

# WESTERN ORGANIZING REVIEW

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## Dakota Resource Council beats back corporate farming ballot measure

North Dakota has a law on the books for nearly a century preventing non-family corporations from farming or owning land to farm. Last spring, however, a bill passed by the state legislature and signed by the governor relaxed this law and allowed corporations to operate dairy and swine factory farms.

A few weeks before the law was to go into effect, Dakota Resource Council (DRC) members sprang into action working with the North Dakota Farmer's Union to collect thousands of signatures to allow voters the opportunity to protect family farming. DRC members collected over 1,000 of the signatures to qualify the measure for the June 14 primary ballot.

DRC launched a smart and strategic campaign focused on membership engagement and voter education. Members phone banked, canvassed, educated voters with a four-city speaking tour, wrote letters to the editor, displayed yard signs, and contributed generously to get-out-the-vote.

They also distributed nearly 2,000 postcards for voters to pledge to "vote no" on the measure. Just before voters headed to the polls, DRC mailed the postcards to remind voters of their pledge to vote "no."



Photo Credit: North Dakota Farmers Union

DRC also partnered with Dakota Rural Action's members in South Dakota to commission three short films featuring DRA members offering a glimpse of what it's like to have corporate farms as neighbors. For many years, DRA members have fought the expansion and political power of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and industrial animal agriculture in their state.

Ultimately, North Dakotans voted to preserve family farming and beat back the ballot measure by a resounding 76% of the vote.

In a statement following the victory, DRC Chair Craig Scott said, "It was a hard-fought campaign and we worked diligently to educate North Dakotans and turn them out to vote. We are very pleased with the result."

But this victory is still at stake – North Dakota's Farm Bureau and corporate farm backers challenged the anti-corporate farming law in federal court and DRC anticipates they will return to the legislature in 2017 for another attempt to roll back the anti-corporate farming law. DRC members and leaders are exploring options to get involved in this litigation.

"The fight is not over, and we will continue organizing and building people power to make North Dakota a great place to live," Scott said.

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# The View from WORC

By Nancy Hartenhoff-Crooks, WORC Chair

On June 25, WORC and the Northern Plains Resource Council celebrated 10 years in our green office building, Home on the Range, and unveiled a very cool solar array in the parking lot. Our building was the 41st in the country to achieve the top certification by the U.S. Green Building Council — a Platinum rating in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Our new 24-kilowatt solar array, coupled with the existing 10-kilowatt array atop the building, fully offsets the electricity needs of the 10,000-square-foot building. Thank you to the generous members, led by Tim Crawford, that made the new array possible.

Home on the Range is just one dynamic example of how WORC lives its values every day and fulfills our mission:

*To advance the vision of a democratic, sustainable, and just society through community action. WORC is committed to building sustainable environmental and economic communities that balance economic growth with the health of people and stewardship of their land, water, and air resources.*

I have always felt honored and proud to be a part of this grassroots network but never more so than when we celebrated the anniversary and the addition of more solar power.



Solar power now provides all the electricity needs of Home on the Range.

## WESTERN ORGANIZING REVIEW

The *Western Organizing Review* is published quarterly by the Western Organization of Resource Councils.

WORC is a regional network of grassroots community organizations, which includes 12,700 members and 39 local chapters. WORC helps its member groups succeed by providing trainings and coordinating regional issue campaigns.

## WORC'S NETWORK

Dakota Resource Council  
Dakota Rural Action  
Idaho Organization of Resource Councils  
Northern Plains Resource Council  
Oregon Rural Action  
Powder River Basin Resource Council  
Western Colorado Congress  
Western Native Voice

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# Coal self-bonding challenged as Alpha emerges from bankruptcy

After 11 months, Alpha Natural Resources emerged from bankruptcy on July 26, 2016. For leaders in the WORC network, the main concern has been the fate of the company's "self-bonds."

