



Speaker Biographies

Brian McGowan, Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and Commerce- State of California

Brian P. McGowan was appointed as California's Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and Commerce by Governor Schwarzenegger in January of 2008 to create and implement initiatives and programs that stimulate economic growth and maintain California's lead in the global economy.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. McGowan was the Economic Development Agency Administrator for the County of San Bernardino; Economic Development Manager for the City of Ontario for five years; and Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Palm Springs for six years.

Mr. McGowan's broad experience in the field of economic development has allowed him to create nationally recognized public relations campaigns, workforce development initiatives, business retention/expansion programs, and support networks for businesses and entrepreneurs. Mr. McGowan has also championed international initiatives for local governments. He created the Palm Springs Foreign Trade Zone and led a series of trade missions to China for both the City of Ontario and County of San Bernardino.

In addition, Mr. McGowan helped build trade ties with Mexico, and has assisted Bulgaria and Serbia in creating economic development programs through the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. McGowan is a member of the Board for the California Association of Local Economic Development and Vice President of Team California. He is also the Administration's delegate to the California Workforce Investment Board, the LA Grand Avenue Authority, the Employment Training Panel, the California Travel and Tourism Commission, the California Small Business Board, and the California Film Commission.

Mr. McGowan received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside and a Master's Degree in Politics, Economics, and Business from the Claremont Graduate University. He recently won the Michael and Mary Johnston Fellowship in American Politics and is currently a Ph.D candidate in American Politics and Policy at Claremont Graduate University.

Andrew J. Littlefair, President and Chief Executive Officer – Clean Energy

Andrew J. Littlefair, president and CEO, leads Clean Energy's day-to-day operations. Mr. Littlefair is Chairman of the Natural Gas Vehicles for America (ngvamerica.org) and has been a Board Member and Officer for 10 years. Additionally, Mr. Littlefair is credited with developing a number of the early successful models instrumental in switching fleets to natural gas while simultaneously building economically viable stations. The earliest of these models has been embraced by such recognized fleet names as SuperShuttle, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), and Chrysler—ultimately resulting in the development of three of the largest public fueling stations in the United States.

Richard R. Kolodziej, President – NGV America

Mr. Kolodziej is president of the NGV America (formerly the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition) -- a national organization dedicated to the development of a growing, sustainable and profitable market for vehicles powered by natural gas and biomethane. NGV America represents more than 100 engine, vehicle and equipment manufacturers; fleet operators and service providers, natural gas companies, and environmental groups and government organizations interested in the promotion and use of natural gas and biomethane as transportation fuels.

Prior to joining the NGV America in 1996, Mr. Kolodziej was group vice president of the American Gas Association where he held a number of senior positions including vice president of planning, vice president of communications, and senior vice president of marketing and communications.

Mr. Kolodziej serves on committees of a number of energy and alternative fuel vehicle organizations. He is the President of the International Association of Natural Gas Vehicles, president of the American Biogas Alliance and a member of the Alternative Fuels Committee of the Transportation Research Board. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the National Energy Foundation, and the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Kolodziej holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Rutgers University and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of California at Los Angeles

Robert E Myers, Consultant - Propane Education and Research Council's (PERC)

Since 1990 Bob has been an independent consultant in the propane industry after 25 years of senior management with the largest—at the time—U.S. propane marketer. The consultancy included more than 3 years as Technical Director of the World LP Gas Association in Paris where he directed a variety of projects that enhanced propane's awareness among international policy makers. These developmental projects involved the United Nations' Development Program, the UN's Educational Program, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. While in Paris he directed several research studies that validated the environmental benefits of propane as an engine fuel.

He founded the LP Gas Clean Fuels Coalition, a lobbying group, which was instrumental in securing a role for propane in major US alternative fuels legislation. Currently, he advises legislators, regulatory agencies, and propane advocacy groups on strategy and policy at the state, national and international levels.

He is a founding member of the Propane Education and Research Council's (PERC) Research and Development Advisory Committee and PERC's Engine Fuel (Autogas) Advisory Committee. These committees are the prime instruments that direct propane research in the US.

Bob holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and Economics, and a Master Degree in Business Administration. When not traveling to an international speaking engagement, he can be found at his home in Boulder, Colorado.

Mutsuo Taguchi

Mr. Taguchi was the first person in Japan to recognize the capabilities and quality of the IMPCO products. His first contact with IMPCO started the company's relationship with Japanese industrial equipment manufacturers and opened the door to IMPCO's ability to "purchase" this distribution location. He is an applications / mechanical engineer and was instrumental in adapting the IMPCO products to the Japanese applications. His hobbies are mountain/rock climbing and is affiliated with an organization that removes land mines in Cambodia.