

Dakota Counsel

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ORGANIZING * RESEARCH * ADVOCACY * EDUCATION

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DRC Celebrates 40 Years in 2018

Former staff share DRC's grassroots beginnings

Dakota Resource Council has been a voice for North Dakotans over the last four decades. For as many years we've been fighting for North Dakotans, many folks do not know of our early beginnings in Dunn County, North Dakota.

In order to accurately represent Dakota Resource Council, our staff learned the story of Dakota Resource Council. Our early roots began in land conservation and the preservation of agricultural lands that is the lifeblood of North Dakota in 1978. But few people know that there was an organization that preceded Dakota Resource Council called the United Plainsmen.

We've asked a few of our long time members to share their memories of Dakota Resource Council.

Paul Hessinger, former field organizer for United Plainsmen:

Led by dedicated locals, Dakota Resource Council has an interesting and long history of protecting North Dakota and its people. I have followed their work loosely over the years and saw lots of good things happening at their hands. I know how much work organizing is, and the energy and grit it takes.

I thought about DRC and our cause often over the years and eventually, I got the urge to go back and find out what happened to the United Plainsmen Association. I was curious and I wanted to meet the people I saw online who were doing all of the hard work of carrying environmental issues forward.



DRC staff meet with Paul at the DRC office in Bismarck

In 2009, I contacted the office and asked to come by and meet everyone. They counter-offered and wouldn't you know it, invited me to the Patterson Hotel bar, Peacock Alley where they were all having lunch during a break in the legislature activities up at the Capitol. The Patterson was the United Plainsmen's unofficial second office. Lots of meetings, lunches, important lobbying efforts went on there. It was great talking to them and finding out a bit of what happened after I left North Dakota.

A much more satisfying meeting occurred this summer, 2018, when I was on a road trip back to North Dakota and many parts in between to see friends at an annual gathering and the region I love so much. I called ahead and it seemed there was a good group of DRC staff at the office. I suspect they were ending their day as I got there in late afternoon. But we spent some time talking and discovering the information and surprises we had for each other. I was tickled to know that they had all of our old, dusty files stored there. I like history and it is important to me to know that our files had been used and archived.

Continued on page 3

DRCINFO.ORG

Dakota Counsel Vol. 41 Issue 3

We the People Can and Do Still have a Say



*April Fairfield,
DRC Board Chair*

Every time we turn around lately, it seems what we hold as foundational, fundamental, and steadfast is turned on its ear. That's why when a federal judge recently upheld the longstanding North Dakota anti-corporate farming law, many of us breathed a collective sigh of relief.

The anti-corporate farming law is as much part of our North Dakota DNA as our love for caramel rolls, deer hunting and Teddy Roosevelt. It's hard to imagine there are a handful of politicians and a so-called farm organization doggedly determined to overturn this law, even though they just keep getting their hands slapped.

It is easy to feel discouraged when the policies and principles that we rely on, ideals that we strive for, values that we believe run deep as North Dakotans and Americans are moved out of the "decided" column into the "ehh, up for debate" column. This judge's ruling is one very bright spot for North Dakotans' to cleave and rest our weary minds.

So what can we take away from the anti-corporate farming victory?

We can remember that even when we are frustrated by actions in the Legislature, "We the People" can and do still have a say in North Dakota's future, as evidenced by the favorable court ruling in the anti-corporate farming case. We also have the initiated measure and referral process.

When the Legislature gets it so, so wrong, North Dakotans can still get it right.

In 2016, North Dakota voters resoundingly defeated the idea of corporate farming when they referred the law that loosened the anti-corporate farming law prime sponsored by Senator Terry Wanzek of Jamestown.

Also in 2016, North Dakotans passed an initiated measure to allow medical marijuana. However, the Legislature hemmed and hawed and have, thus far, failed to implement the law. It will be interesting to see whether that failure will have any influence in the minds of voters when it comes to the initiated measure to legalize recreational marijuana on the ballot this fall.

And when the Legislature failed, session after session, to address ethics, campaign finance reporting and lobbying reform, a group of North Dakotans banded together to put those issues on the ballot with Measure 1 in November.

