

Final Report

Premier to Western Governors' Association Meeting

Park City, Utah

June 14-16, 2009

**Government
of Alberta ■**

Overview:

Premier Ed Stelmach and Honourable Rob Renner, Minister of Environment, represented Alberta at the 2009 Western Governors' Association (WGA) meeting in Park City, Utah.

The mission was successful in meeting its objectives as outlined below.

Mission Objectives:

1. Strengthen existing and build new relationships with Governors and senior members of the new US Administration.
2. Promote climate change policy that strikes the right balance between environmental protection, energy security and economic growth.
 - Reiterate Alberta's commitment and capacity as a secure, reliable and environmentally responsible supplier of energy to the US.
 - Demonstrate Alberta's leadership in tackling the challenges of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) through forthcoming announcement and commercial scale projects that will share the province's \$2 billion funding commitment.
 - Contribute Alberta's experience on environmental challenges facing the West in such areas as water use and renewable energy.
3. Explore the potential for greater cooperation on the part of Western states and provinces with significant unconventional energy resources.
4. Call for a Western commitment to free trade and investment between Canada and the US in the face of difficult economic times.

Results:

A climate change policy that strikes the right balance of environmental protection, energy security and economic growth was the Premier's focus at the WGA meeting in Park City, Utah. Minister Renner accompanied the Premier and assisted in meetings to advise him on environment and climate change matters.

Premier Stelmach used this three-day meeting to update US decision-makers on the leadership Alberta has demonstrated in responsible energy production. He also had an opportunity to learn first-hand how Alberta's largest and most important trading partner is dealing with its economic and environmental challenges in these turbulent times. In addition, the Premier met with counterparts to explore the establishment of a Western Energy Corridor Coalition. A commitment was made to further develop the concept for consideration by mid-September 2009.

Outside of the conference itself, Premier Stelmach participated in meetings with the following officials:

- US Energy Secretary Steven Chu
 - The Premier discussed the US government's approach to energy and climate change and stressed the importance of Alberta's energy resources in North American energy security. The Premier assured Secretary Chu that these resources are being developed in an environmentally responsible manner, including through the commitment of \$2 billion for large-scale CCS projects.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff
 - Discussions focused on the role of Alberta as a hub for oil and natural gas supply to the US. The Premier confirmed the potential for Alberta to expand its energy supply role to include natural gas from Alaska and increasing electricity production from wind developments, oil sands cogeneration and northern hydro.
- Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer
 - Discussed Alberta's \$2 billion CCS initiative, and Montana's plans to continue to develop its energy sector. Discussions also focused on forestry and other issues common to the two bordering jurisdictions, including some that might be pursued at the next meeting of the Montana Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council.
- Colorado Governor Bill Ritter
 - Discussed Alberta-Colorado relations and raised awareness that Alberta is integral to continental energy security. The Premier assured the Governor that the province is committed to developing energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner, including through the commitment of \$2 billion for CCS projects.
- Idaho National Lab (INL) Director John Grossenbacher
 - The Premier discussed INL initiatives relating to Alberta as well as the Laboratory's capacity to work with western US and Canadian Provinces in terms of the sustainable development and diversification of energy resources in the region.

Delegation:

Premier Stelmach
Mrs. Marie Stelmach
Honourable Rob Renner, Minister of Environment
Jordon Copping, Executive Assistant to the Premier
Paul Stanway, Director of Communications, Office of the Premier