

Murdo, Patricia

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Governor Schweitzer Announces Energy Symposium Details - Updated Agenda
Available Online at energyfuture.mt.gov

(HELENA) - Today Governor Brian Schweitzer announced the details of an upcoming energy conference that he has organized. "Montana's Energy Future Symposium" is being held October 18-19th in Bozeman, Montana on the campus of Montana State University. The conference has been in the works for months and was one of the first items the Governor discussed upon taking office.

"To help Montana form a solid, long-term energy vision I am convening the best and the brightest in the energy sector from across Montana and the nation to discuss energy production, renewable energy, conservation, transmission issues, environmental concerns, and other relevant topics," Governor Schweitzer said. "Only by working together will we be able to form a stable, long-term energy policy that protects the citizens and ratepayers of Montana, protects our environment, while further strengthening our economy."

In addition to dozens of panelists, the Governor's Panel includes:

Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico (confirmed)
Governor Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho (confirmed)
Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. of Utah (confirmed)
Governor Christine Gregoire of Washington (confirmed)
Governor Joe Manchin III of West Virginia (confirmed)
Governor Dave Freudenthal of Wyoming (confirmed)
Governor Ted Kulongoski of Oregon (verbally confirmed)

Montana's senior Senator Max Baucus will be speaking at the Tuesday lunch. Other speakers include:

Dr. Ted Barna from the Department of Energy
Ralph Cavanaugh from the Natural Resources Defense Council
Commissioner Suedeem Kelly from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Steve Wright from the Bonneville Power Administration

The mission of the symposium is to start the process of developing a comprehensive, long-term energy policy for Montana. The purpose of such a policy should be to provide Montana's energy consumers with adequate, affordable power while making sure Montana strategically and proactively shapes its unique place within the ever-evolving world of energy.

The Governor noted that he expects a wide array of people to attend the symposium and invites anyone interested in energy future to attend. Because of the educational

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symposium, any student enrolled in a higher education institution in Montana will be allowed to attend non-meal sessions free of charge with a valid student ID.

The Governor also thanked everyone who has been involved in the formation of the symposium, in particular the work of the advisory committee members. The advisory committee, a diverse group representing all sects of Montana, was formed by the Governor to provide input on the logistics and agenda for the symposium.

Further information, including registration information and an updated agenda, can be found at the symposiums website at www.energyfuture.mt.gov.

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