

## PRESS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release**

### **DRC Surveys Gubernatorial Candidates About Energy Efficiency**

**Bismarck**— Today Dakota Resource Council (DRC) released results of a survey of governor candidates regarding energy efficiency. DRC received responses from incumbent Governor and Republican candidate Jack Dalrymple, State Senator and Democratic-NPL candidate Ryan Taylor, as well as the Libertarian party candidate Roland Riemers.

DRC has advocated for improving energy efficiency in North Dakota since the early 2000s. Energy efficiency is a bedrock North Dakota value. North Dakotans understand energy conservation saves people and businesses money on their energy bills, promotes getting the most out of our energy resources, and fosters stewardship for the land, air, and water for future generations. “Even though energy efficiency is a shining example of ND values, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) year after year ranks ND at the bottom for energy efficiency” said DRC Chair Verle Reinicke.

Candidates for governor showed a clear interest in energy conservation. Although, each candidate has differing opinions as to how North Dakota should achieve energy efficiency, each candidate believes energy efficiency is an important issue in North Dakota and they each provided a roadmap for achieving energy efficiency in North Dakota.

Incumbent Governor Jack Dalrymple’s plan relies on using existing programs and building codes, while monitoring and encouraging energy efficient behaviors of private citizens as well as state government. He also advocated for continuing education throughout the state to stress the importance of energy conservation. Gov. Dalrymple still believes ND is doing well when it comes to energy efficiency, despite being ranked at the bottom year after year by ACEEE. He would like to promote incentives for energy efficiency, but not mandates. Several of the successful energy efficiency programs the Governor referenced in his plan were funded by federal stimulus money starting in 2009.

Democratic-NPL candidate, Sen. Ryan Taylor’s plan to accomplish statewide energy efficiency is proactive. Taylor’s plan includes bolstering North Dakota’s current energy efficiency programs. Sen. Taylor advocated using the Resource Trust Fund (a fund derived from the Oil Extraction Tax, which is to be used for water projects, and energy conservation.) and to allocate money from the current surplus to provide more incentives and rebates for those seeking to make their homes and business more energy efficient. Taylor also stressed that the government should lead by example by making state buildings more efficient.

Libertarian candidate Roland Riemers’ strategy to achieve energy efficiency in the state is a broad approach focusing first on how human behavior with regard to energy use is impacting the amount of energy that is being used. Mr. Riemers encourages the construction of more energy efficient buildings, but does not think it is the government’s role to “force” citizens to build efficiently. Within the government Riemers encourages cost-effective building strategies that save money. Riemers also added that his own home is entirely solar heated.