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Coal and climate policy expert Barbara Freese to speak at Morris

Summary: Freese will address the topic Power Struggle: Slowing Global Warming and Building Clean Energy in a Shifting Political Landscape.

(March 31, 2011)-Barbara Freese, author, attorney, speaker, and policy advocate, will speak at the University of Minnesota, Morris on Monday, April 4, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cow Palace, Imholte Hall room 109. Freese has worked extensively on coal and climate policy at the state and federal levels. Her address, “Power Struggle: Slowing Global Warming and Building Clean Energy in a Shifting Political Landscape,” is free and open to the public.

“Freese’s work on both a regional and national level is really a model for how intelligent public policy should be formulated,” shares Arne Kildegaard, professor of economics and management. “Her analysis is based on fundamentally sound science, but also attuned to the economics of hard choices and the political art of the possible. As luck would have it, she also happens to be a very talented storyteller with a keen, sympathetic eye for human folly through the ages. For all of these reasons, we are excited about and honored by her upcoming visit to UMM.”

Freese is a senior policy analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists, an organization for which she has authored reports on the costs of burning coal and work with to oppose the construction of new coal plants and push for limits on greenhouse gases. She is the author of *Coal: A Human History*, which was selected by the New York Times as a Notable Book for 2003. From 1986 until 1999, she served as assistant attorney general for the state of Minnesota and focused on implementing air quality laws.

After earning a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 1982, Freese earned a law degree from New York University in 1986. She is speaking at Morris on her own behalf. Her opinions should not be attributed to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The University of Minnesota, Morris [Environmental Studies Program](#) is sponsoring Freese’s campus visit.

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