

## **Plenary Keynote: Rufus Gifford**

*Former U.S. Ambassador and current Nominee for Chief of Protocol for the United States*

### **The new climate policies under the Biden Administration and the global challenges for the Paris Agreement**

The American journey on climate and renewable energy has been a rocky one. As the political dynamic domestically has shifted right, left, right and back again, I know many folks around the world wonder whether the Americans and the Biden Administration will lead on climate like we saw under Obama with a massive investment in renewable energy and global leadership, like we saw with the Paris Agreement, or whether we will revisit a chapter like we saw under Bush where we turned our back on Kyoto or under Trump when we pulled out of Paris and investment in renewable energy was routinely mocked - who can forget "windmill cancer?"

While the political dynamic has changed and evolved, what was happening in American states and cities - together with private sector and NGO leaders - was the development of a firm understanding of our challenges and belief system that sustainability and investment in renewable energy was not only vital for the survival of the planet but also good for business.

This development together with the leadership of the Biden Administration and their commitment to be the most progressive and forward leaning administration in history on climate, the next decade will be a very exciting time for climate investment in the United States. And while there are real hurdles remaining, right now we have every reason to be extremely bullish about the future of American renewable energy.