Ann Christensen from 100Grannies gets op-ed in the Des Moines Register!! Way to go, Ann!

*Please Join us for an event calling out the Governor and IUB on Wed July 20 at Noon in front of the IUB building*- *(see details below article). Thanks, All. Deborah Dee*

http[://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2016/07/18/unlike-other-states-iowa-bed-bakken/87261716/http](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2016/07/18/unlike-other-states-iowa-bed-bakken/87261716/)

**Unlike other states, Iowa is in bed with the Bakken**

Ann Christenson 3:32 p.m. CDT July 18, 2016

(Photo: JOHN GAINES, AP)

On Earth Day, April 22, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo put a stop to the Constitution pipeline, a project to ship fracked gas from Pennsylvania into New York, intersecting almost 300 bodies of water.

In Georgia, the legislature has blocked easements for the Sabal Trail Pipeline and Gov. Nathan Deal approved a moratorium prohibiting eminent domain for pipeline through July 2017.

In Oregon, the Jordan Cove Energy pipeline project was denied by the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Energy_Regulatory_Commission) because the company had not demonstrated need for the project, and benefits from the project would not outweigh the harm done to individual landowners to justify the use of [eminent domain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eminent_domain). The Jordan Cove pipeline would have crossed nearly 400 water bodies,

Energy giant Kinder Morgan Inc. has pulled the plug on its proposed 188-mile natural gas pipeline through parts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire largely because of public pressure.

In Iowa, what do we have?  A governor and utilities board in bed with the fossil fuel industry. Big Oil pipelines pollute our air and water. They blight farmland. They destroy historical sites and recreational areas. They trample Native American rights. All for what?  For corporate profit and more profit.

Bakken Pipeline protesters gather to float down the Des Moines River on Saturday where the proposed pipeline would cross beneath the river close to the E18 bridge by Pilot Mound. Brian Powers / The Register

The Bakken shale oilfield in North Dakota, starting point of the pipeline proposed to cross Iowa, is largely responsible for most of a global rise in atmospheric ethane — a pollutant that can harm human health and heat the atmosphere further — [according to a peer-reviewed paper](http://www.ecowatch.com/fracking-in-bakken-oilfield-largely-responsible-for-global-rise-in-eth-1891128537.html).

Why should we care?  For starters, within the past 12 months some 143,000 gallons of crude oil spilled on a beach near Santa Barbara, Calif. Nearly 90,000 gallons leaked into the Gulf of Mexico in May. More than 20,000 gallons in the San Joaquin Valley a few weeks later, added to the 21,000 gallons spilled from the *same pipeline* last year.  And a few weeks ago, nearly 30,000 gallons of crude oil gushed from a ruptured pipeline near a beach in Ventura, Calif.

Can we afford this kind of thing in Iowa?  Are we prepared to handle the inevitable spill?

The flurry of victories over pipeline projects across the country this year is testimony to the power of the growing bottom-up movement for change, proving yet again that grassroots democracy is the best safeguard for our water, air and land — the very foundations of life.

It’s time that we Iowans exercise our democratic rights to stop the Bakken pipeline.

Wednesday, July 20, at noon, members of Iowa City’s [100Grannies.org](http://100grannies.org) for a Fossil Fuel-Free Future will be in Des Moines to stage a street theater event holding Gov. Terry Branstad and his handpicked three-person Iowa Utilities Board accountable for approving the permit for the Bakken pipeline.  The governor, his bedfellows and their illegitimate pipeline offspring will be portrayed and denounced.

This light-hearted event about a deadly serious subject will take place at the Iowa Utilities Board office, 1375 E. Court Avenue and will be followed by a media conference.  All who care about our state are invited to join us.

We have entered a new era, a time when the people demand a safer, healthier future by exerting our democratic rights.

We are invoking the power *expressly granted* in both the U.S. Declaration of Independence and in the Iowa Constitution.

It is this grassroots movement that is driving our energy future away from dirty fossil fuel to clean [renewables](http://ecowatch.com/business/renewables/), a shift that is imperative if we are to save our planet from the destructive impacts of a fossil-fuel carbon overload.

Do join us in being part of the solution.

**Ann Christenson** of Iowa City is a member of [100Grannies.org](http://100grannies.org) for a Fossil Fuel-Free Future

Note from Miriam Kashia,100Grannies  
July 20 Event  - Noon - Please Join Us!  
  
100 Grannies for a Livable Future are planning a satirical skit called "In Bed with the Bakken" to denounce the governor and his hand-picked IUB board for the illegitimate pipeline permit process. It will be brief, satirical, fun, and quirky.  We'd love to have people show up to support us.

Here are the particulars:

[**100grannies.org**](http://100grannies.org/)**for a fossil**free future are staging a satirical street theatre event entitled **“In Bed with the Bakken”**at the office of the Iowa Utility Board, 1375 E Court in Des Moines from noon to 1pm on Wednesday, July 20

This all-women event will be followed by three  speeches by Kathy Holdefer, a landowner, Brenda Brink, whose land will be impacted, and Miriam Kashia of 100Grannies.   And finally there will be a short media conference for press Q&A.  The press and the public are invited.

Who: 100Grannies for a Livable Future ([100grannies.org](http://100grannies.org/))

What: Brief street theatre skit, “In Bed with the Bakken”

Where: IUB office at 1375 E Court, Des Moines

When: Wednesday, 7/20 at noon

Why: To call out the governor and IUB and inform the public of the illegitimacy of the Bakken pipeline.  And to let people know that this is NOT a done deal!

For more information:  <http://100grannies.org/calendar/online-calendar/>

Contact: Miriam Kashia, member 100Grannies

[319-459-1154](tel:319-459-1154)