Therefore, let's remember that even though DRC may not win on every legislative issue, the Legislature is not our only option to affect positive change in North Dakota.

DRC members work together and stand together. We can and will join with our neighbors to organize and take action on issues that matter in our communities and our state.

ABOUT US

Dakota Resource Council believes that the most enduring change comes from the bottom up. DRC members organize to take actions to influence public opinion and shape public policy to advance DRC's mission and build people power.

As a non-partisan grassroots organization, DRC members organize on issues impacting our three focus areas of oil and gas, agriculture and food, and clean energy to bring long-term institutional change to communities across North Dakota.

DRC AFFILIATES

Fort Berthold Protectors of Water & Earth Rights (POWER)

Lisa DeVille, Chair

Badlands Area Resource Council (BARC)

Linda Weiss, Chair

Mckenzie County Energies & Taxation Association (MCETA)

Donny Nelson, Chair

Missouri Valley Resource Council (MVRC)

Chair Vacancy



**Dakota Resource Council
1200 Missouri Ave Suite 201
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-224-8587**

DRC Former Staff Reminisce Early Days of North Dakota Organizing

Continued from page 1

We ended up taking some pictures and really having a wonderful visit—it was an amazing moment for me for sure!

I shared what I could recall about our earliest history and formation. They thought that the Randolph Nodland era was the beginning of their journey –and it probably was as DRC. But it was not if you include the organic extension into the past that the United Plainsmen were—early relatives of DRC at the very least.

I really enjoyed my time there, it was filled with admiration for the obvious intelligence and zeal of all of these young, dedicated staffers who were continuing a longer tradition than they actually realize. I was proud of all of them, all their work, and whomever else is also involved doing all that now.

I do not recall our first meetings exactly nor who was there, I'm sure they were very small meetings. I suspect that Irv Nodland, Bismarck trial attorney, was at every one. I don't recall where our first office was located, or if we even had one. It was probably one of our apartments. We ended up for the majority of our work at a historic, old creaky office above the Capitol theatre on Main Street in Bismarck. It had a ballroom that use to be part of the Patterson Hotel to which this entire office was linked. It was office space and we used it.

I don't recall our specific initial plans at first. Five energy companies created a devious but clever plan and needed to keep it secret until the companies bought up the mineral rights and sealed their legal rights to the coal. The law on ingress and egress clearly stipulated that if you own the mineral rights you could do whatever you want to the surface (farms, ranches, buildings, grazing or croplands) to get to YOUR coal. Once they got those leases they would be invincible, unstoppable. They could tear down homes, barns, croplands, pastures with impunity. We knew we were in a serious horserace with time and we needed to get out front and win.

How were we, a couple of broke college students, planning and executing this grand uphill battle tilting at windmills? We began to contact people to gather ideas, get advice, and took action. We began raising money, awareness, and hell.

The group kept growing as we worked and moved forward. EVERYONE told all the three of us, Ardell Tharaldson, Scott Harrison, Lynn Seaverson, and later Chuck Perry and the rest of our growing band that it was IMPOSSIBLE to even consider trying to stop five huge energy companies from strip mining all three billion tons of North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota coal with total unstoppable impunity.

Our job was to alert politicians, ranchers, farmers, city dwellers, students, wives, and everyone of this clear and unprecedented danger to our way of life, air, water, and land. Ironically, I don't think any one of us owned ANYTHING in the way of property in North Dakota.

Our goal was to have our research arm find studies and issues that pointed out what a terrible plan this was and that it must be mitigated or stopped. The coal companies wanted to build 42 coal gasification operations in North Dakota. By our calculations, this would use 1.5 times more water than comes down the Missouri river, a major source of water.

Continued on page 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BARC: **Pat Hedstrup**, **Wayne Fisher**
FB POWER: **Joletha Bird Bear**,
Tom Abe
MCETA: Vacant
MVRG: Vacant

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liz@drcinfo.com

Jeffon Seely
Bookkeeper | Accounting
jseely@drcinfo.com

Mary Swanson
Office Administrator
mary1@drcinfo.com

Court sides with the people of North Dakota upholding ban on corporate farming

Judge upholds 86-year-old law as both functional and constitutional

Nearly one-hundred years ago, the people of North Dakota voted in favor of a referendum to ban corporate farming in North Dakota. In late September, Dakota Resource Council and North Dakota Farmers Union won the dispute when US District Judge Daniel Hovland upheld the people's referendum in court in a suit brought by the North Dakota Farm Bureau.



