

Alliance for ENERGY & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Energy to secure America's future.

North Dakota

March 18, 2008

Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND

State Co-Sponsor: Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce

The North Dakota dialogue was a unique format in that it involved a day of press approximately three weeks prior to the actual dialogue in Bismarck and Fargo. Bill Kovacs and Kelvin Hullet, President of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, held a press conference at the Fargo Chamber in Fargo-Moorhead, a separate press conference in Bismarck-Mandan, participated in multiple radio interviews and attended the Bismarck Tribune's editorial board meeting on February 26th. The day of press generated strong local media attention and culminated in over 200 people attending the state's dialogue on March 18th.

The March 18 event began with a morning CEO Roundtable with Dr. Thorning, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of American Council for Capital Formation, hosted by the Bank of North Dakota. Immediately following the bank's roundtable, the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce hosted a similar event with their board of directors and the board of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Thorning, Bismarck Chamber President Kelvin Hullet, and a small group from MDU Resources traveled to Fargo and met with the editorial board of the Fargo Forum.

The afternoon's events continued with a CEO Briefing hosted by the Fargo Business Community. The main event kicked off at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn with welcome remarks by David Martin, President of the Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Thorning led a two-part presentation on climate change policy and the Lieberman-Warner bill, covering first the national implications and then North Dakota specific implications.

Following Dr. Thorning's presentation was a panel discussion moderated by state Senator Tim Flakoll, with over an hour of Q&A. Panelists and their affiliation included:

- Dr. Margo Thorning, ACCF
- Bill Blazar, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Dave Berg, American Crystal Sugar Company
- Carmen Miller, PEW Environment Group
- John Harju, Environment & Energy Research Center, University of North Dakota

The North Dakota Dialogue was a monumental success, thanks in large part to the unity of purpose from the state and local chambers in North Dakota, a commitment to bring state and

federal lawmakers to the event to listen, and an enormous media push that resulted in dozens of print articles, radio spots, and interviews on local TV news programs.

In furtherance of our effort, the local organizers intend to approach Senators Conrad and Dorgan over the next few weeks to ask them to reconsider their support of the bill.