Self-bonding is the practice of allowing coal companies to guarantee mine site cleanup with an unenforceable "I.O.U.," backed by the apparent solvency of a company's balance sheet. Were a self-bonded coal company to abandon unreclaimed mined lands, the public would be left holding the bag to complete the work. Among Western states, coal self-bonds are in place in North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

A bankruptcy agreement secured by the U.S. Department of Justice requires Alpha's two mines in Wyoming to post third-party guarantees or other collateral to replace Alpha's \$411 million in self-bonds. This is an important step to transitioning away from risky self-bonds, and WORC will continue watching the amount of replacement bonds to ensure it is adequate, and that any collateral posted is a stable and liquid store of value.

Unfortunately, self-bonding will still be allowed at some of Alpha's mines in West Virginia. This underscores a pernicious effect of self-bonding: because the bankruptcy liquidation of a self-bonded coal company would leave the public with the tab for mine cleanup, self-bonded companies have significant leverage in negotiations with state and federal regulators over what constitutes acceptable reclamation bonding post-bankruptcy.

In a move to curb the dangers of self-bonding, a new bill in Congress would strike from statute the authority to self-bond. Introduced by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and several colleagues, the Coal Cleanup Taxpayer Protection Act would prohibit the use of self-bonds to guarantee coal mine reclamation in the future, phase-out existing self-bonds, and further minimize public exposure to mine cleanup costs by directing the Department of Interior to raise financial standards for surety and collateral bonds. Companion legislation has been introduced by Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"With over \$2 billion in outstanding reclamation liability in Wyoming, this is important legislation to close the self-bonding loophole and minimize financial risks to taxpayers," said Powder River Basin Resource Council Chair and WORC Board Member Bob LeResche.

Congress is not alone in its action around self-bonding. This summer, the Obama Administration solicited public comments on whether and how it should modify the regulations that govern self-bonding. WORC and several member groups sent a letter calling for reforms to close the most egregious regulatory loopholes while emphasizing the need for immediate action to transition self-bonds backed by bankrupt companies.

The last twelve months have seen the three largest coal mining companies in the country enter bankruptcy while carrying hundreds of millions of dollars in outstanding self-bonds. Fifty coal companies preceded them, some filing for bankruptcy multiple times. As coal electricity is priced out of the country's

electricity grid and the coal industry shrinks, there is no guarantee that self-bonded coal companies won't go bankrupt a second or third time. Immediate reductions to the amount of outstanding self-bonds will go a long way toward long-term protection of the public purse and western working landscapes.

For more information on self-bonding and coal mine reclamation, contact WORC Regional Organizer Dan Cohn at (406) 252-9672, [dcohn@worc.org](mailto:dcohn@worc.org).

The Bureau of Land Management held six hearings in May and June for a review of its coal leasing program. Of about 475 speakers at the hearings, over 300 supported reforms. Members testified from the Western Colorado Congress in Grand Junction, Powder River Basin Resource Council in Casper and Seattle, Idaho Organization of Resource Councils in Salt Lake City, and Northern Plains Resource Council in Casper, Salt Lake City, Knoxville, Grand Junction, and Seattle. More on the need for reform at [www.reformcoal.org](http://www.reformcoal.org).

# Around the Region

## A look around WORC's network

### Dakota Resource Council

Accidental wastewater spills from fracking-related oil production in North Dakota have caused widespread water and soil contamination, according to a new Duke University study. Researchers found high levels of ammonium, selenium, lead and other toxic contaminants as well as high salts in the water.

“This kind of contamination is an immeasurable cost to tribal members across North Dakota who face virtually unregulated oil and gas development that has clear and lasting impact downstream,” said Lisa DeVille, a DRC board member from Mandaree.

In 2015, Dakota Resource Council members accompanied the researchers to spill sites to collect samples and gave them a tour of the Mandaree, North Dakota site.



### Dakota Rural Action

Farm tours and workshops have been in full swing for Dakota Rural Action this summer.

DRA's Farm Beginnings hosted Cradle to Grave Farm tour and potluck. Over 100 individuals learned about the variety of hops grown on the farm and enjoyed locally brewed beer. Farm Beginnings also hosted a workshop on programs supporting beginning farmers and ranchers and farm and ranch estate and succession planning.



In addition, the Deuel County Chapter of DRA is exploring the possibility of reclaiming the history of small dairies with a goal of introducing “Deuel County citizens and decision makers to the opportunities, community benefits, and economic development for organic milk and feed production.”

