



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Bipartisan Working Group News

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State Senators Travel to Focus on Energy Issues

(ANCHORAGE) – Members of the State Senate Energy team spent time this week at the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, which examined the full spectrum of energy generation, infrastructure, regulation and government oversight. The objective of the Institute, which is sponsored in part by the University of Idaho with the support of the US Department of Energy, is to examine the complexity and policy questions surrounding current North American energy generation and distribution issues.

“With all of the important energy issues facing Alaska now, it was very helpful for our legislators to get an update on current information about the global energy situation,” said Senator Bert Stedman (R-Sitka), Co-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. “Our state will benefit immensely from the time we spent at this prestigious institute.”

The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute is a certificate program, designed for state legislators who need intensive exposure as to how North American energy infrastructure delivers energy to consumers. A large disconnect often exists between those that make state energy policy and a comprehensive understanding of how our infrastructure actually operates. High turnover in citizen state legislative bodies has decreased the institutional knowledge of complex energy issues in state and provincial legislatures. Issues such as awareness of the protocols that electricity, natural gas, and petroleum infrastructures utilize, and knowledge on timelines needed to construct new infrastructure within current regulations, are just some of the areas that legislators must understand to make responsible and informed policy decisions. The increasingly complex interdependencies of energy infrastructures in delivering energy to consumers are also important for policymakers to fully understand.

For more information, contact Senator Stedman or Linda Hay at 907-465-3873.

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