



NEWS

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West Coast Infrastructure Exchange Named as Finalist of the NewDEAL 'New Ideas Challenge'

Today, two of the honorary chairs of the NewDEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders), Governor Martin O'Malley and Governor Jack Markell, [announced the finalists](#) of the group's New Ideas Challenge.

Rep. Tobias Read (D-Beaverton) was chosen from a competitive field as a finalist for his policy solution, the **West Coast Infrastructure Exchange**, which has brought together California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia to facilitate development of infrastructure that will improve economic competitiveness and to support jobs and families in the Pacific Northwest.

Rep. Read is a member of the NewDEAL -- a national network of pro-growth progressive state and local elected officials working to expand opportunity in the changing economy. The first ever New Ideas Challenge gives recognition to smart, pro-growth progressive solutions that are being developed and tested by state and local leaders across the country. At a time of national gridlock, this network of leaders is offering applied solutions from the front lines of government.

"As a Governor and former Mayor, I know that the best ideas about moving our country forward often come from innovators on the front lines of state and local governments. I'm thrilled by the NewDEAL New Ideas Challenge and know it will stimulate the kind of fresh thinking we need. I'm impressed by these finalists, and am excited to see their ideas put into action," said Governor O'Malley, Honorary NewDEAL Co-Chair.

Rep. Read was chosen as one of sixteen finalists out of a total of sixty applicants by an esteemed panel of judges who are thought leaders in the policy arena. A winner in each of four categories – growing the economy for the future, expanding opportunity for all, making government work better, and best public private partnership – will be announced on December 3rd in Washington, DC.

"Because of Tobias's work in the Legislature on ideas like the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange, Oregon is on track to address our region's infrastructure needs - creating family wage jobs and investing in Oregon's future," said John Mohlis, Executive Secretary of the Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council. "This project is serving as a model to the rest of the country, as every other state in the nation is facing significant infrastructure challenges. Already, this innovative idea is being copied in other parts of the country."

"Everyday, the pro-growth progressive leaders who are a part of the NewDEAL network are championing ideas to modernize government for the 21st century. Rep. Read has impressed us with his innovative solution to grow the economy and expand opportunity for all. I congratulate Rep. Read and the other results-oriented state and local leaders not only for the ideas they're working on locally but also for the ripple effect they'll create in communities across the country," said Governor Jack Markell, Honorary Co-Chair of the New Ideas Challenge.

More information about the NewDEAL can be found at www.newdealleaders.org.

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