— Matt West, DRA staff

### Idaho Organization of Resource Councils

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) recently decided to keep a 300-foot minimum oil and gas infrastructure setback from occupied dwellings. The decision was made despite testimony from the Idaho Organization of Resource Councils (IORC) and allies asking for a 500-foot minimum. IDL failed to use the rulemaking as an opportunity to enact protections for split estate owners including raising surface use bonds.

## Idaho Organization of Resource Councils

Also at issue was public disclosure of records necessary to properly assess severance taxes and royalties, a concern echoed by oil and gas industry competitors of Alta Mesa, the developer in the area. Additionally, IDL refused to tighten regulations to ensure accurate metering and reporting of production volumes.

“It should be apparent that state statutes and regulations do not adequately protect the health, safety and welfare of county and city residents from the adverse impacts of oil and gas activities,” said Chad Brock, IORC Oil & Gas Team Chair. “Until the state is willing to assume this duty, the local jurisdictions need to ensure, through strong local ordinances, that protections against the adverse impacts of oil and gas activities are in place.”

The rules now go to the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and then to the legislature for approval.

— Doug Paddock, IORC staff

### Northern Plains Resource Council

About 175 people enjoyed a beautiful evening of cowboy poetry by Wally McRae and country tunes by Stephanie Davis at the Rhythms by the River event sponsored by Northern Plains Resource Council on July 23.

Stephanie and Wally played off each other's talents, jokes, and limericks as they took turns entertaining the appreciative crowd in a grassy setting among rustic cabins overlooking the Yellowstone River.



The event, which was held on the Hobble Diamond Ranch near Big Timber, included barbecue with meat provided by the B Bar Ranch, a raffle of a Clyde Aspevig print of the Tongue River Valley, and a silent auction.

About \$4,500 was raised for Northern Plains' Coal Task Force.

—Larry Winslow, NPRC staff

## Oregon Rural Action

Oregon Rural Action said a heartfelt goodbye in August to staffer Dawn Schiller, who is moving to California to be closer to family. ORA also welcomed Austin Saunders to the staff to coordinate organizing agriculture and food justice work. In the short term, he is also helping members with registration for the Annual Meeting and the *Principles of Community Organizing* training at the La Grande Senior Center on Saturday, October 8.



## Powder River Basin Resource Council

The Powder River Basin Resource Council aims to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. On July 23, the Board of Directors adopted a Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy for the office and organization. The policy relies three strategies:

- Reducing electricity consumption while increasing efficiency in the workplace.
- Reducing transportation emissions when and where possible, and developing offsets for air travel and other unavoidable emissions.
- Producing maximum viable on-site solar energy.



Powder River launched the new policy by adding more solar panels to its office building and replacing an older staff car with a Prius. The solar array will generate almost half of the office's electricity needs.

## Western Colorado Congress

On July 25, Families for a Fair Wage turned in 200,000 signatures to the Colorado Secretary of State, more than double what is needed to place a minimum wage increase initiative on the November ballot. Western Colorado Congress members gathered over 1,000 of those signatures on the West Slope.

Initiative 101 would raise Colorado's minimum wage from \$8.31 to \$9.30 an hour at the start of 2017, followed by increases of 90 cents per year for the next three years. According to the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, a living wage on the Western Slope ranges between \$12 and \$16 an hour.



WCC joined this effort because members think fair wages are a part of healthy and sustainable communities.

## Western Native Voice

In July, Western Native Voice launched the Natives on the VotePath tour throughout Montana's Native American communities to register voters for this year's upcoming election. The crew will be going door-to-door for a month, starting in Fort Peck, and traveling through seven reservations and urban neighborhoods to encourage people to register and inform citizens about ballot initiatives.



“We're here to remind them that they have the power to create change—change that will improve the lives of their families for generations to come,” said Alissa Snow, WNV field manager. “Voting is just one way to realize that power.”

The group spent three days on the Fort Peck reservation, registering voters door-to-door, at local businesses, and at the tribal council. They also took time at the tribal jail to provide information about Medicaid to the prisoners.