History

During the Great Depression, farmers throughout the mid-west were going out of business in record numbers and corporations (especially out of state corporations) were buying up their farmland cheap. In 1932, North Dakotans passed a popular referendum that made it illegal for corporations to own farmland or engage in farming operations. North Dakotans felt that corporations were a threat to family farming, rural communities, and North Dakota's culture.

Fast Forward to the Present

Fast forward eighty years, half a century of research has proven what the farming and ranching community instinctively knew: when corporations take over agricultural land and operations, nearby communities experience lower income, population decline, and environmental pollution.

That hasn't stopped disputes over the law. Over the years, corporate interests have whittled away at the anti-corporate farming laws in surrounding states. In 2015, the North Dakota legislature buckled under corporate lobbying pressure and passed an amendment to the law which allowed dairies and pork farms to be corporately controlled.

Fervent backlash to the law came swiftly, in June, 2016, 76% of voters who cast ballots voted to repeal the 2015 amendment.

Even before the 2016 referendum passed, the North Dakota Farm Bureau filed a lawsuit claiming the 1932 law is unconstitutional due to the interstate commerce clause in the US constitution. Judge Hovland's ruling proves that the 1932 law is constitutional and that the Farm Bureau's argument does not support the wishes of the people of North Dakota.

Farmer and longtime Dakota Resource Council member Gene Wirtz said that the ruling is a victory for family farms.

"Farming is more than a business to me, and to a lot of North Dakotans," he said. "It's a way of life, and it seems like the Farm Bureau wants it to be all about business. And I think its way more than that."

Though it is time to celebrate the recent win, Hovland's ruling also allowed for the 1981 family corporation exemption to stand, possibly opening the door to some corporate ownership of agriculture operations, signaling that this fight isn't over.

Dakota Resource Council is committed to fighting to remove the exemption, ensuring that North Dakota farms are owned by North Dakotans.

Proposed Lake Region CAFO Gets Public Pushback at Public Hearings

Comment Period Extended Until October 12

The North Dakota Department of Health held two hearings in the Lake Region on September 12 to accept public to comment on the proposed 2,500-hog farm that may be built west of Devils Lake. At the hearings hundreds of people turned out to show their opposition to the proposed confined animal feeding operation (CAFO).

The main supporters of the proposed CAFO were Farm Bureau and the Stockmen's Association. They mainly argued that CAFOs were safe and that there was nothing to worry about. The opponents to the project did not share their sentiment.

Overall, the opposition far outnumbered the projects supporters. Those in opposition to the project included DRC members, members of Lake Region Concerned Citizens, members and leaders of the Spirit Lake Nation, local businesses, and sportsmen. People testifying at the hearing expressed concerns regarding what a large hog CAFO would do to the tourism value of the Lake Region, the impacts it could have to the lake the Spirit Lake Nation, the possible impacts on cultural resources, and the issues surrounding smell and the spreading of pig waste.

At the hearings, Dakota Resource Council and our allies at the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project formally requested a hearing extension for the comment period in order to further examine the permit and to more closely the various impacts associated with the proposed CAFO.

Following the hearing the North Dakota Department of Health extended the comment period until October 12. DRC submitted comments opposing the project and to continue to engage with members of Lake Region Concerned Citizens and the Spirit Lake Nation.



Joletta Bird Bear testifies at the Grand Prairie Agriculture LLC public hearing in Spirit Lake



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Dakota Res Council

@DakResCouncil



40 Years of Community Organizing in North Dakota

Continued from page 3

Paul Hessinger:

You, Dakota Resource Council folks, are the committed citizens now carrying the banner forward. I had, and continue to have a great love of the people and land of that entire region, the windswept prairies, bales of hay, the rugged farmers, ranchers, and the folks in the cities sprinkled throughout the area. The amazing, intense weather all year around, the way of life; I loved the first snows and thunderstorms, line storms you can see coming, and the smells in all four seasons and the beautiful, haunting sounds of geese flying high overhead going south for the winter.

