

A New Angle
MTPR Ep 2
Winona LaDuke

Justin Angle This is a new angle, a show about cool people doing awesome things in and around Montana. I'm your host, Justin Angle. This show is supported by First Security Bank, Blackfoot Communications and the University of Montana College of Business.

Hey, folks, welcome back and thanks for tuning in today. Today's episode is a conversation with Winona LaDuke. Winona is an internationally renowned activist, economist and organizer working on sustainable development, renewable energy and smarter, more secure food systems.

Winona LaDuke I see crisis as opportunity. And transition is essential. I mean, that's the fact is that if you want to survive, you've got to make some transitions.

Justin Angle Winona is a two time United States vice presidential candidate running both times with Ralph Nader. She recently visited the University of Montana for our presidential lecture series. It was great to get some time with her during her visit and dig into important issues facing not only tribal communities, but our broader society as well. Winona pulls no punches in this conversation, and she has the courage to question, if not outright discard some of the basic assumptions guiding our politics and our economy. There is a lot to learn from here, and I'm excited to bring you our conversation right now.

Winona, thanks for coming on the show. Heard another interview as you sort of haven't been enamored to the term activist, but a lot of people have used that term to describe your work.

Winona LaDuke Just I mean, just starting with the term activist. I mean, I just consider myself a responsible human being.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke You know, and I kind of look at this big picture and so, like, I spent a lot of time trying to protect water. And I feel I feel like wanting the right to water is a human right. And defending that right to water shouldn't make me an activist. That should make me a human being that wants water. And, I, you know, I do rankle at the term a little bit. And I and I'm wondering why corporations who are going to contaminate your water aren't called terrorists.

Justin Angle Yeah. Good point.

Winona LaDuke And, you know, that's a Montana question. Certainly. There's certainly a huge amount of contamination from mining companies in Montana. And and and, you know, to me, I want to be the person who can I live in a place where you can still drink the water from a lake. You know, my job is to try to keep it that way. I've you know, I've spent most of my life I'm a year you know, I'm a rural development economist. I also farm my, you know, a smaller scale and my heritage corn, beans, squash, tobacco, jerusalem artichokes and potato girl. Along with basil because I happen to like pesto sauce a lot.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke you know, and so I've done that for most of my life and I am now a hemp farmer, too.

Justin Angle OK, yeah, I definitely want to talk about the hemp.

Winona LaDuke I do. I grow industrial fiber hemp.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke So that's my that's my goal. So I you know, I'm interested in how, you know, what our communities are going to be like 50 years from now, 30 years from now. Who's in charge of that? Where your water is going to come from, where your energy is going to come from, where food's going to come from, how we're going to treat each other and and who makes those decisions? It's not just a native issue. You know, it's really issues of how democracy is practiced or how we're going to survive, frankly, in the face of climate change and and, you know, the catastrophic ecological challenges that we now face.

Justin Angle So when was the seed first planted for this this type of engagement,.

Winona LaDuke This type of work?

Justin Angle This type of leadership. I mean, you know, you did your undergraduate Harvard study economics and then is that the point where you move to the White Earth reservation permanently?

Winona LaDuke Yes, that's right. Well, you know, I come from a good family to start with. And both of my parents were were my mother still is. My mother's name is Betty LaDuke, and she's an artist and she has always worked kind of in the arena of art and social change. You know, she's 86 and is pretty much six by six or eight by ten paintings.

Justin Angle Wow.

