

Times Record News

Fossil fuel expert to deliver keynote address Wednesday

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The 87th Annual Meeting and Expo of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers begins a two-day conference April 25-26 at MPEC with the focus on key industry topics for 2017 including the changing regulatory landscape and its impact on independent oil and gas producers.

The seminars and educational features not only apply to the independent oil and gas industry in Texas and the 3,200-member Alliance, but also to the economic and quality of life issues facing local and state residents and businesses.

This year's keynote address will be delivered at the April 26 noon membership luncheon in Hall B of the Ray Clyber Exhibit Hall by Kathleen Hartnett-White, a distinguished senior fellow-in-residence and director of the Armstrong Center for Energy & the Environment at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The luncheon is open to the public. The individual cost for the luncheon is \$30 or \$220 for a table of eight.

Before joining the Foundation, Hartnett-White served a six-year term as chairman and commissioner of the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. She headed the agency's mission as watchdog for the state's natural resources. It is the fourth largest environmental agency in the U.S.

Along with Stephen Moore, Hartnett-White co-authored "Fueling Freedom," a detailed study of the oil shale revolution and modern, safe exploration and extraction technology. The book also takes on the ongoing conflict with what Hartnett-White and Moore call "radical environmentalism."

Hartnett-White's views and expertise made her a viable consideration to lead the Environmental Protection Agency in the Trump administration.

"She is a nationally known advocate of clean air and water and a safe management of waste," said Alex Mills, president of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. The TAEP is the largest independent agency of its kind in the nation. "She has much to bring to the table and fits well with the regard we have for enlightening keynote speakers."

In “Fueling Freedom”, Hartnett-White makes an unapologetic case for fossil fuels, countering progressive protests through logic and a wide range of sources to bear out that if fossil fuel energy is supplanted by “green” alternatives (wind, solar, ethanol, biomass, etc) via political favoritism, humanity will take a giant step backwards. In short, the book emphasizes that without fossil fuels, the planet will become less safe, less clean and less free than ever before.

Again, unapologetically, Hartnett-White and Moore state that fossil fuel energy is the lifeblood of the modern world. Many challenges are left open to environmental extremism.

Hartnett-White strikes back at those who “worship at the alter” of wind and solar. She states that wind and solar combined is expected to reach only 6 percent by 2040 despite the flow of subsidies the government continues to pour into failed Solyndra-like projects.

“You can’t power a \$15 trillion economy with wind and solar,” she explains in the book. “Most green energy policies undermine human progress. They are regressive, disproportionately hurting low and middle class income families by driving energy prices higher, thus eroding our standard of living.”

“Fueling Freedom” explains that America now has twice the reserves of fossil fuels as it had in the 1950s due to safe, reliable technology. America is the only country in the world where mineral rights can be privately owned. No other country has the technology, the people, the capital risk an entrepreneurial drive to have unleashed the shale boom.

More than 400,000 Texans are employed in an oil and gas industry that generates about \$80 billion in economic activity. Meanwhile, she explains, wind subsidies are 88 times higher per megawatt hour of electricity than for coal and natural gas. Solar federal subsidies per megawatt hour are more than 1,200 times higher than they are for coal and gas.

“Fueling Freedom” cites numerous pages of sources. They include the U. S. Department of Energy, Statistics on World Population (2009), World Bank Indicators (2011), Road to Serfdom (1940), Clean Air Plan, EPA, U. S. Department of Labor, Al Gore, An Inconvenient Truth (2004), Myths of Green Energy (2010), The Carbon Cycle, NASA, CATO Institute, Wall Street Journal, Forbes, National Academy of Sciences (NAS).