



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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E.N. Thompson ethanol debate Oct. 15 to be simulcast

Experts on energy resources Douglas Durante and Jerry Taylor will debate in the inaugural Charles and Linda Wilson Dialogue Oct. 15, the second in the series of 2007-08 E.N. Thompson Lectures on World Issues. The theme of the dialogue is "Ethanol: Fueling Debate."

"I always enjoyed the speakers in the Thompson Forum," said Charles "Chuck" Wilson, "but sometimes I wondered what the other side would have to say about an issue. So Linda and I decided to fund an annual dialogue that would include differing perspectives on topics that are important to Nebraskans. We want to spur thinking and discussion about domestic issues."

The Nebraska Humanities Council is collaborating with colleges and universities statewide to simulcast all of this year's lectures, with financial support from the Cooper Foundation. Lectures originate from the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and are simulcast in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Wayne, Columbus and Omaha.

Durante, who has worked in the fields of energy, transportation, and the environment since 1977, is executive director and Washington representative of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition, a nonprofit organization he helped found in 1987. The coalition works to support renewable alcohols and has a broad-based membership, including automotive agricultural, and other alternative energy interests.

Taylor is the most widely cited and influential right-of-center critic of federal energy and environmental policy in the nation. He is a frequent contributor to *The Wall Street Journal* and *National Review*, has published op-ed columns in the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*, and is a regular guest on international broadcast programs. Taylor has served on numerous congressional advisory bodies and has testified on Capitol Hill on energy and environmental policy.

Simulcast sites for the lecture series are the Harms Advanced Technology Center at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, the McDonald-Belton Building at the South Campus of the Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, the Communications Building at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Connell Hall at Wayne State College, West Education Center at Central Community College in Columbus, and the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Lectures begin at 7 p.m.; in Scottsbluff, the lectures air at 6 p.m. (MST).

The year's theme is "Changing Nature," with speakers exploring a cross-section of subjects related to the science and politics of environmentalism. Remaining lecturers in the 20th season are Sunita Narain, director of the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi, India (Nov. 12);

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Amory Lovins, co-founder, chairman and chief scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute (Feb. 12); Richard Cizik, aka the “Green Evangelist,” vice-president for governmental affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals (Feb. 25); and William K. Reilly, president and CEO of Aqua International Partners (April 22).

The Thompson Forum brings a diversity of viewpoints on international and public policy issues to the citizens of Nebraska at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The series was named in honor of E.N. “Jack” Thompson, who served as president of the Cooper Foundation from 1964 to 1990 and as its chairman from 1990 until his death in 2002. Thompson established the series to promote better understanding of world events and issues for all Nebraskans. With simulcasts in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Wayne, Columbus and Omaha, more Nebraskans will have the opportunity to benefit from outstanding speakers who are world-class experts on the subject of “Changing Nature.”

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