Winona LaDuke Yeah, she's pretty much rocking it still. She's been up in a number of places, have had her art. But, you know, I was raised in a family that said, you know, you should speak up against injustice. You should be present. I was taken out of school for

anti-war demonstrations. I, you know, was raised around farmworker's. I was born in East L.A. and we mostly hung out with the native people in the farm workers there. So I have kind of you know, I have good family, good parenting.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke Good values. And so, you know, as you are correct, I left southern Oregon, small town in southern Oregon and moved to Boston or Cambridge to go to school. I was politicized then, kind of in the larger arena. At that time that indigenous people were first going to the United Nations. The U.N. Conference on the Rights of Indigenous People occurred in 1977 in Geneva. It was on the rights of indigenous people the land of the Western Hemisphere is the first U.N. conference, United Nations conference on the rights of indigenous people. And I had been a researcher, you know, in high school, I debated energy policy. And my first case that I actually studied was the AMAX Coal Company moving into the Northern Cheyenne reservation, wanting to lease most of the reservation in violation of BIA leasing standards. And the Northern Cheyenne tribe's battle against Colstrip mining politicized me quite a bit, you know, so my my initial, you know, studying of energy policy was really here in Montana.

Justin Angle Sure.

Winona LaDuke And then I, you know, kind of came to this point where I you know, to me, these are questions to do. Large multinationals get to determine the future of your community? That's the question that I've asked pretty much my whole life. And why do they get to determine it? And, you know, it's not only that that that the table isn't set so that we're all at the same table. You know, we don't have any silverware. We don't even have a plate.

Justin Angle Right.

Winona LaDuke You know, it's not even it's not even a level playing field. But more it asks questions of like, you know, who gets to determine the future of these communities and the long term economic and environmental impact of a lot of megaprojects that have occurred? So I've spent most of my life fighting stupid ideas. Let's just be honest about it. You know, coal gasification plants, big mega damn projects, oil and gas leasing, nuclear waste dumps and now pipelines. But I'm far more interested in the solutions.

Justin Angle Right.

Winona LaDuke You know, and so I've also spent a good deal of time on that. And I know I'm ready for the next economy. I'm ready for it.

Justin Angle And so speaking of that, like your grounding as an economist, in your experience, how have how has the discipline of economics both helped and hurt in terms of the issues that you've been engaged in?

Winona LaDuke Well, basically, the you know, I mean, I went to Harvard and the economics paradigm that is taught and replicated in most Universities, I assume here is is dead wrong. It's dead wrong.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke It's predicated on an endless growth economy. We've run out of stuff to pillage. Let's just be honest. You know, everything that we're extracting now, the, you know, energy return on investment, EROI, it's pretty low. You know, that's what fracking is. Bottom of the barrel. Might as well go down there, you know, send 600 to 600 to chemicals down there, bust up the bedrock of Mother Earth and see if you can get some oil or gas out of there. You know, I mean, that's crazy stuff. I call it Windigo Economics, Cannibal Economics. And and and so the paradigm of capitalism. I mean, the U.N. came out this fall and basically said for the planet to survive, capitalism has to die. Interesting moment in history. And so I feel like business schools should teach ecological economics.

I feel like business schools should teach equitable economics, not how you you know how a CEO salary is two hundred fourteen times that higher than an average worker. What's right about that? So, you know, I'm interested in you know, economics is really I mean, to me it's about wealth for a community. It's not necessarily about the cash dollar and it's certainly not about how much stuff you're exporting. It's really about, you know, the quality of life. I'm interested in these you know, as you're probably familiar, you know, there's the GNP indicators that we generally use in, you know, to denote the quality of our economic wealth in this country.

Justin Angle Sure.

Winona LaDuke But on a world wide scale, they're looking at things more like gross national happiness. Right. Happy planet indexing. Thoughtful, innovative countries are looking at, you know, what we really want and having a bunch of money and stuff doesn't actually make you happy. Just look at America. I'm someone who's interested in the next economy. Or indigenous economics, because indigenous economics are land based economics. And those you know, I live in a place where we got wild rice from the same lake for ten thousand years. You let me know what American can say that they've done anything sustainably for more than ten years. You show me an example. Maybe we could learn something from indigenous people. That's kind of my thinking. And I'd like to see these economic schools kind of, like, get out of the box that they're in. You know, because it's a suffocating box and, you know, time to just kind of stick your head up and look around.

