

# Chambers, businesses urge action on climate change

Regarding Tom Harris' letter, it's fascinating that businesses, big and small, now are divided over climate change action ("Canadian governments tried to ride climate-change tiger," Page A4, Nov. 17).

Major banks acknowledge that we must leave between two-thirds and four-fifths of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Citigroup reported that it's cheaper to tackle climate change than to ignore it.

And President Barack Obama echoed these business conclusions when he vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline. Major American food producers also want legislation curtailing emissions. Local chambers of commerce support the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan because it's good for local businesses and jobs. But the National Chamber opposes the EPA's regulations because the National Chamber is more influenced by fossil fuel industries.

There even is dissension among fossil fuel companies. Major international oil and gas companies want carbon tax legislation, which they think will address climate change and be good for their businesses. Many energy experts agree.

Harris doesn't want to acknowledge climate change, nor the need for carbon taxes, nor the need to leave fossil fuels in the ground because his clients produce the dirtiest, most expensive fossil fuels, which will be the first to be left in the ground when our Congress develops a coherent, stable climate policy.

Herald readers, please contact Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., and other Republican Senate colleagues investigating climate change policy. It's past time for climate action.

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