—LeNada Peppers, WNV staff

# Where presidential candidates stand on the Trans-Pacific Partnership

President Barack Obama is pushing to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal before he leaves office. But most the 2016 presidential candidates oppose it. WORC opposes the TPP because it does not meet WORC's Trade Bill of Rights, which calls for American trade policy to strengthen, not weaken, the health, environment, food sovereignty, working conditions, labor rights, and transparent, competitive market principles of this country and all countries.

## Democrat Hillary Clinton opposes the TPP



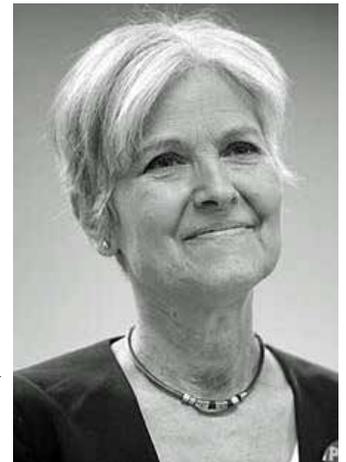
"I think I have a pretty good idea of what we can do to meet the tests that I believe any trade agreement, especially the TPP, must meet. It needs to, number one, protect American workers. Number two – it needs to raise wages and create good jobs at home. Number three – it needs to be in our national security interests. I've been saying that for months... And if

we don't get it, there should be no deal."

-- Hillary Clinton,  
*Iowa campaign speech,*  
*June 14, 2015*

## Green Jill Stein opposes the TPP

"The President is also leading the bipartisan effort to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a devastating secretive trade deal known as 'NAFTA on steroids' because it will send jobs overseas, undermine wages at home, and roll back protections for workers, public health and the environment ... We must continue to mobilize to defeat the TPP."



-- Jill Stein,  
*Green Party Response, 2016 State of the Union speech,*  
*January 12, 2016*

## Republican Donald Trump opposes the TPP



"The trade deal is a disaster for many reasons... It's a horrible deal for the United States and it should not pass. It doesn't cover currency manipulation. If you don't have currency manipulation as part of this transaction, you're wasting your time because that's the single easiest way these foreign countries take advantage of the United States."

--Donald Trump,  
*Breitbart News interview,*  
*May 8, 2015*

## Libertarian Gary Johnson supports the TPP

"It is my understanding that the TPP does advance free trade. Is it a perfect document? Probably not. But based on my understanding of the document, I would be supporting it [though] in a perfect world there wouldn't be a document like that, there would just be free trade."



-- Gary Johnson,  
*Politico interview,*  
*June 19, 2016*

# Coal Exports Update

*Several major developments occurred in the years-long effort to stop coal exports from two proposed Pacific Rim ports in recent months.*

## Gateway Pacific Terminal terminated

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) halted work on environmental studies needed to permit the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) near Bellingham, Washington, citing its trust responsibilities to the Lummi Tribe, whose centuries old fishing banks at Cherry Point would have been irreparably damaged.

The 53 million (short) ton/year export facility would have required 19 trains (to and from) daily to service at full capacity. The terminal would have been built atop the historic villages of the Lummi people, whose ancestors fished the waters for centuries prior to European settlement in North America. Courts have long precedent in holding federal agencies accountable to honoring treaty rights of Native American tribes. Once the tribe made its case that the terminal would cause substantial harm to its historic usual and accustomed fishing grounds, the agency cut short further work on the permitting process.

## Longview terminal hearings

The State of Washington Department of Ecology held three public hearings (Spokane, Pasco, and Longview) on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Millennium Bulk Terminal (MBT) proposed near Longview. Hundreds turned out in opposition at three hearings. MBT would ship 48 million (short) tons/year from Longview, requiring 18 trains daily (to and from). Dozens of Montanans traveled to Washington to address the impact study and the lack of attention paid to the mining and rail impacts “upstream” from the ports in Montana cities and towns and farmland.

## Arch Coal withdraws from Longview port

MBT experienced another blow when Arch Coal sold its 38% share of the project to Lighthouse, formerly Ambre Energy. Shedding light on the prospects for coal exports from Longview, Arch got nothing in return for turning over its share to Lighthouse. Arch, in the throes of bankruptcy court, also cut short its foray into export markets by suspending its application for the Otter Creek Mine in Southeastern Montana and the Tongue River Railroad that would have sent that coal to export markets.

