

AGENDA



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:00 - 8:15	WELCOME REMARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sean Duffy, Executive Director, Big River Coalition and Chairman of MVTTTC
8:15 - 8:30	COAST GUARD UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Captain Melanie A. Burnham, Deputy Commander, Sector New Orleans
8:30 - 9:30	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Loren C. Scott, Economic Consultant, Loren C. Scott and Associates, Inc.
9:30 - 9:45	BREAK	
9:45 - 10:45	MISSISSIPPI RIVER NAVIGATION AND CLIMATE VARIABILITY CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Moderator: Michael Miller, Associated Branch Pilots▪ Henry Peterson, Bar Pilot at Associated Branch Pilots▪ Beaux Jones, President and CEO of The Water Institute▪ Mark Wright, LA State Representative, District 77
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 - 11:45	USDA – THE IMPORTANCE OF INLAND WATERWAYS TO US AGRICULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Moderator: Charlie Gottbrath, Director of Freight and Logistics, Cooper Consolidated▪ Adam Sparger, Director, USDA▪ Richard Henderson, Economist, USDA
11:45 - 12:15	ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GLOBAL TRADE FLOWS THROUGH THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Economic Impact Study Funded by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development▪ Moderator: Sean Duffy, Executive Director, Big River Coalition and Chairman of MVTTTC▪ Ken Eriksen, Managing Member and Strategic Advisor, Polaris Analytics and Consulting▪ Susan Olson, PhD, Founder, Action Intel
12:15	SPECIAL PRESENTATION	
12:15 - 1:15	LUNCH	
1:15 - 1:30	INTRODUCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS	
1:30 - 2:30	COMMODITY RELATED TRADE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Moderator: Scott Sigman, Principal Advisor Equinanimous Advisory Service Enterprise (EASE) Elmhurst, Illinois▪ Beth Ann Branch, President and CEO, Port of New Orleans, CEO, New Orleans Public Belt▪ Andrew Luttrell, Director of Sales/Grain/Fertilizer, Ingram Barge Company▪ Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director of Soybean Transportation Coalition▪ KR McKenzie, Director of Sales, Metals and Equipment at CSX Transportation
2:30 - 2:45	BREAK	
2:45 - 3:45	COAL INSTITUTE GUEST SPEAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Phillip Graeter, Director of Energy & Environmental Markets, Energy Ventures Analysis▪ Topic: U.S. Energy Markets at the Beginning of the Second Trump Term
3:45 - 4:00	CLOSING REMARKS	

**Agenda is subject to change*

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SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 1, 2025

DATE	TIME	EVENT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King Cake, Coffee and Connections Port of New Orleans (invitation to follow)
	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception Hosted by the Coal Institute Napoleon House, RSVP gina@thecoalinstitute.org
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH	7:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Registration Bayou Oaks at City Park, South Golf Course
	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Scramble Bayou Oaks at City Park, South Golf Course
	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Registration Westin New Orleans, Foyer II, 12th Floor
	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Welcome Reception Westin New Orleans, Riverbend Ballroom
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Westin New Orleans, Foyer II, 12th Floor
	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Westin New Orleans, Grand Ballroom, 12th Floor
	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch Westin New Orleans, Foyer II, 12th Floor
	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Westin New Orleans, Grand Ballroom, 12th Floor
	6:00 PM - 9:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mardi Gras Fete Dinner Red Fish Grill Restaurant
SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST	10:00 AM - 4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parade Party New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood Restaurant

**Schedule is subject to change*

EXHIBITORS

Visit these Exhibitors on the 12th floor in the Foyer II outside of the conference room on Thursday, February 27th from 7am to 4pm:



Please join us!

