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Midland, Texas Leaders to visit Williston; US Sen. Heitkamp to welcome Group

Williston ND- City leaders from Midland, Texas will be in Williston May 31 through June 1 to learn about Williston's response to the challenges of the recent oil boom. The group will bring a total of five representatives to North Dakota including Midland Mayor Jerry Morales.

Like Williston, Midland has strong ties to the energy industry and has experienced the same ebbs and flows including recent rapid population growth. (Midland was the fastest growing region from 2010 to 2015 according to the US Census Bureau.)

The first day of the session will be held at the Center for Development. U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp is scheduled to welcome the guests and open the discussion. Other presenters include Deanette Piesik, CEO of TrainND/City Commissioner; Brent Eslinger, District Manager of Halliburton; Jared Iverson, General Manager of Oasis Petroleum and David Tuan, Williston City Administrator.

As both cities look to the future, sustaining long term growth and economic opportunities are critical for continued prosperity.

"As we continue to see the oil and gas industries expand in the Permian Basin it is critical that we collaborate with other cities like Williston, ND. Understanding the challenges of explosive growth will allow us to continue to prepare for the future," said Midland City Councilman, J. Ross Lacy.

Williston City Commissioner Deanette Piesik, who is also the CEO at TrainND, will provide a tour of the TrainND petroleum training facility. She says she looks forward to starting a dialogue with the leaders from Midland.

"Hopefully a long term partnership will come from this initial meeting," she said. "Sharing insights, opportunities, and solutions will benefit both municipalities."

Day 2 of the visit will be held at Williston State College. The group is scheduled to tour the campus and meet with leaders from Williston's health care and education communities.

For more information contact Williston Economic Development at 701-577-8110 or email shawnw@ci.williston.nd.us.