of early childhood development's impact on workforce development, and efforts to impact workforce development further upstream in the educational process with early childhood investments (presentation PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other related materials can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***www.agree.org***).

Section #1: Upstream Investments, Downstream Returns

Presenters provided a review of the research-based importance of early childhood development and its impact on future workforce development and programs occurring in Nebraska to proactively create parent-educator partnerships that positively impact early childhood development.

- **Carol Scott**, Chief Executive Officer, Child Care Aware of Missouri and Board Member, Child Care Aware America – "The Preschool to Prison Pipeline: Turning Off the Flow."
- **Michael Burke**, Vice President, Buffett Early Childhood Fund – "Rewards of Early Investments."

Section #2: South Dakota Workforce: Navigating the Channels

Presenters shared an overview of current public-private partnerships occurring in South Dakota in higher education and workforce development based on the needs of the economy and employers.

- **Marcia Hultman**, Secretary, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.
- **Dawn Dovre**, Director of Workforce Planning, Policy, and Public Affairs, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

Reception and Dinner

Custer State Park (Sylvan Lake Auditorium)

A reception and dinner graciously sponsored by the Consul General of Canada, Minneapolis, MN, highlighted Thursday evening.

The reception provided delegates the opportunity to network with colleagues and peers, enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills, and hear comments from **Jamshed Merchant**, Consul General of Canada, Minneapolis, MN, and **Christopher J. Gunning**, Consul and Principal Officer, United States Consulate, Winnipeg, MB.

Former South Dakota Representatives **Susan Wismer** and **Kathy Tyler** were recognized for their work as members (retiring) of the International Legislator's Forum Steering Committee.

Paul Griffin, Deputy Director, The Consensus Council, was recognized for his twelve years of service with the International Legislator's Forum.

Evening Event – Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Following the reception and dinner, delegates and guests attended the Mount Rushmore National Memorial's evening lighting ceremony.

June 26, 2015
Friday

Breakfast

Legislators (only) Breakfast

The "Legislators (only) Breakfast" is a non-facilitated event for candid delegate discussion in preparation for the "From The Floor" session.

Plenary Sessions: Day Two

Transportation Infrastructure Issues

Transportation is a recurring theme at the Forum; this session provided the delegates information on jurisdictional regulation inconsistencies, cross-border trade infrastructure improvements, road hazards due to regional oil and gas development, rail infrastructure investments, and an historical perspective on rail use in the United States and Canada (presentation PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other related materials can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***www.agree.org***).

Section #1: Highway Infrastructure

Panelists provided a review of the regulatory inconsistencies between the jurisdictions, an examination of the physical and process improvements at the Pembina-Emerson Port of Entry, and transportation safety issues related to regional oil and gas development.

- Senator **Kevin Van Tassell** (UT), Western States Transportation Alliance (WSTA) - Efforts to Harmonize Highway Regulations
- **David Lettner**, Pembina-Emerson Border Facility – Project Work and Initiatives
- **James Simmons**, Hazardous Materials Program Manager, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration - Safety Considerations and Policies

Section #2: Railway Infrastructure

The presenters provided a history of the construction, subsidization, and regulation of the railways in the United States and Canada; the growth of demand for railway services in the Upper Midwest; and the infrastructure investments Burlington, Northern, Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway has in place or planned in the future.

- **Sean Kammer**, Associate Professor, University of South Dakota (USD) - An Historical Perspective of North American Railways
- **Brian Sweeney**, Regional Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs, Burlington, Northern, Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) State Governmental Affairs – Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota – The Industry Perspective

FROM THE FLOOR

From the Floor provides delegates the opportunity to engage in open and flexible discussion about their observations and learning moments from the Forum. Using consensus they develop conclusions, agreements, and recommendations.

WATER

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2015 International Legislators' Forum:

- **Note** the lack of cooperation and coordination between the different, sometimes competing, constituencies using the Missouri River Basin's water, including shipping, recreation, and irrigation.
- **Recognize** the need for a comprehensive, proactive, uniform, and situation inclusive decision-making and goal setting process for Missouri River Basin water use involving all stakeholders, and including plans for drought years.
- **Recognize** the need to develop a comprehensive strategy for planning and decision-making for inter-basin management of Missouri River water based on each jurisdictions assessment of their needs.

WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2015 International Legislator's Forum:

- **Commend** the thoroughness of the presentations and South Dakota's leveraging of tax dollars with private sector involvement specifically targeting the economy's workforce needs.
- **Recognize** the research conclusions supporting the value of early childhood investments and their positive impact upon the future workforce.
- **Recognize** the importance of parental responsibilities, the value of collaborative education and **Support** partnerships in early childhood development.
- **Recognize** each jurisdiction's autonomy in plan development addressing early childhood and prenatal development issues.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2015 International Legislator's Forum:

- **Note** the lack of uniformity and consistency in truck transportation regulations state-to-state and country-to-country; and **Recommend** the development of a process that incorporates broad stakeholder participation to harmonize policies and regulations.
- **Recognize** and **Commend** the efforts and investments being made by the rail industry to expand transportation capacity and improve safety; and **Encourage** the continuation and enhancement of these efforts.
- **Recognize** and **Support** research expansion into all methods of oil transportation, including pipelines.
- **Recognize** and **Support** the importance of long term highway infrastructure planning and funding (see Memorandum of Agreement and Resolution, page 9)

Wrap-Up

The Steering Committee members, the South Dakota host delegation, the working groups, the sponsors, the Canadian and U.S. Consuls and their staff, and the many others who assisted in planning and presenting the 2015 International Legislators Forum were identified and thanked. Participants were asked to complete and submit evaluation forms.

Adjournment

Participants were advised that:

- The 2016 International Legislators Forum will be hosted by North Dakota.
- June 24-26, 2016 are set as the tentative dates.
- The 2015/2016 Steering Committee will meet on Saturday, September 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead, MN.

The 2015 International Legislators Forum officially adjourned with a wish to all for safe travels and an enjoyable and productive summer.

Media Initiatives and Contacts

Local and regional media representatives were provided with background information on the Forum, media releases and invitations to attend the Forum. Additionally, Consensus Council Deputy Director Paul Griffin, South Dakota Representative Roger Solum and Manitoba Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Honourable Gord Mackintosh participated in interviews with local media representatives.

Memorandum of Agreement and Resolution

On this date and in this location, legislative representatives of the above identified states and Province convened in a spirit of non-partisan, collegial interest to receive and review information, discuss issues relevant to their respective jurisdictions and identify the options and potentialities of inter-jurisdictional collaboration and partnership to proactively address such issues.

Of primary focus was infrastructure; specifically highway infrastructure. Following due and thoughtful consideration and discussion, the delegates resolved that:

WHEREAS a sound, safe and modern highway infrastructure represents a primary mode of trade and commercial transport for goods and services on a local, state/provincial, regional, national and international basis;

WHEREAS a sound, safe and modern highway infrastructure is a crucial component of economic development and the sustainability of commerce within and between the partner jurisdictions and beyond;

WHEREAS a sound, safe and modern highway infrastructure supports and is vital to the social network and relationships of the respective constituencies and their citizens;

WHEREAS the current general and specific condition of the highway infrastructure throughout the region requires the immediate and long-term attention of citizens and policymakers; and

WHEREAS achieving the goal of a sound, safe and modern highway infrastructure represents a significant investment of financial and human resources, requires immediate attention, ongoing planning, and the long-term commitment and cooperation on the part of all of the partners and stakeholders - at all levels of government.

NOW, THEREFORE THE DELEGATES AGREE AND REQUEST THAT the Federal representatives of the afore identified jurisdictions be encouraged and supported in their efforts to expeditiously draft and pass legislation that establishes and provides for the long-term fiscal support (10-years) of highway infrastructure development, repair, expansion and maintenance that maximizes planning and economic considerations and, ultimately leads to the goal of a sound, safe, and modern highway infrastructure that serves the needs and best interests of their respective jurisdictions (jointly and severally) and the citizens of their constituencies.

Achievements of the International Legislators Forum (ILF) 2001–2015

Following is an abbreviated listing of the achievements and actions identified and approved by the delegates during the past 15 International Legislators Forums.

- 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 became "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 economical and efficient food safety and security 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 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.

- Acknowledged and supported trade and border policies that foster cooperation, coordination, collaboration and are efficient, effective and economical.

- Supported a forward-looking process to assess and address infrastructure (including digital and broadband) needs throughout the region.

- Recommended a comprehensive review of existing highway transportation regulations and needs; and supported the development of consistent, comprehensive region-wide guidelines.

- Supported collaborative efforts to identify and address the threat of invasive species in the region.

- Recommended the adoption and integration of education/training and immigration policies that support the region's workforce needs.

- Developed a set of general principles regarding energy development and related policies.

- Recognized the interconnection and logic of dealing with water issues on a basin-wide level and supported cooperative, coordinated and collaborative basin-wide and basin-to-basin efforts.

- Recognized the growing value and importance of the Missouri River, it's impact on the regional economies and supported the need for a proactive, collaborate plan for its responsible management that incorporates jurisdictional assessments, full stakeholder involvement, and a solutions orientated approach.

- Recognized the efforts and investments being made by the rail industry to maintain, expand and improve the infrastructure and enhance safety and encouraged the continuation of an aggressive program of investment and improvement.

- Acknowledged the research-based value of early childhood development programs and investments and their positive effect upon workforce development and a broad range of societal and economic factors while supporting jurisdictional autonomy in program and service development.

International Legislators Forum (LF) 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 have included:

MB 2001—Sponsorship of 2Nation Tours, a travel and tourism program among the four jurisdictions.

MN 2002—Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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 collaboratively addressing all inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues.

