

Insights Shared During 2025 Port Symposium

From an Economic and Technology Outlook to Tariffs

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2025

(Green Bay, Wis.) – Experts at this year’s Port Symposium shared a holistic picture of economic factors impacting Northeast Wisconsin. Topics included an economic, workforce and technology outlook for the region, Wisconsin’s circular bio-economy, the Great Lakes ports association legislative agenda, and tariffs.

With local, state and federal leaders underscoring the importance of a strong Great Lakes maritime economy, key takeaways centered on the interconnectedness of the many interests that depend on the Great Lakes. While there may be unknowns, many businesses remain upbeat about the economic outlook for the region.

“We walked away with a lot of valuable insights from this year’s symposium,” shared Brown County Port of Green Bay Director Dean Haen. “We really thank our speakers and all those who participated and engaged with them. They gave us a deeper understanding of the dynamic factors that are shaping our regional economy.”

Attendees heard from County Executive Troy Streckenbach; Harbor Commission Vice President Bryan Hyska; U.S. Congressman Tony Wied (8th District); Col. Kenneth Rockwell with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; NEW Manufacturing Alliance Executive Director Ann Franz; WiSys Director of Strategy & Innovative Ventures Dr. Adhira Sunkara, PhD; Executive Director of the American Great Lakes Ports Association Brian Oszakiewski; and Dr. Marc Schaffer of St. Norbert College. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin shared an address via video.

The final speaker, Dr. Marc Schaffer, shared a comparative overview of tariffs from both the current and previous administrations. His assessment was that while GDP has remained fairly solid and consumer spending has kept our economy strong, key economic indicators to watch over the coming months will be consumer, business and government spending as well as exports.

For a deeper look at the insights shared, presentations from the symposium are available at <https://www.portofgreenbay.com/symposium-presentations>.

###

About the Port of Green Bay: The Port of Green Bay exists to enhance the prosperity of the people of Northeast Wisconsin by providing facilities and infrastructure able to effectively and efficiently move commodities and goods across the nation. As the western-most port of Lake Michigan, the Port of Green Bay offers a direct route for shipping from the Midwest to the rest of the world.

The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators located along three miles of the Fox River involved in shipping commodities: [Ace Marine](#), [C. Reiss Company](#), [Construction Resources Management](#), [Flint Hills Resources](#), [Fox River Terminals](#), [Georgia-Pacific](#), [Graymont](#), [GLC Minerals](#), [KK Integrated Logistics](#), [Lafarge Northern America](#), [RGL](#), [Sanimax](#), [St. Mary’s Cement](#) and [U.S. Venture](#).

For more information, visit our website at: www.portofgreenbay.com

Follow us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

Media Contacts:

Dean Haen, Director
Brown County Port & Resource Recovery
(920) 492-4953
www.portofgreenbay.com

Kaitlin Foley
Kane Communications
(920) 965-7750 ext. 112
kaitlin@kanecommgroup.com