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For immediate release

Contact: Kayla Boyett or Bruce Partain

E-mail: kayla@sanangelo.org

bruce@sanangelo.org

West Texas Legislative Summit focuses on International Trade ***Agriculture, Energy and Transportation key topics***

San Angelo, TX – The 16th Annual West Texas Legislative Summit begins in San Angelo, Texas, **Aug. 7–8**. The event is presented by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce.

Honorary co-hosts Congressman Mike Conaway, State Senator Charles Perry and State Representative Drew Darby announced this year’s focus will be on **international trade**.

The Summit starts with a reception and dinner the evening of **Wednesday, Aug. 7** at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, one of the best restored frontier forts in America. Attendees will meet and greet legislators, agency leaders, panelists, sponsors and other attendees. This year’s attendance is estimated to be close to 400 people from across the state and nation.

A full day of topic-driven panel discussions takes place **Thursday, Aug. 8** from 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on the Angelo State University campus in the Houston Harte University Center.

Panel topics include:

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Transportation
- Borders and Ports

The luncheon keynote speaker is Ambassador Gregg Doud, Chief Agriculture Negotiator of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. His presentation is titled “The Agricultural Trade Policy Agenda of the Trump Administration”.

A Congressional panel will highlight the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and will feature Congressmen Kevin Brady, Jodey Arrington and Mike Conaway. The panel discussion will be moderated by State Representative Drew Darby. Congressmen Brady and Arrington serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over international trade policy in the U.S. House. Congressman Brady is the ranking member of the committee. Congressman Conaway is the ranking member of the Agriculture Committee.

Other elected officials to be featured on panels include State Senator Pat Fallon, State Senator Bob Hall, and State Representatives Trent Ashby and Brooks Landgraf.

The “Agriculture Opportunities: Regionally and Globally” panel features the president of the National Cotton Council, a director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, the president of

the American Sheep Industry Association, the secretary/treasurer of the Texas Farm Bureau, and the president of the Texas Corn Producers. Tom Sell, Managing Partner of Combest, Sell and Associates will lend his expertise as a moderator.

The dean of the Texas House, Representative Tom Craddick, will be among the other experts on stage for the “Energy: From Powering America to Powering the World” panel.

Joining Craddick will be moderator Luke Legate, Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian, Parsley Energy President Matt Gallagher and Permian Basin Petroleum Association President Ben Shepperd.

The “Point A to Point B: Transportation is the Key to Trade Success” panel will include vice presidents from Texas Pacifico and Enterprise Products Partners L.P. Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance President James Beauchamp will moderate.

Finally, the “Borders, Ports, and the Power of the Economy: Unleashing the Trade Potential of the United States” panel welcomes the vice chair of the Border Trade Alliance, the chief external affairs officers from the Port of Corpus Christi, the Mayor of the city of Pharr, former San Angelo mayor and TxDOT commissioner, Alvin New, with the president of Hollis Rutledge and Associates, Inc., as the moderator of the panel.

County Commissioners attending all sessions will earn 5.5 Continuing Education Credits from Howard College - San Angelo.

Registration links are ready on www.sanangelo.org. Registrants may also contact the San Angelo Chamber at (325) 655-4136. General visitor information about San Angelo is available at www.discoversanangelo.com.

Please see attached agenda for a complete listing of current panelists as of today’s date.

Members of the Chamber’s Legislative Summit planning committee include:

- Committee Chair Dr. Brook Dickison, Angelo State University
- Pam Bradshaw, Shannon Medical Center
- Randy Brooks, BNB Ventures
- Cheryl DeCordova, District Director, Representative Drew Darby
- Jim Hughes, Hughes Company
- Dr. Clifton Jones, Angelo State University
- Luke Legate, G. Fox Consulting
- Laura Lewis, District Director, Senator Charles Perry
- Dr. Brian May, Angelo State University
- Sheryl Pfluger, Chamber of Commerce board chair
- JoAnne Powell, San Angelo Regional Director, Congressman Mike Conaway
- John Austin Stokes, Concho Valley Council of Governments
- Evan Thomas, District Director, Congressman Mike Conaway
- Chamber staff members Tricia Peterson, Kayla Boyett, Heather Kumpe, Amy Roberts, Bruce R. Partain

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