Taken together, the events of last few months reveal waning prospects for coal exports from Powder River Basin mines. The Asian coal bubble of 2011-2012 has evaporated and markets have dipped, particularly in China. Coal company investments in export infrastructure now look like a bust and investors have backed away from these projects. Rapidly growing and cost competitive clean energy technologies and international agreements to significantly reduce carbon pollution worldwide undercut the future of exports from Powder River Basin coal mines.

## True Cost of Coal Exports

In April, WORC released a booklet detailing the coal export proposals and the costs that would be borne by landowners, communities, local governments, small businesses, public health and others if export terminals are built. Recent events have outpaced the contents with the end of the Tongue River Railroad, the Otter Creek Mine, and the Gateway Pacific Terminal – but the resource provides references and details on coal exports and how these plans shift numerous costs onto others. See [LINK here: http://www.worc.org/media/TrueCostofCoal\\_pages.pdf](http://www.worc.org/media/TrueCostofCoal_pages.pdf)

## In Memory of Chuck Worley

Chuck Worley passed away peacefully May 26, 2016 in Delta, Colorado. Chuck, age 98, was known by many in western Colorado as an advocate for environmental causes, for peace, and for economic and social justice. He was a founding human of Western Colorado Congress (WCC) in 1980. He served as president of WCC and then as a representative to the WORC board. Chuck gained an impressive knowledge of rural electric cooperatives and served as WCC’s representative to a statewide Utility Consumers Advisory Board. WCC memorialized his commitment to community organizing by naming their annual leadership award in honor of Chuck and his wife Betty.



# Living with Oil and Gas



## **L J Turner - Gillette, Wyoming**

“There’s, what...one, two, three, four, five. Five deep oil wells. Those are conventional wells. There’s no unconventional oil wells here yet. We’ve got a company coming in here now that wants to do that...they’re threatening that we either make peace with them, and accept their agreement for surface access to our ranch, or they’ll just sue and condemn their way in. See, here’s the line of wells they want to drill across here. All of these pads will have two, or three, or four, or a half-dozen wells on them.”

## **Marilyn Hudson - Parshall, North Dakota**

“We have had an outmigration of people who can now afford to buy homes in Bismarck, South Dakota, Arizona, or New Mexico. Most left because of the negative impacts of the oil industry on their land and their way of life. They represent people who our communities can least afford to lose – the people who drive ambulances, teach in our schools, work in our stores and businesses, our next-door neighbors. But there are others who cannot move, or who do not wish to leave the land of their birth. So our communities are harmed in other ways, besides the visible signs and impacts of the large-scale oil industry.”