King Cake, Coffee and Connections

FEBRUARY

25

9AM - 11AM

9 - 9:45AM: Networking in the lobby
Presentation and Q&A to follow in the auditorium

Port of New Orleans Administration Building
1350 Port of New Orleans Place



To RSVP:

CLICK HERE



<https://forms.gle/weEc8bgPkdYwfiMZA>



You are cordially invited to join

THE COAL INSTITUTE

for our annual reception to kick-off the 43rd Annual Mississippi Valley Trade & Transport Conference.

Please join us at the historic Napoleon House in the French Quarter for festive cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and excellent company.

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Napoleon House

Please RSVP: gina@thecoalinstitute.org

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CSX

SPEAKERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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BETH ANN BRANCH



*Beth Ann Branch, President and CEO,
Port of New Orleans, CEO, New Orleans
Public Belt*

Beth Ann Branch, President & Chief Executive Officer of Port NOLA and CEO of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (NOPB), is a globally recognized commercial strategist with more than 20 years of experience in the transportation and logistics industry.

Branch joins Port NOLA from the Alabama Port Authority in Mobile, where she served as the Chief Commercial Officer. Prior to that role, she led business development and international marketing for the Port of Oakland's maritime division. Throughout her tenure at both locations, Branch spearheaded strategic initiatives that resulted in record container volumes, significantly boosting throughput and operational success.

Additionally, Branch worked in various leadership positions at Maersk for 18 years in the company's U.S. regional headquarters outside New York and global headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In addition to her experience in the maritime industry, Branch has 10 years of experience in program development and administration in the nonprofit sector, including location oversight of a U.S. Agency for International Development grant in Eastern Europe. Beth received a Bachelor of Arts from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina.

43RD ANNUAL MVTTC CONFERENCE

CAPTAIN MELANIE A. BURNHAM



Captain Melanie A. Burnham, Deputy Commander, Sector New Orleans

Captain Melanie A. Burnham assumed the duties as Deputy Commander, Sector New Orleans in June 2024. In this capacity, she oversees over 1,000 active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary Coast Guard personnel who serve over 300 miles of the Lower Mississippi River, 230 miles of the Intracoastal Waterway, and almost 4,000 miles of coastline in an area of responsibility totaling over 100,000 square nautical miles.

Captain Burnham's previous assignments include Commanding Officer of Gulf Strike Team in Mobile, Alabama from 2022-2024 where she was responsible for the oversight, management, and execution of response to oil discharges, hazardous substance releases, weapons of mass destruction events, natural disasters, and other emergencies throughout the southcentral and southeast regions of the United States and internationally in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

From 2018-2022 she was the Coast Guard Pacific Area Section Chief of Incident Management and Boat Forces Section Supervisor for Shore Forces (PAC-3SF) in Alameda, California. There she oversaw Marine Environmental Response, Search and Rescue, and Emergency Management functions and policy, and managed 97 cutters, 87 DSF boats, and 153 Station/ATON assets. From 2016-2018 she was assigned to Sector Maryland – National Capital Region in Baltimore, Maryland where she served as the Emergency Management & Force Readiness Branch Chief. From 2012-2016 she served as a Requirements Duty Officer at Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-771) in Washington D.C.

From 2007-2010 she served as the Commanding Officer of Station Seattle, Washington executing Search and Rescue, Homeland Security, and Law Enforcement small boat operations and unit readiness. From 2004-2007 she served as Command Duty Officer at the District One Command Center in Boston, Massachusetts. From 2002-2004 she was the Assistant Operations Officer at Coast Guard Group Boston, Massachusetts, and proudly achieved the enlisted rank of Yeoman First Class having served in positions at Group Fort Macon, North Carolina, Integrated Support Command Honolulu, Hawaii, and Reserve Training Center Yorktown, Virginia between 1995-2002.