Mark Trechock:

In 1993, I was living in Denver and struggling to find a new career where I could make a difference. I stumbled over a two-line want ad in the Denver Post for an organizer. It gave me DRC's phone number, and I dialed it. Aleta Hendricks, then the office manager, was on vacation, so I talked with Darlene Medlar, a schoolteacher and DRC Board member who was volunteering over summer break.

We talked for at least 30 minutes about what DRC was doing to organize mostly farmers and ranchers and people impacted by mining. (Oil drilling was at a low ebb at the time.) By the end of the conversation I had forgotten that Darlene was a Board member not a staffer.

I was stunned at how much she knew about DRC's various initiatives. Darlene said DRC had just hired a director and was now looking for an organizer. A couple of months went by, and I figured that position was filled. In late fall I had a call from WORC Director Pat Sweeney. The new director had lasted five days. I was invited to interview. The interview was conducted by about 10 Board members and other DRC leaders.

Afterwards, Father Terrence Kardong came up to me and wondered if I was related to the second baseman Frank Trechock. When he was a boy, Terrence had seen him play for the Minneapolis Millers. He was my father. I took this as an omen.

DRC was at a low ebb, and there would be a number of low ebbs over the time I worked for DRC. But the local high points in the mid-1990's were terrific. Getting Oliver County to fine Basin Electric for failing to permit a coal mine dump.

Convincing Ward County to require new permits for any expansions at Echo Mountain Landfill near Sawyer. Winning a Public Service Commission to require Falkirk mine to replace water quantity lost to Underwood city water due to mining. I learned that good organizing grows from the ground up.

DRC's 40th Annual Membership Meeting

Join us Friday and Saturday, October 26-27 for Dakota Resource Council's Annual Meeting

- Friday night, join DRC members and staff at Peacock Alley in Bismarck at 5:00-9:00 pm central time
- Saturday morning, meeting registration will begin at 9:00 am central at Menoken Elementary School

Remember to bring an item for the silent auction fundraiser! Call the DRC office at 701-224-8587 to

RSVP today!

October 26

Peacock Alley

5:00 pm

422 East Main Avenue
Langer Room
Bismarck, ND 58501

October 27

Menoken Elementary

9:00 am

412 Bismarck St N
Menoken, ND 58558

All members are welcome to stay at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck. Block rates are available to DRC members, use group name: Dakota Resource Council and online reservations use promo code: DAKR19

Call Radisson Hotel Front desk at 701-255-6000 for reservations

Badlands Area Resource Council Continues to fight Davis Refinery near Theodore Roosevelt National Park

BARC members have been keeping an eye on the many outstanding permits surrounding the Davis Refinery. For the Water Appropriation Hearing, the office of the state engineer filed a “motion for summary judgment” in an attempt to prevent us from putting on evidence at the hearing rescheduled until November. An opposing response was filed on the grounds that if we can’t put on evidence, then there is no need for a hearing. The judge ruled in our favor. The adjudicative proceeding will go on as planned, and we will have the right to put on new evidence at that hearing. We will want people to turn out for this hearing.

We have suffered a setback in our Complaint to the Public Service Commission (PSC). The Commission asked an administrative law judge to look at our complaint and he came back with an opinion that the PSC should not intervene as we requested.

After the administrative law judge’s opinion was released, DRC and our ally, Environmental Law and Policy Center filed a Motion to Reopen and Supplement the Record and to Permit Jurisdictional Discovery. A key point to this motion is the fact that the Air Permit that the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) issued Meridian is for 55,000 bpd but the company has again changed its story and says they will build to produce 49,500 bpd. Construction must align with the permitting so we do not feel it is supposition to say that Meridian will build a refinery with the capacity to produce more than 50,000bpd which would mean that a siting permit should be required. So either a new/amended Air Permit to Construct should be applied for at the lower production level or the PSC should take oversight. The final decision is up to the PSC and they are under no obligation to agree with the administrative law judge’s finding. The PSC had a working meeting regarding this case and Commissioner Fedorchak came out and stated that she is in favor of going with the administrative law judge’s decision but the other two declined to state their opinion and decided to wait for Meridian to respond to our Motion.