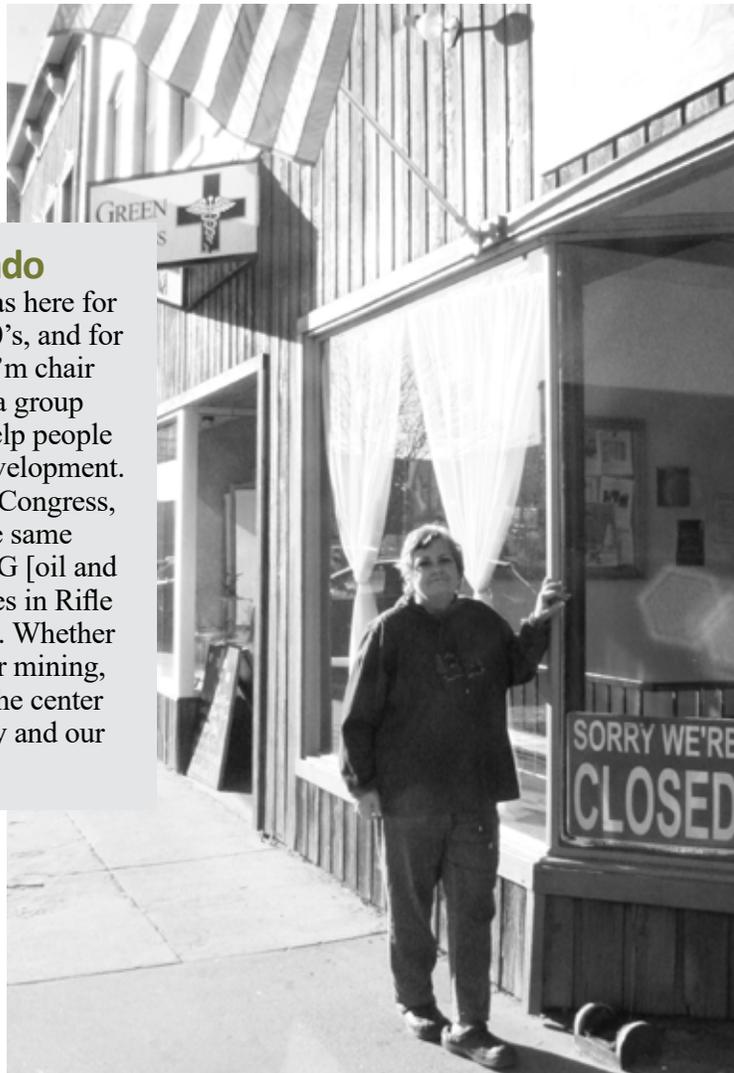


**Dena Hoff - Glendive, Montana**

“But sometimes you’ve just had enough and you make a lot of noise. That is the power of organizing! Things don’t happen at the grassroots level unless somebody speaks up and organizes people and says there’s somebody over here that thinks like you do. That was one of the great things about getting involved with Northern Plains Resource Council. Finding out, ‘Hey, I’m not this crazy person that everybody says oh, you tree hugger or obstructionist, you.’”

**Leslie Robinson - Rifle, Colorado**

“I’ve lived here since 1975, so I was here for the oil shale boom and bust of the 1980’s, and for all the energy booms and busts since. I’m chair of the Grand Valley Citizens Alliance, a group that was formed in 1997 basically to help people deal with the impacts of oil and gas development. We’re also a part of Western Colorado Congress, a statewide group that’s working on the same issue. The reason I got involved in O&G [oil and gas] issues is...well, everyone who lives in Rifle gets involved in it one way or the other. Whether it’s uranium, oil shale, or oil and gas, or mining, it seems like Rifle has always been in the center of the action, impacting our community and our individual lives in big ways.”



# What can C3 groups do during the election season?

**E**lection years are great opportunities for our groups to elevate issue campaigns and get candidates to discuss their public policy platforms. Our members and supporters look to WORC and the member organizations to focus attention on the issues that matter to them and to get greater exposure for our issues.

“501c3 charities” is a shorthand IRS designation for nonprofit organizations, which includes the eight groups in the WORC network. Because 501c3 charities have tax-exempt status and are able to receive tax-deductible contributions, they have to restrict campaign-related activities, such as endorsing candidates.

Federal law, however, allows groups like ours to engage in issue advocacy during election season, as long as the communication doesn’t say how to vote on a specific candidate or group of candidates. Permitted activities include:

- Communicating positions on issues;
- Efforts to influence the public on subjects like environmental protection or persuading an elected official to vote for or against a piece of legislation; and
- Encouraging the public to ask elected officials to vote for or against legislation.

Staff who work for a 501(c)(3) may work on a political campaign outside of their designated work hours or while using their available leave time. They may not use their employer’s equipment or facilities to provide support or to oppose a candidate or campaign.

Ballot measure work is allowable activity during election season for groups like ours. As long as groups stay within the limits of lobbying, advocating for the passage or defeat of a ballot measure is considered nonpartisan activity. However, lately ballot measures are increasingly identified with a candidate who has publicly endorsed or opposed the measure, so groups should be careful to focus clearly on the substance of the measure. Ballot measure activities are often subject to registration and reporting requirements at the state level.

There are some gray areas with the federal and state laws, so it is always recommended to seek legal counsel to conduct a risk analysis of any activity your group may undertake during election season.

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## Shape the debate in 2016 election

**C**itizens have many opportunities to question political candidates, including: Candidate debates and forums, Town hall meetings, Radio talk shows, Candidate Facebook pages and websites. Here is a list of questions on some key issues of concern to WORC and the member groups that you can ask candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives this election season.

