

**Final Mission Report
Travel to Hoover, Alabama
The Energy Council
2008 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference
June 4 – 9, 2008**

Executive Summary

The Energy Council is a United States legislative organization, whose members are legislators from energy producing states. A number of Canadian provinces and the country of Venezuela are international affiliates. Alberta became the first international affiliate of The Energy Council in 2001. The purpose of the council is to discuss and promote policies that encourage the efficient development of domestic natural resources. The council meets in various locations in Canada and the U.S. on a quarterly basis.

Len Webber, MLA for Calgary-Foothills and Alberta Energy's Parliamentary Assistant, travelled to Hoover, Alabama to represent Alberta and participate in the 2008 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference June 5th to 8th. Len Webber made a formal presentation, discussing Alberta's current efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the oil sands. While at the conference, Len Webber also learned what other jurisdictions are doing to address energy and environmental issues.

Mission Objectives

- Long-term advocacy and promotion of Alberta's interests in the development of U.S. energy policy and as a major energy supplier to the U.S.
- Furthering existing partnerships and relationships with counterparts from U.S. legislatures.
- Fostering the development of a cohesive Canada-U.S. strategy on global energy issues.
- Strengthening the image of Alberta in the United States as one of the leaders in addressing environmental issues surrounding resource development.

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Travel to Hoover, Alabama

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Welcome Reception

Len Webber attended a reception for presenters and delegates of the 2008 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference. The reception provided an opportunity to meet with representatives of the environment and energy sectors across North America.

Friday, June 6, 2008

Keynote panel: Real World Responses to Climate Change Challenges

British Columbia Carbon Tax: The Honourable Richard Neufeld, British Columbia's Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

The British Columbia Carbon Tax is a tax on all carbon sources that will start at \$10 per tonne and increase by \$5 a year over the next four years. The tax is intended to send a clear message that there is a cost to the environment involved in emitting carbon.

Alberta's Greenhouse Gas Regulatory Framework: Len Webber, Parliamentary Assistant, Alberta Energy

Len Webber spoke about Alberta's current work to address the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by the oil sands. He also provided delegates with information about Alberta's oil sands and discussed how Alberta is a leader in addressing environmental issues.

Wyoming's Carbon Capture and Sequestration Legislation: The Honourable Tom Lubnau, Wyoming House of Representatives

During the 2008 Regular Session, the State of Wyoming's legislature passed and the Governor subsequently signed a bipartisan, landmark legislative package addressing carbon sequestration. Tom Lubnau discussed the legislations, which includes one bill that specifies that surface owners also had underground pore space rights, while a second bill establishes a regulatory framework for carbon sequestration.

What is Driving the Price of Oil?: Dr. Mine Yucel, Senior Economist and Vice President of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas, and Gregory J. Winneke, Chartered Financial Analyst for the American Royalty Council

This presentation highlighted factors that affect oil prices and the complexities of stable oil production and pricing.

Beneficial Uses of Carbon Dioxide: Tracy Evans, Senior Vice President, Resource Engineering for Denbury Resources

Tracy Evans discussed carbon dioxide as an important, often naturally occurring resource for North America. He spoke about some of its benefits, including the value of carbon dioxide in enhanced oil recovery.

Renewable Energy – An Emerging Industry in the Agro-Forestry Marketplace: Dr. Liam Leightley, Interim Associate Director at the College of Forestry Resources at Mississippi State University

Dr. Leightley discussed using agro-forestry biomass for producing energy and chemicals. According to Dr. Leightley, the potential for this industry continues to grow as the demand for energy increases and offshore completion erodes local production in the U.S agro-forestry sector. This emerging industry is providing new markets for rural communities.

New Realities Around Coal: Dr. Brian Bietz, President, Bow City Power, Ltd.

While coal is the predominant electrical power fuel source in the continental U.S., there are growing environmental concerns about coal plants. Bow City Power has proposed a coal fired power plant in southern Alberta. In this final presentation of the day, Dr. Bietz discussed steps to be taken to reduce the environmental footprint of this project.