DRC, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, and the National Parks Conservation Association have also appealed the North Dakota Department of Health’s “minor source” air quality permit issued to this refinery, noting in particular that the extraordinarily low emission rates that Meridian used to evade a major source permit to be largely unenforceable under the Clean Air Act. The court has set a briefing schedule. Our brief was due on October 2, and further briefs will follow from the State and Meridian, and then from us as a final reply. We will also request oral argument which, if granted, will be set a date in court in which we appear personally before the judge.

We also filed suit against Meridian seeking a court order declaring that Meridian’s conditional use permit had lapsed under Billings County law, which requires companies to use a conditional use permit within one year or lose the permit automatically. Additionally, the case highlighted that Meridian had significantly changed its construction and operating plans after originally obtaining its permit. On September 11, the district court in Bismarck heard arguments on the main issues in that case. Specifically, DRC sought summary judgment from the court that Meridian’s permit had expired automatically as a matter of law. Meridian had also sought a court order to move the proceeding to Billings County. The judge first ruled that there was no basis for a venue change because Meridian is an out of state company, not one based in Billings County. Then he heard both sides’ cases as to whether or not the conditional use permit was active or expired. In a judgement that frankly surprised us,

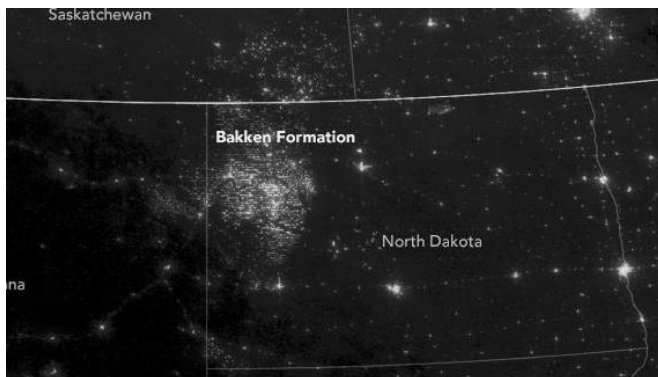
the judge decided that the permit clock only started after the North Dakota Department of Health's Air Permit to construct was granted. DRC and Badlands Area Resource Council (BARC) members have several options for next steps regarding this permit and we will keep you informed once those decisions have been made.

BARC members continue to research pathways of resistance, meet to discuss strategy, and write letters to the editor. Our allies are doing their best too, and though setbacks are frustrating, we are all in this for the long haul. As always, we will continue our David and Goliath struggle to preserve our land, health, park, and way of life against those that only see something to exploit for money and profit when they look at our beautiful landscapes.

Bureau of Land Management Releases New Methane Standard

Fort Berthold POWER responds with lawsuit

Since the release of the 2016 Bureau of Land Management's Methane Waste Prevention Rule, the Trump administration has overwhelmingly sought to repeal the rule. [In late September, the BLM released the draft language that is set to replace to 2016 rule.](#)



*Flaring in Bakken oilfields as seen from space,
image cred. NASA*

Fort Berthold POWER and a coalition of 16 conservation groups filed a lawsuit on September 28, the same day the rule was released, challenging the Trump Administration's decision to gut the Bureau of Land Management's Waste Prevention Rule. The lawsuit states that the rule violates a number of existing federal policies. The states of New Mexico and California have already filed a lawsuit challenging BLM's action.

The common-sense rule updated nearly 40-year-old standards by implementing cost-effective measures to reduce wasteful venting, flaring, and leaking of publicly owned natural gas from federal and tribal lands. However, the administration's revised shell of a rule fails to take

reasonable precautions to prevent waste and protect the public welfare, illegally relying almost entirely on inadequate or nonexistent state regulations in place of federal standards.

BLM adopted the Waste Prevention Rule to address rampant waste of public resources. BLM's own estimates show that between 2009 and 2015 oil and gas companies wasted more than 462 billion cubic feet of natural gas, enough gas to supply over 6.2 million households—or every household in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming—for one year.

As a result of BLM's actions today eliminating those protections, oil and gas companies will now be allowed to vent, leak, or flare \$824 million-worth of publicly owned natural gas into the air over the next decade. State, local, and tribal taxpayers will lose millions of dollars of royalty payments.

