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BIOGRAPHY

J Keith Burdette is the President and CEO of the Polymer Alliance Zone Inc. in West Virginia, USA. The Zone's mission is to assist in the retention and expansion of existing polymer companies as well as work to recruit new investment and jobs in the industry to a region along the Ohio River and area with a large concentration of existing specialty polymer companies. He has most recently served as the Secretary of Commerce and Executive Director of the West Virginia Development Office during the administration of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. He has served in the administration of two Governors; served in both houses of the West Virginia State Legislature and served five years as the President of the West Virginia State Senate, making him first in line of succession to the Governor. He has also been involved with Shale Crescent USA and the Tri-State Shale conference.

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THE SHALE REVOLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES AND HOW IT IS AFFECTING THE PETROCHEMICAL AND POLYMER INDUSTRY

The "Shale Revolution" in the United States in general and the northeast states of West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, specifically has created a massive low cost source for natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGLs). If the three states were a country they would be the 3rd largest producer of natural gas in the world and one of the top producers of NGLs. Over 80% of the increase in current production of natural gas in the US is coming from the three-state region. It is estimated that 40% of all gas production in the United States will come from this region by 2040. The growth in NGLs like ethane, butane and propane is equally dramatic. Coupled with the proximity to polyethylene and polypropylene users a major industry consulting firm has released studies showing that this region is now a lower cost alternative for polymer production to the US's Gulf Coast. This region is one of, if not the only place, in the world where extraction of feedstock, processing, manufacturing and ultimate sale of product can all be accomplished in the same area, within an eight hour truck driving shift. This new dynamic is creating new opportunities for the industry which only a decade ago was struggling to develop strategies to import raw materials or off-shore production. Regardless of whether your company is in this region, experts now say that the cost impact within the industry is real and must be considered.