

## **Tuesday, July 28, 2015**

### **Transportation & Economic Development**

The Transportation and Economic Development Committee convened on the afternoon of July 28, 2015 and was led by the committee Chair, Representative Judy Clibborn of Washington. Topics included federal and state transportation funding, rail safety and the role of aerospace in the economies of the West.

The session began with an up-to-the-minute update on transportation funding negotiations in Congress from CSG Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Director Sean Slone. Mr. Slone also provided examples of strategies used by several Western states to fund transportation during the past year.

Next, the committee learned about rail safety testing from Lisa Stabler, President of the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. in Pueblo, Colorado. TTC conducts research and testing to enable the rail industry to set common safety standards and provides training to prepare first responders to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials. Ms. Stabler invited members to come tour TTC to learn more about the organization's work.

The session concluded with a panel that included Joe Rice, Director of Government Relations at Lockheed Martin Space Systems; Charles Huettner, Executive Director of the Aerospace States Association; and Art Maples, NASA Director of Strategic Partnerships – Colorado. Panelists emphasized the importance of the aerospace industry in the West and invited members to work with their respective organizations to learn how to create new jobs and business opportunities in aerospace within their states. Mr. Huettner invited committee members to learn about opportunities for foreign investment by attending a Legislators Breakfast at the National Aerospace Foreign Direct Investment Exposition in Los Angeles on October 27. Mr. Maples discussed how NASA often works with businesses and individuals that have no previous connection to the aerospace industry, and encouraged committee members to explore ways to help these businesses learn more about opportunities within this market.