Moreover, according to BLM's own estimates, rescinding the Waste Prevention Rule will also result in the emissions of 180,000 tons of methane—a greenhouse gas 87 times more powerful than carbon dioxide—every year. BLM's action also endangers communities' health by exposing them to dangerous smog-forming and carcinogenic air pollutants.

Following the release of the new language, POWER President, Lisa DeVille led a press conference with EarthJustice attorney, Robin Cooley.

“Since the start of extraction, we have experienced respiratory illnesses and what our physician calls the Bakken Cough. My husband and I suffered for weeks from uncontrollable coughing, and congestion that limited the free flow of air to our lungs. Never in our lives have we had an illness last this long. There is no logical reason to allow this level of pollution to continue in our communities,” said DeVille in a statement to the press.

“The Trump administration is not above the law—Interior Secretary Zinke cannot yank away a common-sense rule that was the product of years of careful deliberation simply to appease his friends in the oil and gas industry,” stated Cooley.

Groups filed their lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District California, which has already struck down BLM’s two prior attempts to roll back the Waste Prevention Rule. EarthJustice represents Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and Western Organization of Resource Councils in the lawsuit. Click [here](#) to read the complaint.

POWER Hosts Series of Tribal Chairman Candidate Events

Members of Fort Berthold Protectors of Water & Earth Rights invited all six candidates running for the chairmanship of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation prior to the September 22 primary election.



*Six candidates threw their hats in the bid to become the next
Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes*

Nearly 120 tribal citizens turned out to hear the discourse between the candidates for the future tribal chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

The event was held on September 10, 2018 at the New Town Civic Center. The panel was asked questions about tribal policy on oil and gas extraction, landowner’s rights, and federal policy that affects the reservation.

POWER vice-president, Joletta Bird Bear moderated the questions over the 3 hour forum. The forum was live-streamed on POWER’s social media page and engaged over 3,000 viewers.

Following the panel questions, citizens had the opportunity to ask questions directly to the candidates in person and via social media.

The forum is one of two events that POWER has planned to generate discussion prior to the elections so that voters can make informed decisions before casting their ballot. The second event will be a debate between the final two candidates, incumbent, Mark Fox and former tribal chairman Tex Hall.

The debate is scheduled for October 19 at 6:00 pm central time at the New Town Civic Center. You can tune in to listen to via KMHA radio online or view from the Fort Berthold POWER Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortbertholdprotectors If you have any questions, contact organizer Nicole at the DRC office at 701-224-8587 or email nicole@drcinfo.com

Dakota Resource Council Supports Anti-Corruption Measure

On November 6th, voters in North Dakota have the chance to vote their values and protect North Dakota from unaccountable out-of-state special interests, lobbyists, and the secret money that infects our political system. They do this by voting yes on Measure 1, the North Dakota Anti-Corruption Amendment.

"A vote for Measure 1 is not a Republican, Democrat, or Independent vote, but an American vote. It is a vote for open, ethical government and will put an end to anyone, inside or outside of North Dakota, from buying influence." - Judge Thomas A. Davies, Fargo



WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE YES on 1

- RESTRICTS** lobbyist gifts
- CREATES** an ethics commission
- CLOSES** the revolving door
- BANS** foreign money from elections
- PREVENTS** personal use of campaign money
- ROOTS** out conflicts of interest

BULLETIN.
REPRESENT.US

Measure 1 is “North Dakota grown”. The amendment was written and sponsored by a group of North Dakotans from across the political spectrum, including DRC members Ellen Chaffee (Vice-President), David Schwalbe, and Sarah Vogel. 36,000 voters signed a petition to bring the ND Anti-Corruption Amendment to the ballot in November because they agree that North Dakotans deserve a government that is transparent and accountable - one that works for We, the people.

Voters have a right to know who is spending money to influence our elections and government. Right now outside groups, often backed by out-of-state special interests and corporations are currently allowed to spend unlimited amounts of secret money to influence elections, without ever having to tell voters where the money came from. That money could even be coming from foreign entities. Measure 1 requires transparency.



