



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS

## ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to  
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland



March 9, 2010

The Honorable Karen Gundersen Olson  
Rapid City Council  
6241 Chokecherry Ln.  
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dear Councilwoman Olson,

Thousands of families throughout the Ports-to-Plains region depend on the energy industry for their livelihoods. From the oil fields of northern Alberta to the wind farms of West Texas, energy is a major employer. Energy continues to provide us with the potential for additional new jobs as we move forward in this century. As chairman of Ports-to-Plains, and a local elected official, I want to personally invite you to learn more about the growing opportunities in this vital industry. I hope you can join us and learn more about the potential of how your community can capitalize on the opportunities the energy industry presents to our region at the Ports-to-Plains' Energy Summit April 8 and 9 in Broomfield, Colorado. If you are unable to attend, I encourage you to send representatives from your community to take part in this valuable event.

We are proud to partner with Conoco-Phillips to present this exciting event. Conoco-Phillips is an example of an energy company that is a major contributor to the economy of our region. In the Ports-to-Plains Alliance states and province, Conoco-Phillips employs more than 16,000 people and pays approximately \$2.8 billion annually in royalties and taxes to local, state and provincial governments.

In addition to learning about traditional sources of energy such as oil and gas, we will also learn about the new opportunities presented by the burgeoning renewable energy industries such as wind and bio-fuels. These new industries are taking off throughout our region with a potential to create even more jobs.

As you well know, our country needs secure, reliable and affordable sources of energy to continue powering our economy and allowing us to grow. We wish to share our belief that the Ports-to-Plains Corridor will enhance the efficient flow of goods and services to enhance the growth of the energy industry throughout this region.

I appreciate your consideration and I am looking forward to seeing you in Broomfield, Colorado April 8 – 9 to take advantage of this great program. For more details, including registration and sponsorship information go to our website [www.portstoplains.com](http://www.portstoplains.com).

Sincerely,

John N. Bertsch  
Chairman of the Board