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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Key Role for U.S. in Bolstering EU Energy Infrastructure**

Aii Panel Examines EU's Infrastructure and Implications on U.S. Energy Policy

Washington, D.C. (December 2, 2015) - Last week, the Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) hosted a policy discussion on Capitol Hill examining infrastructure connectivity of the European Union and resulting implications on U.S. energy policy.

The event served as a precursor to Chairman/CEO Brigham McCown's upcoming report, "Energy (Dis)Union: A Critique of the European Internal Market," examining the challenges and opportunities of establishing a common energy market in the EU. The analysis will be published by European Energy Journal in January 2016.

The event featured a panel that included former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Richard Kauzlarich; former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary András Simonyi; energy expert Douglas Hengel, whose experience draws from more than 30 years at the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in the Czech Republic; Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, Peter Zelenak; and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, Mindaugas Zickus.

The experts throughout the event underscored the role America can play in alleviating the EU's infrastructure challenges and particularly providing fuel sources in high demand including oil and natural gas. Others on the panel stressed the security benefits of having U.S. export its resources abroad.

"U.S. oil and gas is a strategic asset for the EU and a very important element of security. America must take a role in making the EU less dependent on resources from threatening regions including Russia. I would urge the Secretary of Energy and this administration to greenlight policies that will allow U.S. to share its energy resources," said András Simonyi.

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**The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii)** is a U.S.-based nonprofit committed to recognizing the nation's need for improved infrastructure and highlighting innovative and effective strategies to address these issues related to energy, transportation, and technology advancements.

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