

Exclusive Investigation: Legislators Summoned To Private Meeting On Carbon Capture

Widely-circulated email/text "invite-only legislator-only" event designed to lobby and recruit legislative support for Carbon Capture project under the guise of "education".



DUSTIN GAWRYLOW

APR 09, 2024



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Is That \$300,000 Grant Already Being Used For Unethical (And Possibly Illegal) Lobbying Efforts?

Yesterday, I received an anonymous text from who I believe to be a legislator, showing an invitation sent to "Legislators Only" with a two-meeting schedule for a "fireside chat" with **Harold Hamm**, and **Bruce Rastetter** at the NDSU Memorial Hall in Fargo and at U-Mary in Bismarck.

694 PU-22-391 Filed: 7/1/2024 Pages: 14
LO Exhibit LO-18 - Watching ND Article - Meeting on
Carbon Capture Dated 04/09/24 (Dkt. #574)

Knoll Leibel, LLP, on behalf of the Intervenor

LO #18 – 5/24/24
PU-22-391

"The goal of this event is to arm legislators with data and facts to better inform their constituents on the threats to the Energy Industry and the future of North Dakota."

This will be a "fireside" chat with Harold and Bruce hosted by Kathy Neset and Scott Hennen. It's being billed as "America's Oil Champion and Ag Champion Together."

Fargo Event Details:

- Coffee: 8am.
- Program: 8:30-9:30.
- Q & A: 9:30-10:00.
- Social: 10-10:30.
- Location: NDSU Memorial Theater
- Legislators Only.

Bismarck Event Details:

- Light lunch: Noon-12:30.
- Program: 12:30-1:30.
- Q & A: 1:30-2:00.
- Social: 2:00-2:30.
- Location: U Mary
- Legislators Only.

After doing some digging, and contacting other legislators, I got ahold of the original invite email. It appears to originate from State Senator Kristin Roers. I've blacked out her email address

because it appears to be her personal/campaign Gmail account, not her official state legislative account.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kristin Roers
 Date: Mon, Apr 8, 2024, 4:38 PM
 Subject: UPDATED: Invite 4/16 - Friends of Ag & Energy (Fargo & Bismarck)
 To:

It was noted that the day of the week and date did not match in the original message we were sent - it is on TUESDAY, not Wednesday (so the 4/16 was the right part). I have also added more details on the location (NDSU/U Mary - but final details will be coming soon).

We are invited to the "Friends of Ag & Energy" event with Harold Hamm and Bruce Rastetter!

It will be held Tuesday, April 16 (yes, one day from Cornhole Madness) in both Bismarck and Fargo.

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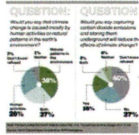
Harold Hamm: Founder of Continental Resources.

Bruce Rastetter: Successful farmer and large investor in the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project.

Feel free to contact **Scott Hennen** via email (scotth@flagfamily.com) or cell: (701) 367-2054.

--
 Senator Kristin Roers
 District 27, ND GOP
voteformroers@gmail.com
 701-566-0340

Because this event is being put on by the "Friends of Ag and Energy", led by Scott Hennen, one immediately has to wonder if this is being funded by the \$300,000 grant awarded to AE2S by the North Dakota Industrial Commission.



Two Bids Submitted For State's Carbon Agenda Propaganda Grant

DUSTIN GAWRYLOW • FEB 20

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Recall that Hennen's consulting arm, **the Fieldstone Group**, was listed as an asset/partner in the documentation from AE2S that was reported by media.

AE2S has a partnership with Friends of Ag and Energy headed by Kathy Neset of oil and gas firm Neset Consulting, the Fieldstone Group run by conservative North Dakota media personalities Scott Hennen and Steve Hallstrom, and the Western Dakota Energy Association which lobbies on behalf of a number of coal, oil and gas-producing communities in state. These communities also sit right atop the geology best for carbon storage.

Friends of Ag and Energy hosted a townhall in December at Bismarck State College in which industry officials and Burgum spoke in favor of carbon capture, to a room composed mostly of people opposed to Summit's project. The event was not explicitly in support of Summit, but company representatives were in attendance, and the microphone got handed off to them multiple times to respond to audience questions.



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Is This A Public Meeting Or Private Event?

Since getting information on this meeting, one former legislator told me there is a loophole for such events to be considered private, even if they take place on public property, if it was paid for by a "private" entity it becomes a private event.