Justin Angle I'm going to make an assumption that there's potentially a tension in your work. You know, so much of there's so much dedicated to stopping pipelines, for example. Yet, at the same time, you're talking about some real solutions. Actionable solutions that can be implemented at a community level, and potentially they can be scaled up to a national level. How do you kind of balance the the saying no to bad ideas with saying, you know, you should be paying attention to good ideas and here's some good ideas?

Winona LaDuke Good question. I mean, you know, there is a great a great Dakota philosopher and prophet, I would say. His name was John Trudell. He passed away a couple of years ago, but he used to say, "You know, people would ask me, how come I don't garden?" And he said, 'because someone has to keep the beast out of the garden. That's me."

Justin Angle Mm hmm.

Winona LaDuke And so I spent a lot of my time making sure that we can still harvest what rice? You know, my community. You know, I worked with people in my community to stop the genetic engineering of wild rice. The state of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota wanted to genetically engineer wild rice. And I was like, you know, seems like wild should mean something.

Justin Angle Explain, yeah, explain why that's a bad thing.

Winona LaDuke I mean, you know, first of all, there's an example of a lake that the rice had been drowned out by recreational interests of of summer cottage owners.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke You got the picture? You got it. So they kept the water levels high, drowned out the rice.

Justin Angle So there's no cycle.

Winona LaDuke Yeah. I mean, there's two water levels were too high for the rice. Drowned it out, drowned it out for 17 years, in another case for 50 years. And when the water levels lowered and lowered in a drought, the rice came back. So what's that teach

you? You know, to me, it that teaches you about the promise and the resilience of seeds. Teaches you something about how the creator and those plants will come back if they've got a shot. Which is a pretty lucky thing for us being that the, you know, the Anthropocene-anthropocentric people we are — all about us. So I would go to these meetings at the university and they're talking about academic freedom. And I'd say, well, what about academic responsibility? How does that work?

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke You know, I mean I mean, you know, what I'm saying is, like, you don't get to do human tests anymore on people just because you want to, you know. And so in the end, we ended up with a state of large piece of legislation in the state of Minnesota, took us seven years. That requires a full environmental and cultural impact assessment before they can introduce any GMO rice. They've never. They've never. And they never will. They never will. You know, so it's an example of, you know, sometimes I just really think just super honest with you. There's a bunch of white guys who want to do a bunch of stuff. And it's kind of like I've raised a lot of sons. And it's kind of like just because you want to don't me you get to.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke You know, there's like a lot of ideas that you could talk to that are like, 'Hey, let me try this.' Someone needs to be their mother and say no. You know, and that's what I kind of feel like, is like I'm like, no, you shouldn't do that. You know, someone needs to put some boundaries. So, you know, I've spent a lot of time. We, we I've worked, you know, my whole life at it. But I work with a lot of people in defeating some bad projects. But, you know, at the same time, I'm interested in the next economy. And so, you know, I'm looking at things like the Green New Deal.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke Is this opportunity to to look at that in a federal policy arena. But I'm just going to go back to saying that in our teachings as Anishinaabe, I think people there's this prophecy, that prophecy is called the time of the seventh fire. And in that time, we're told as Anishinaabe of people, that we all have a choice between two paths. One is well-worn, but it is scorched. And the other is not well and it's green, and we were told that we would our choice upon which path to embark. I actually think that's America's situation.

Justin Angle So let's talk about these pipelines briefly, because I want to spend a lot of time on the new economy, the revision and the next economy, but at the same time, people should understand from your perspective, why are these pipelines bad? Why are they worth fighting? What are the negative impacts both at the community level, but in aggregate, what do they represent?

Winona LaDuke Right. I mean, it's interesting to talk about that in such a fossil fuels dependent State.

Justin Angle Right.

Winona LaDuke You know, I've been to Colstrip. You know, what a monstrosity, a monstrosity of coal generation, you know, and, you know, so basically. Let's just be honest, we're at the end of the fossil fuel era. You know, people can say whatever they want to, but time to move on. I'd really like a graceful transition. I'm not someone that feels like I want to crash and burn my way out. I'd like a little prior planning.

