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North Dakotans seek solutions

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By: **Sharon Clancy**, Valley City, N.D.

Tracy Holt's recent letter to the editor defending North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Brian Kalk and his position on climate change legislation insinuates that there aren't any "real" North Dakotans working to address climate change and pass clean-energy legislation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership is a strategic alliance of North Dakota organizations and groups leading efforts to find global warming solutions and create clean-energy jobs in North Dakota.

Comprehensive clean-energy legislation will offer a host of economic and employment opportunities for North Dakota and its residents. According to a study released this summer, jobs in the clean-energy sector are growing at three times the rate of other jobs in the state, and if we pass responsible, proactive, clean-energy legislation, even more opportunities will be on the way.

The naysayers in this debate hang their hats on increased costs. They claim that industry and consumers will be unfairly taxed. What the naysayers don't tell you, however, is that the cost of doing nothing will more than likely be much more expensive than addressing the problem now and creating a new energy economy for our children and grandchildren.

I'd much rather spend my time and money creating new, clean domestic sources of energy than lining the pockets of an industry that refuses to read the writing on the wall.

Holt and others are interested in protecting the status quo. North Dakota has the opportunity to be a leader in the new clean-energy economy, and we should seize that opportunity.

Clancy is the treasurer of FARRMS, a member of the North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership.

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