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.

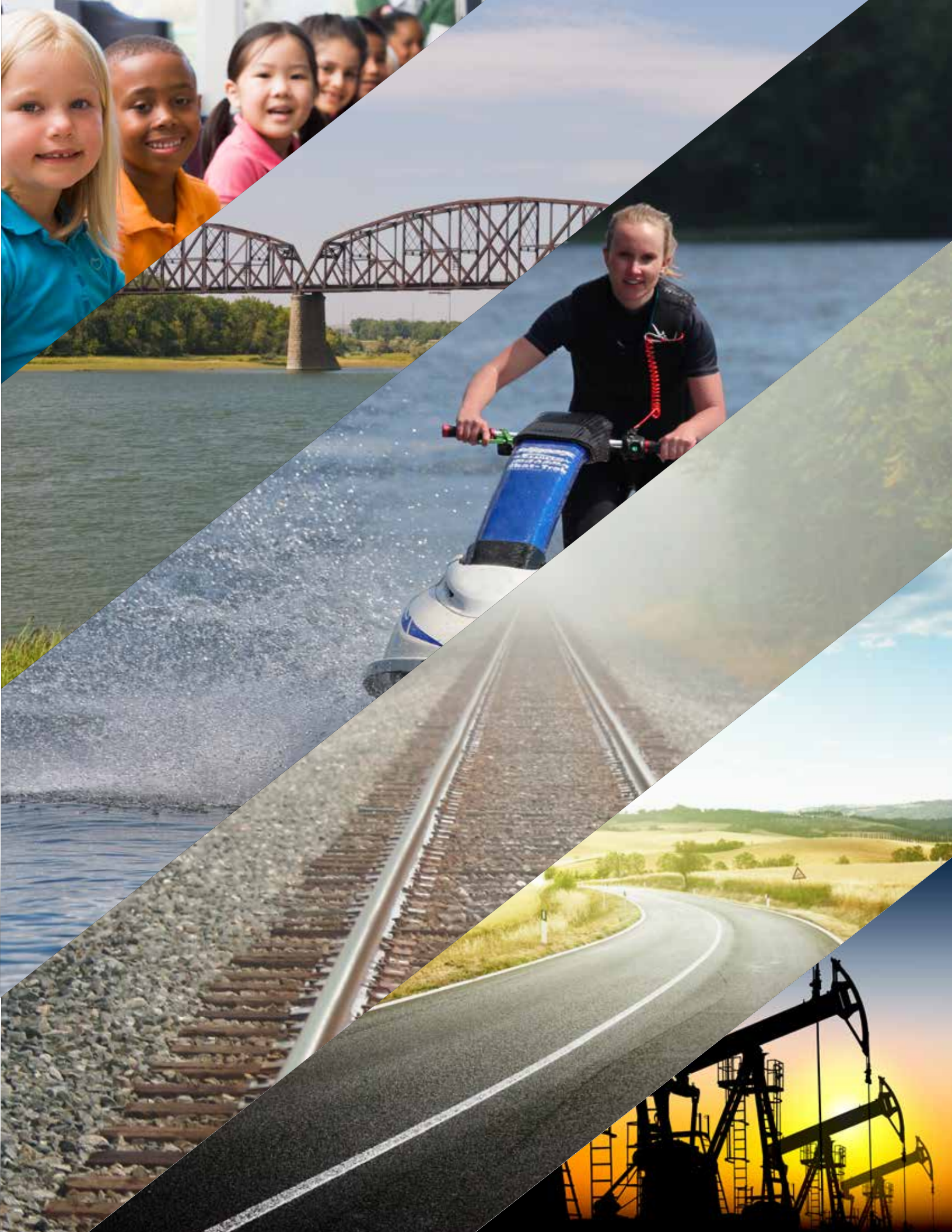
MN 2010 – Discussions centered on water issues in the Red River basin and included recommendations and requests from the Red River Basin Commission regarding management, impoundment, retention and diversion. Energy, commerce, border security and the media were also highlighted.

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.

ND 2012 – The Forum focused on energy (integrated regulations); water (basin-wide collaboration); and trade (coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies).

MB 2013 - Delegates addressed the existing economic relationships throughout the region and explored options to support and expand opportunities to leverage the regional and cross-border relationships to strengthen the economic future of all the jurisdictions. Additionally, the delegates outlined a set of general principles regarding energy development and related policies.

MN 2014 - Members of the delegation, guests and sponsors participated in a variety of agricultural-related presentations, demonstrations and activities that provided an overview of the historical aspects of the agricultural industry, its current role in the region and nation, the use of current and developing technologies, and the ever increasing demands to supply food for the world's growing population.



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 2015 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.

2015 Legislators Forum Sponsors & Supporters:

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.

Faciliated by: Consensus Council, Inc.
1003 East Interstate Avenue - Suite #7 | Bismarck, ND 58503 | 701-224-0588 | www.agree.org