Justin Angle Sure. We're at a stage where we can make choices.

Winona LaDuke Make choices. No time like the present to make a couple, you know, 40 or 50 important choices, you know? And so we're looking at infrastructure. We're a

country that has a deed infrastructure. Yeah. Crumbling stuff everywhere. I'm not sure what's crumbling in Montana. But we had a bridge, you know, in Minnesota, but you know what I'm saying?

Justin Angle Oh yeah, it's happening.

Winona LaDuke You know, and I feel like and it's going to get worse with climate change. You got torrential storms.

Justin Angle You got better stresses on everything.

Winona LaDuke Everything is stressful. And we're not prepared. And I feel like, you know, I live in a first world country. And I don't want to feel like I'm not living in a first world country. I want infrastructure for people. Not for oil companies, you know, and so you're looking at a situation where, based on America's inefficient use of energy and a huge amount of peddling by dealers — fossil fuel companies, we'll just call him that. So I spent a lot of time fighting stupid ideas. But, you know, in the pipelines are really a question of where we're going to go, America? You're going to keep seven dirty oil down there or are you want to move into something else? I mean, an electric car is 65 percent efficient. Sixty-five percent.

Justin Angle Gas cars, that 15, 16 percent.

Winona LaDuke So why would you want to be dumb people and ride around and 16 percent efficient vehicles when you could, you know, have an electric car that, you know, gets around. And so, I think that there's a huge opportunity to not be stupid. I'd like to take it. You know.

Justin Angle I like that.

Winona LaDuke Like me. No time like the present to quit doing stupid stuff, you know.

Justin Angle So, that's one big piece of it is let's not do stupid stuff. Stop doing stupid stuff from happening.

Winona LaDuke Yeah.

Justin Angle But I, we've talked about this before. You've got some strong ideas about good ideas. You know, the next economy. What is the next economy look like in your community and then how do some of those ideas scale up?

Winona LaDuke Yeah, I mean, the next economy is re-localized.

Justin Angle Right.

You know, we all live here. But the fact is, is that why would you ship food fourteen hundred miles from a farmer to a table?

Justin Angle Yeah, that's interesting how like we talk all this talk about national security and food security, very rarely in the conversation we can't feed ourselves. You know, it seems pretty fundamental.

Winona LaDuke Yeah. food security, you know, and food sovereignty. Food security is, I mean, it shouldn't be a political issue. It's a commonsense issue. We all want to trust getting your food from California? Good luck. Besides that, they use in fracking water to irrigate those fields.

Justin Angle Sure.

Winona LaDuke You know, I mean, it's it's you know, American agriculture is a ridiculous and dangerous situation. And, you know, and people talk about it as conventional agriculture? No, it's an aberration of ten thousand years of agriculture. People used to grow things. And in fact, most of the world still grows their own food. And 70 percent of the world's food is produced by people like me, not by Kraft, Monsanto and Syngenta. You know, most of the world's food is actually produced in our own communities by people. A lot of our women, you know. So I'm a proponent of relocalizing food. And then and then you figure out your trade agreements that are just and fair. And then some things you just got to you know, you just you just not going to do. Like, I have a hard time. I really like avocados. You know, I just don't think that's going to happen in my neighborhood.

Justin Angle Right. They're not growing in northern Minnesota.

Winona LaDuke Right. In my, you know, if I went on a strict carbon diet, I wouldn't have avocados. I like coconuts, too. I really like Thai food. So basically I see local energy in the time of power outages. I mean, I'm going to be lectured about it later today. But, you know, just take a little look.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke The grid is going down, my grid's going to keep going down. So why wouldn't you, Montana, you want to relocalize your grid.

Justin Angle And I mean, that's another story of national security, too, right. You know, if we have this, you know, one piece of infrastructure that's that's hackable—

Winona LaDuke Ailing. I mean, look at PG&E and the campfire, right? I mean, that was some power lines. Right?

