

# Editorial page

our views. Opinion from across the world.

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**A4**

*Question: Is the pipeline, a pipeline for domestic use or is it also a pipeline for export/overseas?*

## Give Democrats chance to help western N.D.

**PARSHALL, N.D.** — The Herald's story, "Oil Patch leaders to Legislature: Show us the money," accurately describes the unpleasant truth about today's North Dakota Legislature (Page B5, Feb. 6).

Williston finance commissioner Brad Bekkedahl described the reality well when he said: "They (the Legislature) never fund the need."

As Bekkedahl asks, "How do we get the oil and gas counties to convince the North Dakota Legislature to fund the need?"

The answer is relatively easy, but it may not be possible as long as the oil and gas counties are unwilling to challenge the Republican supermajority in the Legislature to do more.

In fact, many leaders from oil counties and communities seem afraid to stand up to the indifference of the Republican supermajority because so many Republican legislators seem content to deny the problems created by rapid oil development.

It doesn't have to be this way. The truth is that some of us have tried to respond to Bekkedahl's concerns with real solutions.

North Dakota Democrats introduced legislation in the 2013 Legislature that focused on oil counties and communities. North Dakota Democrats proposed dedicating 100 percent of the oil production tax for two years to oil counties and communities. The Republican supermajority killed these bills with little consideration given to the

merits.

The Herald story quotes Williston Mayor Ward Koeser telling Gov. Jack Dalrymple that it's not right for our state to sit on billions of dollars in various funds while the communities in western North Dakota are being forced to borrow money. Koeser's right. But such change will not come fast enough as long as one party controls state government.

The Herald did an excellent job in covering this story. The story completely reflects the attitudes I hear from so many constituents in my district.

I ask the Herald to add further dimension to this major story by looking into the legislation that has been introduced over the past three sessions by North Dakota Democrats. These proposals would have met many of these needs and mitigated the problems facing so many western counties and communities.

I will be more than happy to give the Herald all the bill numbers and sponsors, as I know them well.

I also know this: The only way to change things in western North Dakota is to bring back balance to the North Dakota Legislature.

**Kenton Onstad**

*State Rep. Onstad, D-Parshall, is minority leader of the North Dakota House.*

### Proposed pipeline puts Red River at risk

RED LAKE FALLS, Minn. — Re-

cently the Herald reported that Enbridge conducted a spill drill at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks ("Enbridge runs through spill drill," Page A1, Feb. 7).

The worst-case scenario and emergency response that followed played out at the tabletop discussion attended by emergency responders, public officials and landowners.

The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline crosses under the Red River south of Grand Forks on its route from Tioga, N.D., to (ultimately) Superior, Wis.

Since the 2010 pipeline rupture in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, Enbridge has stepped up its public relations campaign.

That rupture spewed a million gallons into the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek, soiled 35 miles of wetlands and waterways and sickened 320 people.

In addition, more than 3,000 turtles, 170 birds and nearly 40 mammals were recovered in the spill.

And some 3½ years later the Kalamazoo spill clean-up is not completed. The EPA gave Enbridge to Dec. 31, 2013, to remove up to 18,000 gallons of submerged oil. Enbridge said in December that it could not meet the deadline but could complete the work by October 2014.

At \$1 billion, the spill is the costliest onshore clean-up in U.S. history.

According to Polaris Institute, Enbridge's sordid history includes some 804 spills that took place on

Enbridge pipelines from 1999 to 2010.

These spills released about 161,000 barrels of crude oil into the environment.

With 2.5 million miles of pipeline running through this country, accidents even with the best oversight and planning will occur.

There is no comfort, only fear about the Sandpiper project putting a pipeline under the Red River south of Grand Forks.

We are frightfully addicted to fossil fuels.

It wasn't too long ago that renewables were the theme and goal for our energy needs.

Now, because of fracking, that attention to renewables has all but gone away.

The Oil Patch is celebrated as a virtual godsend by politicians and corporate profiteers.

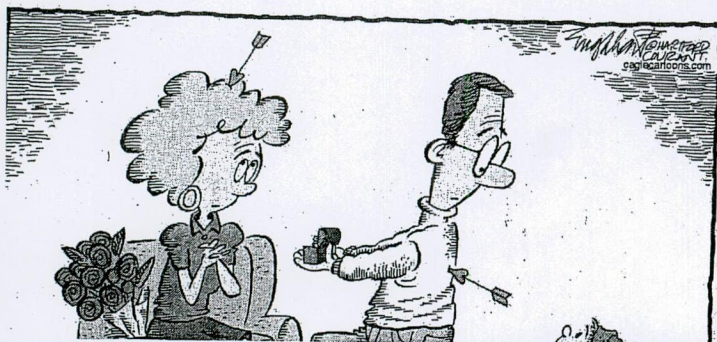
Addiction destroys lives. And in the case of the fossil fuel obsession, it is literally destroying nature — the land, air, water and so many of nature's creatures, as well as a way of life so many of us have valued.

Corporations, even though they have legal personhood, are not people. Profits and damage control are their concern.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a holding a public hearing on Enbridge's proposal at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the UND School of Law. I invite Herald readers to attend and join with others who oppose yet another reckless pipeline.

**Chuck Goyette**

### Double play



IT'S THE BEATING I TOOK TO GET HERE THAT COUNTS.

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Exhibit Goyette - letter to editor - Grand Forks Herald

EXHIBIT 4  
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Chuck Goyette