Captain Burnham graduated USCG Basic Training in 1995 and Officer Candidate School in 2002. She holds a B.A. in Applied Computing from University of Washington and a M.A. in Security Studies, Homeland Security and Defense from Naval Postgraduate School. She is certified as a Project Management Professional, has earned numerous National Incident Command System certifications such as Type I Incident Commander and Type I Planning Section Chief, and was selected as the International Association of Emergency Managers 2021 Military Uniformed Services Emergency Manager of the Year. She served as Incident Commander and Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative for the Maui Wildfire (2023) and Hurricane Ian (2022) responses under ESF-10 operations. Captain Burnham is a Search and Rescue subject matter expert holding past SAR Mission Coordinator designation and Active Search Suspension authorities.

Her personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (six awards), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (three awards), Letter of Commendation (three awards), and Good Conduct Medal (two awards). She is married to Kurt Lautenschlager (ENG4, USCG Retired), and between them they have five children: Elissa, Kelsey, Lauren, Noelle, and Breandan (GM2, USCG).

43RD ANNUAL MVTTC CONFERENCE

SEAN DUFFY



Sean Duffy, Executive Director, Big River Coalition

The Big River Coalition is committed to ensuring the future of navigation on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) as one of the nation's fundamental natural resources and true economic powerhouse. The Mississippi River and Tributaries has an estimated annual impact of \$735 billion on the nation's economy and is responsible for 2.4 million jobs (585,000 jobs on the Lower River Cairo, IL to the Gulf of Mexico and over 1.86 million jobs on the Upper River - Lake Itasca, MN to Cairo, IL when including the IL River).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Big River Coalition: 2011-Present

"Advocating for a Mightier Mississippi River"

The Big River Coalition (BRC) is committed to protecting maritime commerce across the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT). The BRC focuses on maximizing efficient maritime transportation on the deep-draft Mississippi River Ship Channel from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico. The Coalition is concerned about the management of the Mississippi River system and is focused on holistic water management and adverse

impacts related to flood protection, protecting water supplies, increasing coastal restoration to also protect commerce and minimize the negative impacts of runoff and pollutants. It is critical to the nation's economy that navigation on the Mississippi River remains unimpeded. As visions of the future of the MRT are shaped, that navigation representatives strive to ensure that systematic approaches protect maritime commerce and maintain fully authorized channel dimensions while modernizing and maintaining our water infrastructure and the free flow of maritime commerce, on the Mississippi River Ship Channel and the locks and dams along the MRT. The Big River Coalition's missions are focused on securing increased funding from the Harbor Maintenance Tax and the Inland Users Fuel Tax, the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel to 50 feet and to increase the beneficial use of dredge material or "sediment recycling."

The Big River Coalition is at the forefront of the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel (50 feet). Mr. Duffy also serves as the Executive Vice President/Maritime Advocate for the BRC's parent entity, the New Orleans Steamship Association d.b.a. Louisiana Maritime Association. As a proponent for the local maritime industry, Mr. Duffy has provided written and oral testimony to federal and state Congressional committees and the President's Oil Spill Commission to advocate for channel maintenance while promoting safe navigation on the Mississippi River Ship Channel.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:

Previous employment includes executive management positions with experience as a Boarding Agent, Deckhand, Stevedore General Superintendent and Marine Surveyor. Mr. Duffy is intimately familiar with obstacles faced by the maritime industry, both nationally and regionally, and has been recognized for his efforts to deepen the Mississippi River Ship Channel and to promote coastal restoration through the beneficial use of dredge material.

KEN ERIKSEN



Ken Eriksen, Managing Member and Strategic Advisor, Polaris Analytics and Consulting

Ken A. Eriksen, Managing Member, Polaris Analytics and Consulting. Senior Leader and Strategic Advisor to Commodities, Supply Chain, Logistics and Transportation. Mr. Eriksen has a distinguished career directing efforts in client advisory and development, risk management, consulting, and events. As the founder of Polaris, Mr. Eriksen directs and leads the activities of Polaris.

He was formerly a Strategic Advisor in the Industry Executive Advisory group, the head of the S&P Global Commodity Insights Client Advisory and Development group, and Agri Supply Chain where he was a Senior Vice President.