Justin Angle So I would assume northern Minnesota, things like wind power would be a great option.

Winona LaDuke Wind and solar. Yeah. You know, we are building a solar thermal panel manufacturing facility. It's called Eighth Fire Solar,.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke Because like every time I say solar thermal panel manufacturing, that's like a lot of descriptions. But basically, south-facing wall of your house, you put one of these eight by four panels on that. Montana is like Minnesota. It's cold but sunny. Right? And so when it's sunny, that heat still gathers in that panel. And then that panel, when it hits like 90 degrees in the panel, turns on the thermostat, flips the heater fan and then the fan blows the hot air into the house. Interesting. Saves 20 to 30 percent of your winter heating bill. Now, why wouldn't you want to save it? You know what I'm saying? So that's what I'm trying to address: fuel poverty. I see crisis as opportunity and transition as essential. I mean, that's the fact is, is that if you want to survive, you've got to make some transitions and there's some pretty cool opportunities to do great stuff. So why wouldn't we want to do that?

Justin Angle And so how are you helping people make these transitions in your community? How are you helping them install solar or decide that they're going to start growing hemp or other choices to relocalize there?

Winona LaDuke And, you know, basically, I'm kind of like a community development economist in my village. I mean, am I in my tribe. I mean, I don't work for the tribe. I direct Honor the Earth, which is a national nonprofit. And I also, we just started Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute and that's working on hemp. And that's the third example is hemp. I mean, there's more examples, but hemp. As I said, I'm a fiber hemp farmer and I'm going to build a mill. Minnesota used to have eleven hemp mills.

Justin Angle Wow.

Winona LaDuke How interesting is that? Eleven hemp mills. We grew all our own clothes and we made our own rope.

Justin Angle And explain why it's a better crop than cotton per say,

Winona LaDuke twice, twice the fiber per acre.

Justin Angle OK. And no water, right?

Winona LaDuke No pesticides and no water. I mean, basically I grow. I dry farm, dry land farm. You know, dry land farming in Minnesota it's a little different than dry land farming, probably in eastern Montana, but it's a very forgiving crop. To be super honest, the next economy should not look like the last economy. That's just say I've been at meetings and I was at a state meeting. A bunch of guys, you know, that are trying to figure out how to put glyphosate on their hemp. And I was like, that's not going to happen.

Justin Angle We'll be back to our conversation with Economist and Tribal leader, Winona LaDuke, after this short break.

Welcome back to A New Angle. I'm speaking with Economist and Organizer, Winona LaDuke, on her vision for the next economy.

Justin Angle You've been on two vice presidential tickets. Do you do you think about running again?

Winona LaDuke No.

Justin Angle No - not interested?

Winona LaDuke I mean, you know, people are asking me all the time, but I'm sure I mean, first of all, I have seventeen horses.

Justin Angle That's a lot of horses.

Winona LaDuke Right. You know, I'm moving into the goat cheese thing. I want to do goat cheese in my retirement plan. It is to raise, you know, make goat cheese, you know, and raise hemp fiber hemp. I'm working on it, you know, 60. I'm working on the next plant. Right?

Justin Angle That's a pretty good plan.

Justin Angle Yeah, I like it. You know, I like relocalization and I'm doing that. And, you likely know, I show up when you ask me. Absolutely. If they show if they need me to testify in Washington, I show up. If they need me to testify in Minnesota, I show up. Because I want to, I want the system to work. I totally want the system to work. But I myself am a rural person.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke You know, I spent most of my life in rural areas and I just really, you know. But, my point is, is that you need to you know, it's so it's not it's a new economy. It's a new economy for all of us. But it's predicated on land based values, which everybody used to have those until they became a bunch of transients who worked for corporations. You know, there was a day when people's grandparents lived in the same place and they could taste the soil. People used to have a connection. And then in the past 20 and 30 years, we've gotten super distant. We have a nature deficit disorder, I mean, most people spend most of their time looking at a screen that's about, you know, three by six.

