

**CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE and STATEMENTS  
FROM WESTERN GOVERNORS**

**North American Energy Summit  
April 16, 2004**

**Gov. Bill Richardson, WGA Chairman**  
**Gov. Bill Owens, WGA Vice Chairman**  
**Gov. Janet Napolitano, Arizona**  
**Gov. Mike Rounds, South Dakota**  
**Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming**

Statements, summit recommendations, and downloadable photos are available on the Western Governors' Association Web site:

<http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/energy/summit/index.htm>.

**Gov. Bill Richardson, WGA Chairman**

This has been a very productive, bipartisan energy summit.

I appreciate the hard and productive work of my fellow governors, especially my friend and Vice Chair of WGA, Colorado Governor Bill Owens.

We have shown that a united West may not be too hard to achieve.

We can, in fact, unite around the goal of creating a diversified energy supply.

Governor Schwarzenegger and I, as the co-Lead Governors for energy, supported establishing some ambitious goals for the summit – the kind of goals that produce serious results.

No more “talk-talk-talk.” The time has come to turn our region’s energy policy around.

The states are the true innovators in creating a strong, sustainable energy policy.

And the Governors, Premiers, and energy officials are enacting visionary new incentives for a diverse energy policy which reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

Here at the North American Energy Summit, we laid the foundation for greater regional cooperation toward sustainable energy policies that will reduce dependence on foreign oil and create a lot of jobs in our region.

And we did that in a bipartisan way, in the WGA tradition.

We brought together entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, policy makers, industry, and clean energy advocates – and for three days we were able to discuss common areas of agreement.

Now, as a result, we can proceed aggressively to have a more diverse and sustainable energy policy that will reduce risk to consumers and stabilize economies.

Governor Schwarzenegger and I presented a basic framework for a new western clean energy policy that has been improved upon by the Summit participants.

I was impressed by the useful, specific proposals for financing new clean energy technologies and projects.

The deliverables from this Summit included...

- progress on renewables marketing and trading among western states, with a plan for implementation in 2005;
- agreement to include Alberta in the western grid's transmission protocol;
- release of a major new report suggesting best practices for coal bed methane development, agreed to by industry, landowners, and environmentalists; and
- a piercing new study showing how energy demand in the growing border region can be partly met by implementing basic energy efficiencies.

I couldn't be more impressed by the hard work – the successful work – of the 700-plus Summit attendees and participants.

I want to commend them not only for bringing forward important ideas, but also for working together so constructively.

Some of these participants have fought a lot in the past – but I heard never a discouraging word in the past three days, and there was some quality listening happening all through this fine hotel.

And now, I look forward to working with my co-Lead Governor on energy, Governor Schwarzenegger, whom I thank in absentia, to talk to our fellow Governors and develop a strong clean energy resolution that will be passed at the Western Governors' Association annual meeting to be held in Santa Fe from June 20-22.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**Gov. Bill Owens, Colorado**

“The Summit demonstrated great cause for optimism in the West. Not only is our environment getting better all the time, but we have a region rich in resources that can meet our energy needs in an environmentally responsible manner.”

**Gov. Janet Napolitano, Arizona (4/15/04)**

“Arizona could be the next Persian Gulf of solar energy. We already have a solar energy industry located there (Arizona). A lot of technical advancement in the solar energy arena is being accomplished in Arizona, and as everyone knows, we’re a state where the sun shines. We average well over 320 days of sunshine per year, and that’s one of our greatest resources, and we ought to use it.”

**Gov. Mike Rounds, South Dakota**

“Few things are more important to our country than energy. The Energy Summit has been a good opportunity for the Western states to come together to discuss how best to ensure that we have an efficient, reliable, environmentally friendly, and low-cost energy supply for generations to come.

From the South Dakota perspective, we can be an important part of building that future. We have the potential to be a national leader in renewable fuels. Next year our state will produce more than 400 million gallons of ethanol, and we are beginning to take advantage of the incredible wind power potential in our state. By working with private industry, other states, and our Native American tribes, I believe that we can make the production of renewable energy a driving force in South Dakota’s economy.”

**Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming (4/14/04)**

“The thing that is intriguing about this conference is that it takes that notion that you’re to have multiple sources of energy, that you’re going to try to develop them in some orderly fashion over time so that at the end of the day you’ve actually addressed the problem, instead of sort of responding to a near-term crisis.”