

CHAIRPERSON MARK RESNER ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS FORUM

Vision West ND Consortium Chairman Mark Resner attended the International Legislators Forum in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 28. The Forum consists of legislators from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba who meet annually to explore issues affecting the region. Bakken oil development is currently spreading into southwest Manitoba. “Frack” sand is being mined in Minnesota, and South Dakota is experiencing marked growth in oil-related goods and service businesses. The legislators in attendance were universally interested in Vision West ND’s efforts to maximize economic benefits while minimizing infrastructure and social costs.

Resner’s presentation addressed three areas. The first being a description of the meaning and “flavor” of the Bakken to the people and institutions enveloped by rapid growth. The second was an overview of the Vision West ND project, its partners and participants, methodology and time-line. The third area was a description of the regional plan’s focus on the five main issues of housing, emergency services, childcare, roads, and water supply. Resner concluded his presentation with an appeal for legislators to support political solutions and funding. Demands for infrastructure, housing finance, law enforcement & safety, emergency medical services, road construction, water supply, workforce development, and much more simply cannot be met except through sound political solutions.