Ports-to-Plains: North America’s Energy Corridor

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance tagline says “Securing the Benefits of Commerce to North America’s Energy & Agricultural Heartland.” The highway system connects a region that includes significant conventional and renewable resources. Energy security is provided by North America’s energy development and the Ports-to-Plains provides the connections needed to development those resources including world class oil, gas and wind resources.

From an oil and gas viewpoint it connects Alberta, Canada and Texas, both the production and reserve leaders in the world. The highway system moves the people and equipment needed to develop these resources. The Oil Sands in Alberta, Canada; the Bakken in North Dakota, Montana, Saskatchewan and South Dakota; the Niobrara in Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska; and the Barnett and Permian in Texas; and the Eagle Ford in Texas and Coahuila, Mexico are connected by the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. The Corridor provides the connection between the Houston, Denver and Calgary. To summarize the oil and gas role of the region:

- Seven of top ten and eight of the top fifteen oil producing states, producing over 1.667 billion barrels annually in 2013
- Alberta ranks third, after Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, in terms of proven recoverable global crude oil reserves
- Five of the top eight and seven of the top fifteen natural gas producing states that produced over 57.5% or 13,966,836 million cubic feet in 2012
- Oil and natural gas accounts for three million jobs or 35.8% of the nation in the region, generating incomes of over $208.5 billion or 40.5% of the entire nation’s oil and gas jobs and income

Renewable wind resources are also abundant throughout the region.

- Four of the top ten and seven of the top twenty U.S. States for Installed Wind Capacity (2013) with 21,687 MW. Texas ranks number one. The region accounts for 68.8 million MWH of electrical generation or 48.9% of the total wind generation in the U.S.
- Top six nationwide, eight of the top 10 U.S. states for potential wind energy generation and generating over 8,317 MW, nearly 76.9% of the U.S. total
These wind resources are resulting in the addition of manufacturing facilities for nacelles (turbines), blades and towers in Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and North Dakota. Production and manufacturing creates jobs and tax base for many of our communities.

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Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including major alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America’s energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at http://www.portstoplains.com/.

Graphic: