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Economic Development

Governor Robert Bentley to head Alabama economic development team at Farnborough Airshow ([Alabama Newscenter](#))- Gov. Robert Bentley is leading an Alabama delegation of economic development leaders to the Farnborough International Airshow near London next week for meetings aimed at fueling growth in the state's aerospace sector. Bentley and a small team from the Alabama Department of Commerce will join recruiters and government leaders at the industry's premier trade event, which attracts high-level executives from aerospace companies around the world.

Dow Chemical Company Plans Chemical Plant In Burley, Idaho ([Area Development](#))- The Dow Chemical Company plans to construct a new manufacturing facility in Burley, Idaho. The new facility will be operated by its business unit, Dow Building Solution, and produce STYROFOAM brand Extruded Polystyrene Insulation. Groundbreaking on the 60,000 square foot project is expected to occur in 2016 with project completion targeted for the latter portion of 2017. Manufacturing of STYROFOAM XPS Insulation is expected to begin in early 2018. Construction of the project will employ approximately 80 workers during peak construction and create 21 full-time manufacturing jobs at the height of operation.

(Kentucky) Mining equipment company to hire 70 employees for Salyersville plant ([WSAZ](#))- A company on the brink of closure last year is now expanding. Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin says Logan Corporation's mining equipment plant in eastern Kentucky will move to a new building five times its current size, invest \$2.6 million and hire 70 new employees. The company has a soaring demand for its new line of custom dump truck beds. "In spring 2015 we were running the numbers to figure out how we could stay in business. The mining industry was going off a cliff," said John G. Horn, Logan senior vice president. "We had laid off people and were doing just a fraction of the business we had five years prior."

Walker: New Program Will Help Expand Broadband ([Wisconsin Ag Connection](#))- Gov. Scott Walker says it is 'crucial' that Wisconsin's small businesses, schools and households have fast, reliable Internet access to compete in a global economy. In his weekly radio address, the governor announced that the state has just launched Broadband Forward!, which is a community certification program offered by the Public Service Commission. "This jump-starts broadband expansion in Wisconsin by eliminating obstacles to infrastructure improvements and by streamlining the process for approving local broadband investment," Walker noted in his broadcast. "Access to high-speed internet connections makes it easier for people to find work, encourages our businesses to grow, promotes tourism, and improves the quality of education for our students."

Good Government

Massachusetts Governor Baker Approves First Major Overhaul of Public Records Law ([The National Review](#))- Massachusetts has its first significant update of its Public Records Law since the 1970s with promises of swifter responses and real consequences including attorney's fees for failures to comply. The bill amends the existing Public Records Law requirements across several categories, including stricter response timeframes, limits on the assessment of fees, and measures for the award of legal fees.

Baker-Polito administration awards \$50,000 for stewardship improvements at protected farms ([Sampan](#))- The Baker-Polito Administration today announced grants totaling \$50,000 for projects that will help farmers improve the overall utilization of land resources permanently protected from development under the Department of Agricultural Resources' (DAR) Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR). "By choosing to protect their land from development, these farmers have committed to supporting a strong agricultural industry that benefits our local and regional economies," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This assistance to dedicated farmers illustrates our administration's ongoing support for the Commonwealth's vibrant agriculture industry, which provides fresh, healthy food for our state's residents."

Governor says Oklahoma met foster family recruiting goal ([KOCO](#))- Gov. Mary Fallin says more than 1,000 new foster families were certified in Oklahoma over the last year, a recruiting milestone reached for the first time since the governor helped launch an initiative four years ago. Fallin announced Thursday the Department of Human Services expects it will have certified more than 1,070 new foster families once the final figures are validated for the fiscal year that ended June 30. Fallin helped launch the Oklahoma Fosters with DHS and private and faith-based partners in 2012 as part of an effort to overhaul the way the agency helps care for abused and neglected children.

Public Safety

Gov. Matt Bevin declares state of emergency in response to localized flooding ([Berea Online](#))- In response to the flooding events which are impacting portions of western Kentucky, Gov. Matt Bevin declared a statewide emergency today, July 7, 2016, in order to provide local officials immediate access to state resources for public safety and assistance. "As always, our primary concern is safety," said Gov. Bevin. "This declared state of emergency gives emergency management the resources they need to proactively respond to local needs. We thank all of the officials working hard to minimize the impact of this storm system. We urge all citizens to take the necessary precautions needed to stay safe." The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the Joint Information Center (JIC) remain activated to monitor the situation and coordinate the response for this weather event.

Transportation

(North Carolina) Transportation law triples projects ([Carteret Country News-Times](#))- Three years ago last week, Gov. Pat McCrory signed landmark legislation that took the politics out of transportation planning. The most impressive aspect of the new process is that, three years later, we have the data to prove it's working. We initially estimated the new process would double the number of projects that could be funded over a 10-year period. In reality, the process has exceeded that estimate and is funding nearly three times as many projects and supporting nearly twice as many jobs as the previous formula.

Energy and the Environment

Oklahoma Reaches NGV Fueling Milestone ([Natural Gas Intel](#))- At the center of a five-year, multi-state push for more natural gas vehicle (NGV) use, Oklahoma has passed a milestone in putting together a network of fueling stations along its interstate highways, drawing praise Tuesday from Washington, DC-based trade group NGVAmerica. The oil/natural gas-rich Sooner State now has at least one compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station every 100 miles of interstate highways. "Oklahoma's robust NGV fueling network continues to support the state's growing number of motorists looking to take advantage of natural gas as a motor fuel," said Matt Godlewski, NGVAmerica president. In 2011, Gov. Mary Fallin established a push in the state to develop more use of natural gas in transportation (see Daily GPI, Nov. 10, 2011). Fallin established a state energy plan stressing the importance of natural gas as a motor fuel. The initial goal was to establish at least one CNG station every 100 miles of interstates by the end of 2015. Godlewski said the mission has been accomplished, and Oklahoma has provided "an impressive example for other states looking to transition to natural gas."

Healthcare

Illinois: Governor Signs Medical Cannabis Expansion Plan Into Law ([eNews Park Forest](#))- Governor Bruce Rauner has signed legislation to expand and extend the state's medical marijuana program. Other changes to the program include: adding post-traumatic stress and any terminal illness as qualifying medical conditions; extending the lifespan of state-issued registry cards from one year to three years in duration; and amending the requirement that physicians must explicitly recommend cannabis therapy. Instead, physicians will only be required to certify that there exists a bona fide doctor-patient relationship and that the patient possesses a qualifying, debilitating medical condition.

Education

Rauner Held Firm In School Funding Negotiations ([WAND](#))- Governor Bruce Rauner tells WAND News he would not agree to an education plan that would have provided hundreds of millions of extra dollars to Chicago Public Schools. Rauner is critical of attempts by the Democratic leadership for trying to increase the percentage of funding given to Chicago schools. The governor calls it a "bailout."

Gov. Hogan praises education efforts during visit to Md. Agricultural Education Foundation in Harford ([The Baltimore Sun](#))- Acres of corn stood behind George Mayo, executive director of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, as he guided Gov. Larry Hogan around the foundation's Harford County home near Havre de Grace Thursday morning. The nonprofit foundation is based in the Sen. William H. Amoss Agricultural Center at Swan Harbor Farm, which is on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Swan Harbor is owned by the county and managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The foundation was established in 1989, the result of a gubernatorial task force on agriculture education. Its funds come from grants, donations, fundraisers, endowments, business contributions and sales of the "Ag Tag" license plate, which has an illustration of a farm. "They're doing great things and they're educating some 40,000 kids around the state

about the importance of agriculture," Hogan said.