**Trade:** Will you oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal?

**Methane Pollution:** Do you support efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Land Management to curb wasteful and harmful methane emissions by the oil and gas industry? Why? Why not?

**Oil & Gas Bonding:** Do you support efforts at the Department of Interior to raise bonding amounts in order to protect taxpayers from footing the bill to reclaim oil and gas wells?

**Pipelines:** Do you support further reforms at the Pipeline Safety and Hazardous Materials Administration to ensure that our nation’s pipelines are safer? Why? Why not?

**Oil by Rail:** Do you support federal efforts to update rail infrastructure to ensure our rails are not prone to accidents, especially accidents involving crude by rail? Do you support banning the transport of crude by rail in sensitive areas, such as rivers? If yes why? If no why?

**Coal:** Do you believe coal companies or taxpayers should pay for mine reclamation?

Do you support taxpayer subsidies to coal companies to remove climate-damaging pollutants from their power plant emissions?

**Clean Energy:** Will you oppose measures to rollback implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan?

# WORC staff and leaders learn about farming and ranching

As part of the June Board & Staff meeting in Red Lodge, Montana, the gathering visited nearby Healthy Meadows Ranch, owned by Ivan and Chia Thrane, members of the Northern Plains Resource Council. They produce premium pastured goat meat and offer a goat grazing service to control invasive and noxious weeds. The tour featured three workshops led by Northern Plains members.



John Brown and Steve Charter addressed soil health and climate change.



Noel Keogh covered the basic cycles, processes, and challenges of operating a cattle ranch.



The Thranes provided their perspectives as young producers and the story behind their goat herd.

## In Memory of Bill Mitchell

A great friend of WORC, Bill Mitchell, died on May 24. One of the first staff at the Northern Plains Resource Council, Bill was a stalwart defender of the West against the coal, oil and gas industries and a financial supporter in his role as a foundation program officer for many years. In the words of his colleague at the Alki Fund, Cathy Lerza, we “mourn the loss of one of the finest human beings ever to grace this planet.”



# WORC

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## PUBLICATIONS

**GROWING THE 16%** Addresses the problem of beef market concentration and its impact on independent livestock producers, local meatpacking infrastructure and rural communities.

**NO TIME TO WASTE** Examines standards and disposal practices around radioactive oil and gas waste in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

**UNDERMINED PROMISE II** Examines coal production in the West and find that mining companies and regulatory agencies are falling short on keeping promises made in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

**FLARING BOOM** Explains the underlying causes and the problems caused by flaring and venting methane from oil and gas fields in six western states

**HEAVY TRAFFIC STILL AHEAD: RAIL IMPACTS OF POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL TO ASIA BY WAY OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST TERMINALS** Identifies costs for infrastructure due to increased rail traffic, many of which will fall on taxpayers

**WATERED DOWN: OIL AND GAS WASTE PRODUCTION AND OVERSIGHT IN THE WEST** Examines dangers to water quality from oil and gas production in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming

**GONE FOR GOOD: FRACKING AND WATER LOSS IN THE WEST** Finds that oil and gas extraction is removing at least 7 billion tons of water from the hydrologic cycle each year in four Western states

Download these publications at [www.worc.org](http://www.worc.org)

## 2016 EVENTS

WESTERN COLORADO CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING  
*Grand Junction, Colorado ..... September 17*

DAKOTA RURAL ACTION ANNUAL MEETING  
*Rapid City, South Dakota ..... October 7-8*

OREGON RURAL ACTION ANNUAL MEETING  
*La Grande, Oregon ..... October 8*

DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
*New Town, North Dakota ..... October 21-22*

POWDER RIVER BASIN RES. COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
*Sheridan, Wyoming ..... November 5*

IDAHO ORG. OF RESOURCE COUNCILS ANNUAL MEETING  
*Boise, Idaho ..... November 12*

NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
*Billings, Montana ..... November 18-19*

WORC'S DECEMBER BOARD AND STAFF MEETING  
*Billings, Montana ..... December 2-3*