

## **Local View: Good governance needed amidst changing climate**

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Thanks to the flow of information, wealth, and power, we have become a global community early in the 21st century. The growth of interdependent systems has changed our ecosystem, economy, community, and spirituality, which was not anticipated. Changes have come without norms, leaving us in moral and political limbo. This unprecedented condition leaves risks rising for all and calls us to a united response.

Climate warming is being ignored by powerful people and nations that have benefitted from abundant energy stored from the Carboniferous era. But drilling, fracking, and digging up all that energy to add carbon emissions to the atmosphere puts all kids, plants, and creatures in harm's way as chemical and thermal impacts change our weather. Unless we develop, share, and implement new norms that reflect intelligent adaptation by 2040, catastrophes may disrupt global communities and economies, making us migrants.

This fact makes good governance a priority.

Unfortunately, the arrogant paralysis of the administration of President Donald Trump and Republican leadership is tragic. The climate clock is ticking with more fossil-fuel emissions. The dark money that flows from fossil-fuel industries has funded the Koch brothers, the Cato Institute and the Heritage Foundation, among others. They sell climate ignorance to federal and state governments through the American Legislative Exchange Council, which works only with the GOP, a crime against kids and creation.

With the growing concentration of wealth at the top, American oligarchs swallowed the GOP, which runs as a radical right-wing group of libertarians. Moderate Republicans — like former Rep. John Boehner, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Sen. Bob Corker, Rep. Paul Ryan, Sen. Jeff Flake, and the late Sen. John McCain — have wondered what happened to the Republican Party. The "corporate person" has become the ghost in the party machine, thanks to the Citizens United Supreme Court ruling.

The good news is that environmentalist Paul Hawken has identified a global response to these rising risks. His "Blessed Unrest" is more than a book. It describes a global trend, how the largest movement in history has emerged as a constructive response to the threats to our ecosystem, the foundation of the global economy. Hawken explains how indigenous and industrial people around the world are taking action and building norms of respect and reciprocity to sustain the gifts of creation.

It is clear Trump does not respect truth, women, or the ecosystem that supports him. Those who respect the gifts they have received have begun working to build consensus and direction about how we should respond to rising risks. Hope is our most renewable resource.

A growing number of teams in Duluth have responded to this hopeful energy at a time of culture crisis. The teams have planned three linked events that can help us understand rising risks, share our hopes, and unite in common actions.

The first community response is the Duluth Climate March today, Saturday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., from the AICHO center, 202 W. Second St., to the Lake Superior Harvest Festival at Bayfront Festival Park. Marchers will explore and celebrate their understanding and hope as they build norms in sync with a global climate march that includes 80 nations.

At the Lake Superior Harvest Festival, participants will expand their understanding and celebrate the products and people of our regional economy that depend on climate stability.

And on Sunday, from 7-9 p.m., leaders from the University of Minnesota Duluth's University for Seniors will offer a video production by PBS. "Dark Money" will be screened at the Zinema, 222 E. Superior St. The video illustrates links between climate arrogance, wealth, and political paralysis in the hope of stimulating discussion. The video and discussion will add to Duluth's "blessed unrest" about what is happening to our creation and economy.

Duluth's partners plan to renew hope and focus norms with these events and celebrations.