



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jack Gerard, President and CEO of American Petroleum Institute speaks to World Trade Center of New Orleans Energy Committee

New Orleans, LA- The World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTCNO) CEO Dominik Knoll welcomed Jack Gerard, President and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute (API) for a special luncheon program on Thursday afternoon at the Westin Canal Place Hotel. The special event was hosted by the WTCNO Energy Committee with support from the Tulane Energy Institute.

Gerard spoke passionately about the need for strong energy leadership as the oil and gas industry navigates a time of both exciting prosperity and frustrating struggles.

“Like Charles Dickens once said,” Gerard quoted, “for our industry, it’s both the best of times and the worst of times.”

The best of times, Gerard explained, can be seen in the United States’ rapid ascent to the world’s number one producer of crude oil, a goal that “would have been unthinkable” just five years ago.

The problem, Gerard lamented, is a lack of responsible, data-driven energy policy in Washington. After going from “perceived scarcity to abundance” of local energy in just a few short years, Gerard said that the federal government has stifled growth that would lead to more American jobs.

“Louisiana is at the forefront of energy leadership,” Gerard said about the state’s success with oil and gas policy and production. “The people in D.C could learn a lot from Louisiana.”

According to Gerard, with a more responsible energy policy, the US could create more than one million additional jobs over the next seven years.

Gerard emphasized throughout his talk that policy “truly matters.” He said that the government has provided “inconsistent” revenue sharing for states like Louisiana, and that the state is not getting its fair share of the revenue stream.

WTCNO CEO, Dominik Knoll, said gaining insight about the oil and gas industry is critical for WTC members and Louisiana-based businesses.

“Oil and gas continues to be one of the driving forces of the Louisiana economy and the issues related to this industry are of paramount importance for many of our members and residents,” Knoll said. “We are thrilled to get an inside look from Mr. Gerard into the complex politics that control energy policy in both our state and at the federal level. We are excited to be the number one neutral discussion platform for energy matters in the South of the United States and look forward to hosting additional speakers.”

About the World Trade Center of New Orleans Energy Committee

The mission of the WTCNO Energy Committee is to recommend policy positions and programs to strengthen development of Louisiana’s energy sector. Membership is by invitation only and represents various members from private industry, government agencies, and educational institutions.

The Energy Committee is one of five World Trade Center of New Orleans industry committees. The industry committee system was created to ensure that the organization’s policy and objectives adequately reflect stakeholder interests. Collectively, more than 350 executives from both the public and private sector participate on these committees.

For more information, contact the World Trade Center of New Orleans at (504) 529-1601 or email info@wtcno.org.

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About the World Trade Center of New Orleans

The World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTCNO) is the strongest international business organization in the Gulf Coast region, consisting of 1,600+ companies as well as high profile individual members. This membership base represents a diverse group of industry leaders, companies, professional organizations, and government institutions that include manufacturers, energy, agriculture, maritime, digital media, foreign consulates, and other interests. In 2013, member organizations were able to significantly contribute to the state's record-breaking exports, the total value of which exceeded \$63.1 billion. This strong international organization creates a variety of opportunities for its stakeholders with the objective to add wealth to its community as well as create jobs through international trade and related services while fostering business and economic development by engaging in allied activities.