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Len Webber attended a breakfast panel where he heard updates on North America's natural gas supply. Presentations included:

The View from Canada: Roland George, National Energy Board of Canada

As the first panellist, Roland George spoke about Canada's continuing role as the largest, most secure and reliable energy exporter to the United States.

Report from Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico: Paul Dieffenthaler, ExxonMobil US Production Company

The second panellist spoke about the critical role of natural gas in meeting North America's energy needs, the significant role the Gulf Coast will play in meeting growing demand for natural gas, and the challenges in getting that gas to market.

A Northeastern Natural Gas Revival: Dr. Terry Engelder, Professor of Geosciences at Pennsylvania State University

The final panellist discussed Pennsylvania's discovery of a magnitude of a resource found within its boundaries; a gas shale called the Marcellus. Dr. Engelder shared this state's experience in mobilizing constituencies to maximize the benefits of this resource.

Energy and Wildlife: Creative Co-Existence: Randall Luthi, Director of the United States Minerals Management Service

This session looked at finding a common ground to proceed with new and environmentally-friendly energy production.

Energy Efficiency: The States and Consumer Education: Ben Taube-LEED AP, Executive Director of the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance

This presentation focussed on actions the U.S. can take from a policy perspective that can shape the market viability of energy efficiency.

Advanced Nuclear Technology: Doug McComb, Southern Nuclear Operation Company

In March 2008, the Southern Nuclear Operation Company ordered two next-generation advanced passive nuclear units for construction in Georgia. While there are over 100 reactors in service in the U.S. there have been no U.S. orders for new nuclear plants in 30 years. This presentation spoke about how this new order may signal the beginning of a renaissance for nuclear power in the U.S.

Addressing the Environmental Impacts of Coalbed Methane Production: Dennis Lathem, Executive Director of the Coalbed Methane Association of Alabama

Alabama has a 28-year history of commercial coalbed methane production. While all aspects of the industry have evolved over this time—particularly Alabama's environmental regulatory climate for coalbed methane—Dennis Lathem spoke about how the future continues to bring even more challenges.

CLEER University Advisory Board Seminar on Global Air Quality Concerns: Dr. Osman Tugay Inal, FASM, Associate Vice President/Dean of Engineering at New Mexico Tech

While available statistics show that the amount of air quality pollutants such as particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, ozone, lead, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide have steadily decreased in the last century, there's increased concern about global warming. Dr. Inal discussed how we need to stop or control different accumulants that contribute to global warming and have been a direct result of hydrocarbon burning.

Sunday, June 8, 2008

The Energy Council Business Session and CLEER Program Advisory Board Planning Session Annual Meeting

Len Webber participated in this working breakfast, during which The Energy Council unanimously adopted a policy statement that urges the United States Congress to repeal Section 526 of the U.S. Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 110-140. Section 526 states:

"No Federal Agency shall enter into a contract for procurement of an alternative or synthetic fuel, including fuel produced from nonconventional petroleum sources, for any mobility-related use, other than for research or testing, unless the contract specifies that the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and combustion of the fuel supplied under the contract must, on an ongoing basis, be less than or equal to such emissions from the equivalent conventional fuel produced from conventional petroleum sources."

Section 526 seeks to inhibit both U.S. Air Force efforts to develop coal-to-liquids jet fuel through its Synthetic Fuels Initiative **and fuels derived from Canadian oil sands**. In its broadest interpretation, the section would prevent U.S. government agencies from buying fuel which was derived, even in part, from these fuel sources.

The Energy Council believes the potential effects of Section 526 appear to contradict the title of the Act by restricting development of a new domestic fuel for use by the U.S. military and by increasing the imports of energy sources from unstable regions if Section 526 restricts fuel from Canada, the United States' largest, most secure and reliable energy supplier.

Monday, June 9, 2008

Travel to Edmonton

Official Delegation

Len Webber, Parliamentary Assistant, Alberta Energy

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