



For Immediate Release

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Energy...The Conversation You Can't Afford to Miss Coalition of Chambers of Commerce Announce Dialogue Event

February 25, 2008, Bismarck (ND)—The Bismarck-Mandan Chamber, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead, North Dakota State Chamber and United States Chamber announced their organizations are hosting a dialogue on climate change. This event will examine the consumer cost of implementing greenhouse gas reduction policies.

“As our country moves forward on policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, one issue that is not receiving attention is the cost to the consumer for implementation,” said Kelvin Hullet, President of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber. “Our goal with this conference is to examine some of the economic implications for North Dakota stemming from policies being proposed at the national level. It is important that as policy moves forward, it is a balanced approach between the environment and economics.”

The conference is scheduled in Fargo on Tuesday, March 18. The main event of the day is an evening session in which the public is invited to attend. The session will include:

- ✓ A keynote speech by Dr. Margo Thorning, Executive Vice President and Director of Research for the American Council for Capital Formation on Carbon Management Policies and the Economic Implications for The United States of America.
- ✓ An overview of how proposed greenhouse gas reduction policies could impact the Economy of North Dakota.
- ✓ The evening will conclude with an in depth panel discussion. The panel will include the main speakers, as well as representatives from the energy industry, the Energy and Environment Research Center and businesses in North Dakota.

“As we move forward on addressing greenhouse gas management, we must be economically and environmentally friendly,” said Margaret Tungseth, Chair of the Fargo Moorhead Chamber Board of Directors. “When Congress or others set targets for reductions, it is important that our energy industry partners have time and resources to develop and deploy technologies effectively and efficiently.”

Currently, there are a number of proposals under consideration at the national level. All the legislation being considered will place caps on various types of emissions, create a cap and trade program, and establish benchmark reduction goals over the next few decades. The state of Minnesota is also considering a carbon tax and other measures that would impact companies and consumers in the region.

The keynote speaker for the event is Dr. Margo Thorning, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist with the American Council for Capital Formation and the Director of Research for its public policy think tank. Dr. Thorning is an internationally recognized expert on tax, environmental, and competitiveness issues. She writes and lectures on tax and economic policy, is frequently quoted in publications such as the *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*, and has appeared internationally on public affairs news programs.

Dr. Thorning is coeditor of numerous books on tax and environmental policy, including "Climate Change Policy and Economic Growth: A Way Forward to Ensure Both" and "The U.S. Savings Challenge: Policy Options for Productivity and Growth." (See www.accf.org and www.iccfglobal.org for complete list of publications.)

“At the U.S. Chamber, we are asking Americans a policy question about how to manage and pay for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions,” said Bill Kovacs, U. S. Chamber Vice President for Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs. “The question is, ‘are reductions mandated or do we invest in technology and then rapidly deploy technology as it is developed?’ How we answer this question has dramatic impacts on our economy and our country.”

The North Dakota dialogue on energy policy is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The evening event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude around 9:00 p.m.

On-line registrations are being taken by the Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce at www.fmchamber.com or by calling the Chamber at 218 233 1100.

For more information about the event, please contact the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber at 701.223.5600.

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