Since he joined S&P Global in 2001 (and through its successor companies including Spark Companies, Inc., Informa Economics and IHS Markit), Mr. Eriksen led the company's Transportation, Industrials and Energy Services group and was a co-leader of the Consulting group.

Mr. Eriksen regularly speaks on commodity markets and flows, supply chain, transportation and infrastructure issues and developments, and is an expert witness in transportation, logistics and supply chain matters.

Prior to joining S&P Global, Mr. Eriksen worked for USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service as an agricultural statistician. In that capacity, he conducted national surveys and set national estimates in agriculture. Also, while at USDA, he worked for the Agricultural Marketing Service on its transportation and marketing program, conducting research and analysis on domestic and international transportation issues. He also worked as an international longshoreman for the Pacific Maritime Association in Tacoma, Washington.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in agribusiness and agricultural economics from Washington State University. While working on his master's degree there, Mr. Eriksen was a transportation economist for the Department of Agricultural Economics, performing economic transportation data analysis and modeling.

CHARLIE GOTTBRATH



Charlie Gottbrath, Director of Freight and Logistics, Cooper Consolidated

Charlie Gottbrath is the Director of barge freight & logistics for Cooper Consolidated, LLC where he plays a commercial role in their freight and stevedoring business. Charlie has worked for various divisions of Cooper Consolidated and its parent company, Consolidated Grain & Barge since 2001. He has worked in various roles ranging from commodity trading to facility management. Charlie grew up on a farm in Southern Indiana and was introduced to the grain business as a child when his family would deliver grain to the local river elevators and feed mills. He attended Purdue University and earned a degree in Agriculture Economics. He lives just outside New Orleans in Covington, LA with his wife & three sons.

PHILLIP GRAETER



Phillip Graeter, Director of Energy & Environmental Markets, Energy Ventures Analysis

Mr. Graeter is a Director of Energy & Environmental Markets at Energy Ventures Analysis. As part of EVA's world-class energy consulting team, Mr. Graeter specializes in the integrated analysis of electric power, natural gas, coal, and environmental markets around the world. Utilizing his unique educational background in engineering management with a focus on energy economics and finance, Mr. Graeter develops sophisticated analyses and reports that invite productive discussions on the current and future impacts of energy regulations, policies, and legislation on the U.S. and global energy sector. Additionally, Mr. Graeter has prepared numerous economic and regulatory impact studies on a wide-ranging array of issues regarding the U.S. energy sector for numerous clients, including state regulatory commissions, federal agencies, trade associations, and private companies.

RICHARD HENDERSON



Richard Henderson, Economist, USDA

Rich Henderson is an economist in the Transportation Economics Division within Agricultural Marketing Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As an economist, Rich serves as the barge analyst performing economic analysis on barge transportation. Rich led the launch of the addition of the Columbia-Snake River System barge grain volumes and barge grain spot rates in the Grain Transportation Report as well as the per ton spot barge grain rates published weekly on the AgTransport platform for multiple locations along the Mississippi River System. Prior to working at USDA, Rich worked as an analyst in the Global Food Research Program at the University of North Carolina Population Center and as an economist at the U.S. Department of Labor.

BEAUX JONES



Beaux Jones, President and CEO of The Water Institute

Beaux Jones is the President and CEO for The Water Institute (the Institute). Prior to joining the Institute, Beaux served as the environmental section chief for the Louisiana Department of Justice, where he represented the State of Louisiana and its agencies in a wide variety of matters ranging from environmental and coastal law to criminal and appellate law. He most recently worked as an environmental and coastal lawyer for the law firm Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer in New Orleans.

Beaux has extensive experience representing agencies, companies, and organizations inside the courtroom and internally. He has argued cases at every level of state and federal court in Louisiana and has worked on several high-profile cases related to the Gulf Coast and Louisiana. He was on the BP spill litigation team with the Louisiana Attorney General.

