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Wyoming Secretary of State Ed Murray Addresses New Mexico Energy Summit

Cheyenne, Wyoming – Today Wyoming Secretary of State Ed Murray addressed the Southeastern New Mexico Energy Summit in Carlsbad, NM.

Attendance at the summit included state and community leaders, oil and gas executives, and members of the scientific community. T. Boone Pickens, the Dallas, Texas based energy entrepreneur and investor, and New Mexico's current governor, Susana Martinez, also spoke today.

“Oil and Gas are a big part of Wyoming's past and also her future. The energy industry plays a big role in the life of every Wyomingite, as it does for the citizens of New Mexico. Both New Mexico and Wyoming collect approximately 2.2 billion dollars in oil and gas tax revenue for their state and local governments each year. Wyoming's proven oil reserves are ranked seventh in the nation and Wyoming's proven natural gas reserves are ranked fifth. So if we view the market for energy over the long term, both domestically and internationally, I see a future for Wyoming and New Mexico as the energy states of the West. Several competitive firms are already operating both in New Mexico and Wyoming to extract oil and natural gas from hard to reach places in innovative ways,” said Murray.

During his address Secretary Murray also made statements concerning community safety and infrastructure needs. “The conversation on oil and gas does not begin or end with simply discussing how wonderful it is that oil and gas revenues prop up our state general funds. The conversation must be: How do we take this money from the resources we pull from the ground and invest in our communities, our infrastructure, and our schools? We need infrastructure improvements, not just maintenance. State leaders in Wyoming and across the West have to be ready to make tough choices and commit to a unified vision on our infrastructure challenges. If we do this then we will see a return on investment for these stressed communities that is substantial and also allows for the growth of the energy industry,” noted Murray.

Additional Information on the summit can be found on the City of Carlsbad's website:

<http://www.cityofcarlsbadnm.com/energysummit.cfm>

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