However, because the money given in the \$300,000 grant to AE2S could easily be distributed, either directly or indirectly, and because the Hennen operation was declared to be part of the AE2S proposal it would be very easy to presume that there is a connection.

Is a \$300,000 state grant always “public money” or does it become “private” as soon as it is issued?



North Dakota Energy Council

Survey: Do you need to be educated or re-educated on carbon?

Are you ignorant about CO2? (Click Here To Answer Our Survey) Should the state of North Dakota start spending money to help promote the Carbon Agenda? According to the Western Dakota Energy Association: “The ND Industrial Commission has announced a special grant round seeking proposals to promote the state's emerging opportunities in the carbon dioxide capt...

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4 months ago · Dustin Gawrylow


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Citizen Request for Attorney Generals' Open Meeting Review

Rarely, does anyone in the public know about a meeting that is deemed “legislators only” without public notice before it happens. It is not clear whether such a meeting’s illegality can even be questioned before it occurs.

I did send the Attorney General a request to look at the issue. Not sure if or when that could/would be determined.

Citizen Request for Attorney Generals' Open Meeting Review

 Dustin Gawrylow
To: ndag@nd.gov


Attorney General Wrigley,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a meeting scheduled that within the invitation declares it to be "Legislators Only", which presumes it is invite only, and not an open meeting. It was sent by a legislator using a non-state email address. (See below screenshot of the email invite.)

1. Does such a meeting first have to occur in order for there to be a question as to whether it was a violation?
2. Are there circumstances that allow for legislators to coordinate with private entities to have large scale discussions not open to the public and avoid open meeting laws?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter in advance.

- Dustin Gawrylow

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Date: Mon, Apr 8, 2024, 4:28 PM
Subject: UPDATED: Invite 4/16 - Friends of Ag & Energy (Fargo & Bismarck)
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...
Senator Kristin Roers
District 27, ND GOP

I will keep you up to date on this situation.

Citizens should not be locked out of events where their elected officials are being told what to think and how to vote.

This is not The North Dakota Way, but it is becoming increasingly The Republican Way.



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North Dakota Republican Party Passes Resolution Opposing Carbon Capture

In other news, this weekend at the North Dakota Republican Party's state convention, Resolution #7 was passed with a 2/3rds vote.

This resolution (which I helped write early in the process) was one of the 14 out of 15 resolutions passed by the convention delegates.

7. Resolution Opposing Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Supporting Private Property Rights, and Condemning the Use of Eminent Domain for CO₂ Pipelines – NDGOP Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS: Corporations within the energy sector are capitalizing on the false premise of a looming climate apocalypse by introducing CCS projects into North Dakota which would require the acquisition of land across various states, affecting numerous landowners and communities; and eminent domain is being considered to acquire the necessary land for the pipeline; and

WHEREAS: The affected landowners and communities have expressed strong opposition to the use of eminent domain, arguing that it unjustly benefits a private entity at the expense of their property rights and local autonomy, demonstrating that there is a need for greater transparency, community involvement, and rigorous environmental and safety assessments in the planning and implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS: The North Dakota Republican Party supports the right of individual citizens to own and benefit from private real property ownership and further affirms that the individual's right of ownership should be the "primary purpose" inherent in the use and value of their real property, and

WHEREAS: The Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution protects private property from public use without just compensation; and

WHEREAS: There are substantial unanswered questions about the environmental benefits of these projects, their associated risks, and the long-term viability of CCS technology; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Dakota Republican Party condemns the use of eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipelines and calls for an immediate halt to any such actions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The North Dakota Republican Party urges relevant governmental bodies to seek alternative solutions that do not infringe upon the property rights of individuals, that respect environmental and safety concerns, and that involve meaningful consultation and consent from the affected communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The North Dakota Republican Party opposes the use of State funds to educate the public on the benefits of CCS that are contrary to the will and interests of private property owners; and opposes the fascism of mutually beneficial partnerships between government and private energy corporations created under the pretext of climate change, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The North Dakota Republican Party supports legislation that prevents the infringement of individual property rights without just compensation and provides legislative oversight of administrative rules that carry the force and effect of law.



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

North Dakota Republican Party State Convention Votes on 15 Resolutions, Passes 14

BISMARCK, N.D. – *April 8, 2024* – The North Dakota Republican Party State Convention ended its convention by voting on 15 resolutions. The resolutions are non-binding on party officials, yet represent issues important to the convention delegates.