Beaux handles general legal matters for the Institute, such as contracts and immigration law, but is also a key member of the leadership team, merging the Institute's ongoing work in science, engineering and resiliency with legal policy.

Beaux earned his bachelor's degree from Davidson College and his law degree from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU. He is active in a variety of community and environmental causes.

ANDREW LUTTRELL



*Andrew Luttrell, Director of Sales/Grain/
Fertilizer, Ingram Barge Company*

Andrew Luttrell serves as Director, Sales at Ingram Barge Company with a primary focus on Grain, Oilseed and Fertilizer markets. Since joining Ingram in 2011, he has held a variety of Customer Service/Dispatch and Business Development roles within Ingram.

Mr. Luttrell is an active member of the National Grain and Feed Association and sits on the board of the Digital Solutions Committee. He is a past President of the Nashville Propeller Club and most recently the Ohio Valley Regional Vice President for the International Propeller Club. He received his BBA in Finance and Marketing from the University of Kentucky.

KENNETH (KR) MCKENZIE



KR McKenzie, Director of Sales, Metals and Equipment at CSX Transportation

Kenneth McKenzie (KR) is a 2007 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps and completed two combat deployments to Afghanistan as an Infantry Officer. After six years of active service, he attended Carnegie Mellon University where he earned a Masters in Business Administration with concentrations in Quantitative Analysis and Finance.

KR began his civilian career at Watco where he had commercial responsibility for the company's southeast footprint. This included a mix of river terminals, railroads, and switching operations. KR joined CSX in 2022 and is currently the Director of Sales for Metals and Equipment.

KR currently serves as the Chairman of the Surface Committee for the National Defense Transportation Association.

MICHAEL MILLER



Michael Miller, Associated Branch Pilots

Captain Michael T.D. Miller is President of the Associated Branch Pilots based in Metairie, LA. The Associated Branch Pilots (Bar Pilots) for the Port of New Orleans is an association of professional pilots who guide ocean-going vessels of all sizes and descriptions from the Gulf of Mexico through the narrow channels of Southwest Pass.

Captain Miller was born and raised in New Orleans. He began his professional career after spending a year as a cadet on general cargo ship working all over the world. Captain Miller then began his apprenticeship with the Bar Pilots in 1986 and was commissioned as a Louisiana State Pilot in 1991. Captain Miller has since served for 20 years on the Board of Directors of the Bar Pilots, as Vice President for 16 years and was elected President in 2016.

In addition to his work as Bar Pilot, Captain Miller has served on several area boards and commissions. These include the New Orleans Board of Trade, Mississippi Valley Trade and Transport Council, the Council for a Better Louisiana Leadership Class of 2009, Port Safety Council, and the Lower Mississippi River Safety Advisory Committee. Captain Miller is also a proud Eagle Scout and has received a United States Coast Guard Certificate of Merit.

SUSAN OLSON



Susan Olson, PhD, Founder, Action Intel

Susan Olson founded Action Intel in March 2023, spearheading the development of groundbreaking market intelligence tools for commodities trading and transportation. In November 2023, Action Intel introduced BargeAI™, a revolutionary platform providing unique business insights into waterborne trade and transportation and offering real-time data on transit times, river levels, trade flows, and more.

With a career rooted in leading and building innovative technology solutions, Susan has a passion for using cutting-edge analytics to help businesses gain a competitive edge. Her drive to empower others through data and technology has been central to her success in both leadership and product development roles.

A rocket scientist by training and an experienced business builder, Susan leverages tech expertise in data science, predictive modeling, sensor technology, and data harvesting to build companies. She holds six U.S. patents for innovations that leverage sensor data to generate new intelligence for commodities markets. Her tech expertise spans across software development,

machine learning, signal analysis, image analysis, and generative AI, all of which have been key in her ability to create and enhance market-focused products.