Protect North Dakota

Citizens deserve a government that will work for the people, their families, and communities, not just the well-connected and powerful. Right now, a lobbyist can serve as legislator and vote on issues impacting their industry. Lobbyists are allowed to give unlimited gifts to elected officials and public employees whose decisions they seek to influence. And public officials can resign from their taxpayer funded job one day and take a job lobbying the next. Measure 1 will root out lobbyist tricks and conflicts of interest.

North Dakotans deserve impartial expertise, advice, and investigation of ethical behavior in state government. Lobbyists and politicians should be accountable to their constituents. Right now, the favors that special interests and lobbyists routinely win through their unaccountable practice of peddling influence costs taxpayers millions of dollars. Measure 1 will create a nonpartisan ethics commission to serve as a resource for citizens, elected officials, appointees, state employees, and even lobbyists.

Dakota Resource Council endorses Measure 1 for its common sense accountability reforms, because we all know the corrupting influence money has had in North Dakota from our fights for family farms, to radioactive waste and the Health Department, misdeeds at the Industrial Commission, and regarding tribal-state relations. Measure 1 raises up the voices of everyone in the arena, not just the wealthy, powerful, and well-connected. Encourage your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors to Vote Yes on Measure 1.

North Dakotans for Public Integrity will be hosting two screenings of the movie "Dark Money" in Fargo and Bismarck before the election as well as rallies and other events leading up to the vote. To keep in touch with the

DRC Friends wish Don Morrison a Happy Retirement

Bismarck—On September 27, friends, members, colleagues, and supporters of former DRC Executive Director Don Morrison came out to wish Don a happy and restful retirement. Don finished a lifelong career of advocacy and community organizing with Dakota Resource Council and we wish him the best.

Staff members organized a small get together to show our gratitude to a friend and mentor who over the past 5 years bolstered organizing efforts of DRC by keeping the lights on. Don intends to spend time with his family, travel, and relax in his well-deserved retirement, he also plans to continue to be an active member of Dakota Resource Council.



3 generations of DRC executive directors, Scott Skokos, Don Morrison, and Mark Trechock

Staffing

Dakota Resource Council welcomes Mary Swanson to the Team



In September, Mary Swanson started at Dakota Resource Council as the Office Administrator. She grew up on a small grain & dairy farm by Arthur, ND. She Attended North Dakota State University and has worked at Northwestern Bell, US West & Qwest Communications, first as an operator and later as a credit consultant. Most recently she was an administrative assistant for North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. In her spare time she enjoys reading, quilting and spending time at the lake.

DRC in the news...

ND Anti-Corporate Farming Law Upheld; Family Farmers Celebrate

"Farming is more than a business to me, and to a lot of North Dakotans," he said. "It's a way of life, and it seems like the Farm Bureau wants it to be all about business. And I think it's way more than that." **Gene Wirtz, Underwood, ND**

"Family farmers generally think about their kids keeping on with the farming tradition, and so they're planting trees that they know are not going to be mature for 25 or 30 years," she said. "They're protecting the soil from blowing away because they're looking at it from the long term." **Sarah Vogel, Bismarck, ND**

I want to join Dakota Resource Council and affect positive change in North Dakota!

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to DRC and mail to:
1200 Missouri Ave,
Suite 201
Bismarck, ND 58504
Or join online at
www.drcinfo.org/join

1. I want to be a DRC: (Please choose one)

- ☐ \$1000 Lifetime Member
- ☐ \$500 Watchdog of the Prairie Member
- ☐ \$250 Sustaining Member
- ☐ \$100 Century Club Member
- ☐ \$55 Household Member
- ☐ \$35 Individual Member
- ☐ \$15 Student/Senior Member

2. I also want

to join my local
affiliate (Please
select the
affiliate for the
region in which
you live→)

Badlands Area Resource Council

☐ \$5 Household ☐ \$5 Individual

McKenzie County Energy & Taxation Association

☐ \$10 Household ☐ \$10 Individual

Missouri Valley Resource Council

☐ \$5 Household ☐ \$5 Individual

Fort Berthold Protectors of Water & Earth Rights

☐ \$10 Household ☐ \$10 Individual

3. Fill out your information below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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