

## **K. Growing Agriculture Through Trade and Technology**

*Moderator: Don Brown, Cargill*

- a. The Protein Highway, *Christina Connelly, Consulate of Minneapolis*
- b. How Manitoba Attracted a Billion Dollars in Private Investments! *Minister Ralph Eichler, Manitoba*
- c. Gene Editing and Agriculture, *Gene Harrington, Biotechnology Innovation Organization*
- d. Texas Knows Agriculture Needs Broadband, *Representative Doc Anderson, Texas*

The Manitoba Agriculture Minister began by noting that Winnipeg is biggest city with half of residents but the province overall has lots of agriculture production. He then spent 10 minutes highlighting different factoids about agriculture production levels in the province.

Rep Anderson of Texas then spoke about the importance of rural broadband and that it has to be consistent, high speed and affordable. He worked to developed bipartisan legislation that would allow electrical co-ops to install needed technology. He also helped to pass a dig once bill that would allow TxDOT to notify when there were open trenches on highways. Also established Governors Broadband Development Council to determine what other areas needed addressing. Wanted to focused on unserved, over underserved. Ended with comments about the uncertainty going forward as 5g and starlink unclear as to what options would be available in the future.

Next up was Christina Connelly from the Canadian Minneapolis Consulate to discuss the (plant and animal) protein highway. She noted that as world population increases, middle class rowing and demands more protein. She spent the next few minutes discussing how she works to build industry interest in products from Canada as well as working with producers in the states to become part of the supply chain that includes stops in Canada for finished products that they ultimately be sent to the states or exported.

Finally, Gene Harrington of BIO spoke about gene editing and spent the first few minutes discussing CRISPER and explaining how gene editing works and its benefits. This includes pest resistance, disease resistance, healthier foods, better producing plants. He really highlighted the need for the federal government to update its regulatory framework for gene editing as US has fallen behind south American countries especially on gene edited animals.