Prior to founding Action Intel, Susan served as CEO of Demeter Logistics, where she built a 25-person company from the ground up, producing a software platform that for the bulk grain supply chain for commercial agriculture companies. During her tenure at Genscape, she developed a new product line monitoring natural gas flows, created a seven-figure business in Agriculture & Biofuels, and led innovations in petroleum liquids transportation and storage.

Susan holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Evansville. Her research and development experience includes work with leading institutions such as Honeywell on the Joint Strike Fighter, NASA Ames Research Center, and the Office of Naval Research. She is also a dedicated advocate for empowering student voices and is in the incoming co-chair of the board of Young Authors Greenhouse in Louisville, KY.

HENRY PETERSON



Henry Peterson, Bar Pilot at Associated Branch Pilots

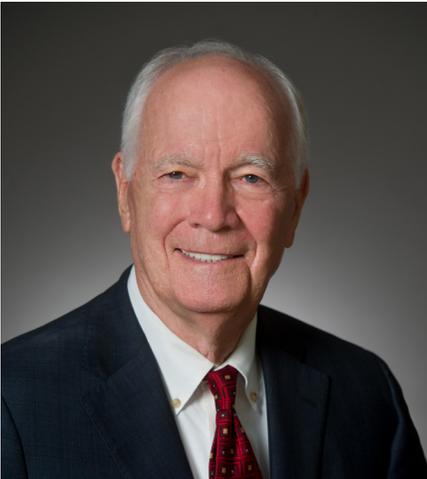
Henry Peterson is an experienced maritime professional serving as an Unlimited First-Class Ship Pilot with the Associated Branch Pilots for the Port of New Orleans since 2010. In this role, he ensures the safe navigation of foreign-flagged vessels along the Lower Mississippi River.

Henry is a dedicated leader in the maritime community, currently serving on the Boards of Directors for both the Associated Branch Pilots (since 2019) and the New Orleans Board of Trade (since 2023), where he contributes to improving commerce and safety on the Mississippi River.

Before his tenure as a pilot, Henry worked in commercial shipping as a Third Mate aboard various vessels, including the *M/T Maersk Rhode Island* and the *M/V Esplande*, gaining valuable experience in tanker and platform support operations. He also served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve Pilot Detachment Group from 2006 to 2014.

A graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, Henry holds a degree in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation and several key certifications and licenses.

DR. LOREN C. SCOTT



*Dr. Loren C. Scott, Economic Consultant,
Loren C. Scott and Associates, Inc.*

Dr. Scott is the President of Loren Scott & Associates, Inc., a 34-year old economic consulting firm whose clients include such large national firms as BP, Capital One Financial, Entergy, ExxonMobil, J.P. Morgan Chase, Nucor, Sasol, Chesapeake Energy, and a diversity of others.

He is one of the 32-member National Business Economic Issues Council, which meets quarterly to discuss issues of state, national, and international interest. This group has experts who cover international trade, Washington economic policy, retail trade, trucking, steel, chemicals, etc.

Dr. Scott is an energy specialist on the NBEIC. He has been appointed to the Economic Advisory Board of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness—a group made up of the CEOs of the Fortune 100, top university presidents and presidents of three major unions. He has been interviewed on CNBC, MSNBC, and Bloomberg TV, in addition to several local TV stations, and his work has been cited in such publications as the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, USA Today, and the Financial Times, to name a few.

His career started at Louisiana State University in 1969 where he spent the next 33 years, rising through the ranks from assistant professor to the prestigious Freeport McMoran Endowed Chair of Economics and the Director of the Division of Economic Development and Forecasting. Over the thirteen-year period from 1983-96, he was the chairman of the Economics Department at LSU. During that time, the Department's ranking among the 3,000 economics departments in the U.S. rose from 101st to 38th.

He is presently Professor Emeritus at LSU. He received 7 awards at LSU for outstanding classroom teaching. He gives 50-70 speeches a year on the state of the economy.

