



SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Southern Office of The Council of State Governments

P.O. Box 98129
Atlanta, GA 30359

1946 Clairmont Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033

404/633-1866
Fax 404/633-4896
www.slcatlanta.org

Speaker Richard Thompson

West Virginia
Chair

Representative Billy Broomfield

Mississippi
Chair Elect

Representative Keith M. Ingram

Arkansas
Vice Chair

Senator Mark Norris

Tennessee
Immediate Past Chair

Representative Terry England

Georgia
*Chair, Agriculture & Rural Development
Committee*

Representative Billy Broomfield

Mississippi
*Chair, Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs
Committee*

Representative Sara R. Thomas

Mississippi
Chair, Education Committee

Representative Chuck E. Martin

Georgia
*Chair, Energy & Environment
Committee*

Representative James R. "Jim" Fannin

Louisiana
*Chair, Fiscal Affairs & Government
Operations Committee*

Representative Sharon Cooper

Georgia
*Chair, Human Services & Public Safety
Committee*

Colleen Cousineau

*Executive Director
CSG Deputy Executive Director*

NEWS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2012

CONTACT: Jeremy L. Williams
404/633-1866
Atlanta, Georgia

SLC DELGATION VISITS ALBERTA OIL SANDS

(Atlanta, Georgia) — In a visit designed to facilitate dialogue and prompt greater understanding of energy relations between states belonging to the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments (CSG), the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), and Canada, a delegation of state officials, led by current SLC Energy and Environment Chair Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia, recently traveled to Edmonton and Fort McMurray, Alberta, May 29 – 31, 2012. The delegation included Representative Kurt Wallace, Alabama; Representative Clay Ford, Florida; Representative Angela Cockerham, Mississippi; Senator Bill Ketron, Tennessee; and Representative Stefani Carter, Texas. The visit was sponsored by the SLC and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, represented by the Consulate General of Canada in Atlanta, with the Atlanta-based SLC coordinating and organizing the trip's details.

Canada is the United States' largest and most reliable source of energy, and has been a proven partner in sustaining North American energy and economic security. At some 176 billion barrels of proven reserves, the oil sands are one of the largest and most important energy resources in the world. With expanding production, the oil sands stand to be an even more important resource in the future, with the potential to displace a significant amount of the United States' foreign-sourced oil. There are unique technological and environmental challenges associated with oil sands' development, including impacts on air, land and water. Canada and Alberta are working to overcome these challenges by subjecting oil sands' development to stringent regulatory requirements and oversight, and by investing in new technologies to achieve greater environmental and production performance. The objective of the tour was to enable participants to broaden their awareness of the oil sands and the resource, increasing contribution to North American energy security, and to see first-hand the steps being taken to meet the environmental challenges of this energy source. The study tour highlighted the regulatory framework and cutting-edge technologies that are both in place and under development.

The visit included tours of both mining and *in situ* projects operated by Shell and Connacher Oil and Gas, respectively, as well as oil sands reclamation sites. The program also included discussions with Canadian government and industry officials, including Alberta Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations Cal Dallas, Associate Minister Teresa Woo-Paw, and others. Discussions revolved around Canadian-U.S. energy relations; the economy and job creation; the Keystone XL pipeline; environmental protection; and advances in energy technology. The visit concluded with a tour and program at CanmetENERGY, an oil sands energy research and technology development project.

The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of The Council of State Governments was established in 1947 and is composed of the presiding officers and key legislators from 15 southern states. The SLC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization and is located in Atlanta.