Winona LaDuke Yeah.

Justin Angle And they don't even connect. You know, they don't even connect. You could go in a room. I mean, you and I know it. I could go in my household and and, you know, they'll be, you know, visiting a bunch of people and half of them are 20 and they're not even talking to each other. They're all looking at their phones — in my house. I'm like, wow, that's so baffling to me. You know, our ancestors navigated by the stars and you can't walk out without a GPS.

Justin Angle You know, you've mentioned situations where you're mobilizing your community, and I if I recall you, sort of said some white people are interested in that, too. And so how do you view situations where the objectives of the tribal community align with the white community and when they don't in terms of mobilizing whatever coalition you're trying to mobilize?

Winona LaDuke Well, nobody in Minnesota wants that pipeline. Sixty eight thousand people came out and testified. Most of us were white people.

Justin Angle Right. So that's relatively unified.

Winona LaDuke Oh yeah. That was like a multiracial alliance that defeated the Sandpiper, which was Enbridge's first proposal for our state—

Justin Angle Okay.

Winona LaDuke which is a fracked oil pipeline out of North Dakota. And so, you know, we built a multiracial alliance because we all drink the same water. We live on the lakes. And I have to say that my past five years a pipeline fightin, and I'm a I'm a water protector— that's what I refer to myself as, a water protector— I'm interested in

multiracial alliances. And, you know, to be honest with you, I mean, I actually think that once enlightened, once enlightened, let me just put it that way, then a lot of non Indian people will support, you know, what we're doing.

Justin Angle How do we become has a guy like me or somebody listening, learning about these issues for the first time, or how do you become enlightened?

Winona LaDuke Well, first of all, you know, you all got the opportunity, you know, you can look at our stuff and honor the Earth, or Winona's Hemp. You know, a lot of the issues around hemp, I mean, are emergent everywhere. I'm saying, please don't put glyphosate on your hemp. Please don't put pesticides and herbicides on it, just let those girls grow. You know, if you want to, you know, I want agriculture that has life in it, not death.

Justin Angle Yeah, and so, like thinking about that, I mean, you said you can't grow THC or marijuana on your on your property, yet there is this emerging cannabis industry. Yet, and there's some effort that you take the Colorado example, and they're taxing it heavily and raising money for presumably some some good things, maybe not all good things. But, it's a revenue generator for the State. And you know how this is an example of we could have this next economy you're describing. Yet, at the same time multinationals, large corporations, pharmaceutical industry could move in and sweep it all up.

Winona LaDuke But I feel like, you know, put on your big boy panties, your big girl panties, Montana. You know, do it right. I mean, I think that you need to support local. You know, what you want is a renaissance and a revitalization of organic farming or you want farmers here to benefit from it. And, you know, I understand that you had a legalize marijuana industry at the beginning of it and then it got done by the state.

Justin Angle Mmhm. Years ago.

Winona LaDuke And so then who gets to grow a bunch of multinationals? Like I don't know. But Minnesota also has a medical marijuana and they only have a couple of producers. And I think that they should open that up. I think tribal people should. And I'ma be super honest with you. Like as an economist, I'm so geeky. I was like, so I go ask all the dealers on White Earth, not all of them. But, you know, everybody talks to me. I was like, so how much you sell, how much you sell a week? And you start looking at that and, you know, so you got a tribe that spends four million dollars a year on purchasing marijuana from the Oregon and Mexican and Colorado cartels or whoever. Like, that's a hemorrhage to your community.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke You understand what I'm saying? If you grew it locally, that money would stay local and in fact, if you didn't have to buy it because you could grow it yourself, you could develop a relationship with those plants, which is what a lot of it is about, is relationship. If you think you can just purchase everything and you're going to be well, you're wrong. You know, and everybody here knows that you can't just keep buying stuff to get well. At some point you have to, like, go a little deeper, you know. Scale it appropriately. Quit trying to be like mega capitalists. That's the foundationally wrong. You know, this plant is an opportunity to rebuild a relationship with, you know, and the plant is so versatile from everything from that, from the hemp seeds, you know, my pesto sauce. That's what I do. I make hemp heart pesto.

