



“On the Road with Bob”

March 24, 2008

The opportunities for North Dakota are endless if we have the vision to pursue them. We must continue to support exploration and production of our natural resources, and encourage innovation to grow our economy.

As I prepared for the state Budget Section Report to the Legislature last week, my thoughts were very much on the good economy we have in North Dakota. Our state’s Republican leadership has helped create an environment where natural resources are managed wisely, and where production and exploration continue to increase along with jobs and our economy.

I attended the ENERGY Conference in Fargo last Tuesday and listened with particular interest as internationally respected speakers debated how to best pursue the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions without undermining the economy. As the only Republican PSC candidate in attendance, my discussions with other leaders at the conference centered on the impact current proposed federal legislation would have on North Dakota. The news is not good. While I’m all for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the controversial bill currently before Congress could result in thousands of lost jobs and increased energy costs to homeowners and businesses.

The environmental lobby is trying to convince us we must rush to enact do-nothing federal legislation at the cost of North Dakota jobs. I disagree. It’s important to take the time to let business and industry find solutions to greenhouse gas emissions just as they’ve done for the last five years. Without a lot of expensive regulations, the U.S. has already cut its emissions far beyond what the rest of the world has done. North Dakota’s economy should not suffer the kind of blow that poorly conceived federal energy policies caused in the past in order to appease a few critics.

As your Public Service Commissioner, I will continue to advocate for North Dakota and North Dakotans. **I greatly appreciate your support and your vote for my endorsement at the Convention!**

Together, **We Can Win!**

I look forward to seeing you in Fargo this week.



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