This convention departed from its tradition of voting on resolutions as a block, instead opting for individual consideration of each resolution.

Fourteen resolutions passed with resounding support. However, the resolution advocating for equal protection for the unborn fell short due to concerns expressed for the well-being of the mother in extreme circumstances.

The North Dakota Republican Party remains committed to advancing conservative principles.

The full text of each resolution is available at <https://www.ndgopconvention2024.com>.

Media Contact:

Andrew Nyhus

North Dakota Republican Party

Phone: (701) 255-0030

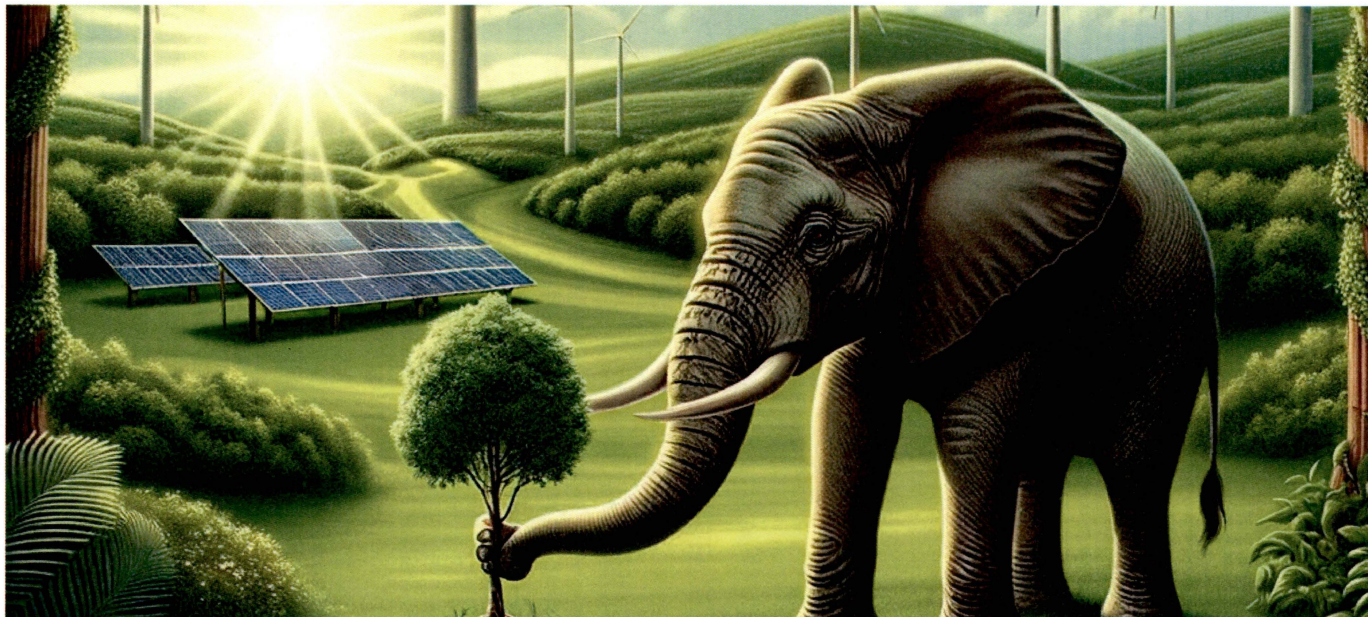
Email: andrew@ndgop.com

[END OF RELEASE]

These are all of course non-binding resolutions among Republican Party members, but it establishes a clear-cut line between the party's membership, and the actions of their elected officials, as previously documented.

ND Legislature Set Path To The Green Agenda With Non-Binding Resolutions

DUSTIN GAWRYLOW · MAR 1



In the world of legislation, non-binding resolutions and laws often times get passed as feel-good measures with little to no consequence, or at least no consequence intended by those who vote for the resolutions and bills. But occasionally, they are a great way to sneak through an agenda stealthily without anyone realizing it. Sometimes, even those of us who keep an eye on what is happening in the legislature don't really see the forest being planted one tree at a time.

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2 Comments



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Brian Bartz Apr 9

Just so you know, the campaign email address for Senator Kristin Roers shows at the bottom of the first screenshot of her email message to legislators.



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1 reply by Dustin Gawrylow

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