Justin Angle Hemp heart pesto. With some of your basil there?

Winona LaDuke Yeah, with local hemp hearts.

Justin Angle Right. That sounds nice.

Winona LaDuke And so that you have like a local hemp. You know what I'm saying is like,.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke What if you took that fabulous recipe and I don't have pine nuts. You know what i'm saying.

Justin Angle You have to adapt.

I'm saying I used to use cashews, I was like, oh, those that don't even grow near here. I was like, well, what could I use? Well, I could use hazelnuts, but then I was like, well, I'm growing hemp. It's got a super meaty flavor. I mean, not meaty. I'm just saying it's a rich oil. It's a rich nut, rich. So, you know, do cool stuff. Don't be like a jerk and try to make a bunch of money off of everything. Make a living, not a killing. Make a living, not a killing.

Justin Angle I like that. Do cool stuff. Make a living, not a killing. I mean, that seems like the path to enlightenment. Right there. Connection with all these things we're talking about.

Winona LaDuke Yeah. I mean, it's like how you want to live, how you want to live? It's like super stressful being a capitalist jerk.

Justin Angle It's a hard life.

Winona LaDuke I mean, you know what I'm saying, it's like I look at those guys, like, you look just damn miserable. Yeah. You know, I was like, why would you want to do that? You know? And of course, it's been a long time fighting their stupid, miserable selves. But I was like, why don't you just be like, you know, a little more chill.

Justin Angle Yeah, smile once. Once or twice.

Winona LaDuke Smile, hang out with your plants, quit trying to exploit everything. You know, it's way less stressful. You know, to me, that's kind of, you know, the you know, the Dalai Lama's approach. I mean, it's like be, you know, be kind, be happy.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke You know, the next that's the next economy. Looks like that.

Justin Angle I like that. Yeah. Winona, this this seems like a great place to end it. And you've got a busy day ahead of you on campus. Hugely thankful for the time we were able to spend together and you sharing your ideas and passion. Final question would be if anybody listening wants to get more involved. I mean, you've mentioned your website Honor the Earth or your organization Winona's Hemp.

Winona LaDuke And Winona's Hemp. If you want to help me capitalize the hemp.

Justin Angle Yeah.

Winona LaDuke We call it the Hempire.

Justin Angle The Hempire. So, how do people find your work?

Winona LaDuke Yeah. Winona's Hemp is on, I think that we have both went on as winona's hemp dot org. And then we also have on my Facebook is Winona's Hemp. The other thing I'm going to be starting to broach the topic of I just have to say is this Solutionary Rail.

Justin Angle OK.

Winona LaDuke Putting like having electric trains and using the transmission lines along the rail to move your renewable energy from Montana.

Justin Angle Hmm. I like that.

Winona LaDuke You know, there's people thinking and there's people doing. And you know, Montana, we don't want to be the last ones to learn about how to solve problems. We want to do it. You know, so.

Justin Angle Awesome. Winona, thanks for being here. Thanks for all your work and good luck.

Winona LaDuke Thank you.

Justin Angle All right. That was certainly fun, wasn't it? Thanks to Winona for sharing her wisdom and her passion and check out her organization, honor the Earth. That on Earth dot org.

Thanks for listening to A New Angle. We really appreciate it. And we're coming to you from Studio 49, a generous gift from University of Montana Alums Michelle and Loren Hansen. A New Angle is presented by First Security Bank, Blackfoot Communications, and the University of Montana College of Business. With additional support from Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Drum Coffee, and Montana Public Radio.

Aj Williams is our producer, VTO, Jeff Amott and John Wicks made our music, editing by Nick mott and Jeff Meese is our master of all things sound. Thanks and lot and see you next time.