SCOTT SIGMAN



*Scott Sigman, Principal Advisor
Equinanimous Advisory Service
Enterprise (EASE) Elmhurst, Illinois*

Mr. Scott Sigman has 35 years of experience in strategy, marketing, public relations and operational economics, currently serving as a principal consultant through Equinanimous Advisory Service Enterprise (EASE), a sole proprietorship. As an industry professional, with direct experiences in transport, trade, shipment of manufactured goods and agricultural production, he supports commercial networks, public and private infrastructure along with developments fostered through public-private partnerships.

Mr. Sigman's commercial market research, reporting and commercial analysis provides technical support for the development of Program and Project Management. With personal experience in applying such PM methodologies, resource planning, intermodal and multimodal business development, results have been improved containerized and bulk marine freight, industrial rail cargo, drayage, and regional truck operations. Focus has included assessments of undeveloped prospective transportation and industrial sites located along the Mississippi River corridor. His contributions include national and international transport and trade market evaluations, with experience as a market analyst. He was appointed to serve on state and federally authorized freight transportation committees and has participated in agricultural and transportation market initiatives across the country. He is committed to personally supporting the environmental well-being of our communities. Scott specializes in research involving freight records and archives, commodity information, applying skills in alternatives analysis, through qualitative and quantitative research.

Mr. Sigman is married and the father to two young adults. He is a member of the Chicago Audiophile Society, and enjoys listening to his extensive vinyl record collection.

ADAM SPARGER



Adam Sparger, Director, USDA

Adam Sparger is the Director of the Transportation Economics Division within the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As Director, Adam leads an adept team of economists that inform, represent, and assist agricultural shippers and government policymakers on multimodal issues related to truck, rail, barge, container, and ocean carriers. Adam and his team serve as USDA's expert source for economic analysis on agricultural transportation from farm to market. Adam has coordinated the launch and expansion of the division's award-winning open data visualization platform, AgTransport, and the release of numerous multimodal transportation research publications. Prior to being Director, he spent a decade as an economist in the division analyzing transportation issues and producing many of USDA's transportation market reports. His childhood fascination with the movement of trains, trucks, and boats still fuels his professional curiosity as he seeks to explain why and where agricultural commodities move.

MIKE STEENHOEK



*Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director,
Soybean Transportation Coalition*

Mike Steenhoek is executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC), an initiative established in 2007 and comprised of the United Soybean Board, the American Soybean Association, and fourteen state soybean boards. The Soy Transportation Coalition exists to promote a cost effective, reliable, and competitive transportation system that serves the agriculture industry.

As executive director of the STC, Mike's responsibilities include communicating the initiative and the importance of transportation issues to soybean growers and processors; establishing and executing the organization's strategic direction; and building collaborations with other effected industries.

Mike is a member of the Iowa Department of Transportation's Freight Advisory Council – currently serving as chairman.

Prior to his work on the STC, Mike worked for United States Senator Charles Grassley (Iowa) for eight years – both in Washington, DC, and most recently in Des Moines, Iowa. In Washington, DC, Mike served as the Senator's scheduler and frequent speechwriter. In Des Moines, Mike served as Senator Grassley's director of economic development.

Mike received both his undergraduate degree and his Masters in Business Administration from the University of Iowa.

MARK WRIGHT



*Mark Wright, LA State Representative,
District 77*

Mark Wright is a State Representative in Louisiana, where he has served District 77 in Covington since 2017. Mark has been Chair of the House Republican Delegation since 2023 and he previously chaired the House Transportation committee from 2021-2023. He has focused on legislation related to tax reform, regulations, international trade and ports. In addition to serving in the legislature, Mark started a consulting business focused on strategy, competitive intelligence and data analysis. He previously worked in the towing and barge industry over 14 years and is a member of the Transportation Research Board and Greater N.O. Harbor Safety Committee. Mark and his wife live in Covington with five beautiful children and are active parishioners at St. Peter Church. He earned degrees in politics and business and studied in the doctoral program in management at the University of South Alabama.