Issue 2, 2016

Your support in action: challenging corporate abuse

#### KICK BIG POLLUTERS OUT

### Holding Exxon accountable for decades of deception

You call on state attorneys general to launch investigations



Exxon knew about climate change nearly 40 years ago, yet chose to cast doubt on the science and obstruct policy to address it. You're taking action to hold Exxon accountable and prevent other big polluters from interfering with climate policy at the United Nations and beyond.

Long before most people even knew of climate change, the scientists at Exxon discovered that burning fossil fuels was harming our planet. Following this discovery in the 1970s, the corporation not only buried the findings but also created doubt and confusion about climate change—all to protect its profits. When this major cover-up came to light, you demanded Exxon be held responsible for its deception and disinformation.

Thousands of members like you called on your state's attorney general to investigate the corporation. And hundreds of you submitted consumer complaints, a legal pathway for demanding action.

Investigations like these helped rein in Big Tobacco's power in the 1990s, and they can do the same for Big Oil.

Already, four attorneys general,

including Massachusetts' Maura Healey and California's Kamala Harris, have publicly launched investigations, a major step toward holding Exxon accountable and, ultimately, clearing the way for real solutions to climate change.

"Corporations like ExxonMobil may have political clout and legions of high-paid lobbyists, but they're up against a much more powerful force: people."

PATTI LYNN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

And the world is ready. This year, policymakers representing nearly 70 percent of the world's population demanded that the issue of big polluters' conflict of interest in climate policy be addressed at the United Nations climate negotiations.

You helped make it possible for delegates to demand a level of action that hasn't been seen in the 20-year history of the climate treaty. You've shown that interference by other big polluters will not be tolerated. And the world is listening.

#### **CORPORATE HALL OF SHAME**

#### You shine spotlight on Koch Industries

Koch Industries is this year's inductee into the Corporate Hall of Shame. And no wonder: It's flooded U.S. elections with millions of dollars and denied climate change while contributing to our planetary emergency. With your vote, you've made it clear that this corporation needs to be held accountable. Last year, you pressured the American Museum of Natural History to kick David Koch off its board. We'll work together again this year to rein in Koch Industries' abuses.

Take action: Challenge big money's influence on policy at StopCorporateAbuse.org/TakeBackDemocracy



### **Growing the movement**

Dear friend,

As we near the end of a distressing presidential election cycle, I've been talking with many of you about the lessons we've learned, lessons now shaping our future. These conversations inform a deep optimism born of the fact that more people now recognize that our systems are broken, and even more importantly, want to be part of fixing them.

The movement of change-makers is growing, and it's not just about U.S. elections. Through your partnership with Corporate Accountability International, you are providing ways for people to be part of the solution—from moving the World Bank to stop forcing water

privatization on the people of Lagos, Nigeria, to exposing and challenging politicians in the pocket of Big Food.

Your voice was heard loudly and clearly this spring when Corporate Accountability International joined in mobilizing for Democracy Awakening. Together, thousands of us took to Capitol Hill demanding that our elected officials represent the needs and interests of people above those of giant corporations.

But it is not enough to wait for politicians to make change. We must get to the root of the problem in the U.S. and around the world. As this goes to

press, we're working with delegates at the World Health Organization and the United Nations to create and implement international law that reins in the corporate Goliaths, law that puts people and the environment first.

Together, we are growing the movement of people organizing for change. Please celebrate the progress we've made and then join me in digging deeper to continue this lifesaving work.

With thanks for your partnership,

Kelle Lonai Li

KELLE LOUAILLIER | PRESIDENT

#### CHALLENGE CORPORATE ABUSE OF OUR FOOD

# Exposing the fast food industry's lobbying

New report reveals how the "Other NRA" buys influence

"A handful of fast food corporations are driving abuses across the food system—and their political influence plays a big part. By campaigning to end this lobbying, we are clearing the way for policies that fix our food system."

HANNAH FREEDBERG | MAJOR GIFTS ORGANIZER

For decades, McDonald's and a lobbying group that represents a suite of giant fast food corporations—the National Restaurant Association (the "Other NRA")—have lobbied politicians to manipulate public policy.

A report you made possible with the Johnson Family Foundation examines how the fast food industry has pushed its agenda and calls out those members of Congress who have stood with it. The report also celebrates those members of Congress who have supported strong food policies.

Released shortly before McDonald's shareholders' meeting, the report garnered strategic media coverage.

This exposure is pressuring McDonald's to end its abusive practices, so we can ultimately make a broken food system whole again.



Our new report details how McDonald's and other fast food corporations use a lobbying group to keep wages low, undermine people's right to know what's in their food, and strip environmental protections.

Learn more: Read the full report at StopCorporateAbuse.org/otherNRAscorecard.

### **Paige Kirstein**

Paige Kirstein has been involved with Corporate Accountability International since 2009. She currently lives in San Francisco and works to protect elderly people from financial fraud.

### How did you first get involved with Corporate Accountability International?

I enjoyed volunteering on Corporate Accountability International's Think Outside the Bottle campaign as a student at Brown University because it brought together a range of issues. There's the environmental toll of using plastic to package water and shipping it around the world. And then there's the human rights element. Water is a human right, not something that corporations should own. We focused on getting Brown to go bottled water free. I was so impressed by the organization that I decided to become a summer intern in 2010. During that time, we were organizing mayors to eliminate public spending on bottled

water. I also started a program in my free time to get more university students involved. Lauren DeRusha was our first recruit and she is now a senior campaign organizer on the campaign to Challenge Corporate Control of Water!

#### Why is this work important to you?

The root cause of many human rights, environmental, and social abuses is corporate control. Corporate Accountability International launches very direct, focused campaigns that have a widespread effect. Plus, the organization does an amazing job of recruiting people who work hard and have a great talent for organizing. I know that every dollar and every hour is spent in the best way possible.



### What about the organization sustains your support?

Corporate Accountability International showed me that there is a broad range of approaches we can take to make an impact. In addition to petitioning or holding rallies, the organization knows how to strategize. It finds where the system is broken, determines who has the power to fix it, and builds the influence to make that change happen.

#### **CHALLENGE BIG TOBACCO**

### Carrying on the legacy of a visionary

We remember Yul Francisco Dorado and move his work forward



Latin America Director Yul Francisco Dorado passed away in May, but his legacy in the corporate accountability and tobacco control movements lives on.

Holding corporations accountable is an integral part of advancing social justice. Few people understood that better than our beloved Latin America Director

Yul Francisco Dorado. Although he passed away on May 1, his legacy continues to shape groundbreaking corporate accountability work.

Dorado understood that the global tobacco treaty was an important tool for not only reining in the power of Big Tobacco, but also creating long-lasting social change. He saw it as a way to shift power away from corporations and back into the hands of people.

He made great progress on this front in his country, Colombia. In partnership with a powerful coalition of public health and civil society groups and members like you, he led a campaign to mobilize public officials and organize a massive grassroots movement. As a result, Colombia ratified the global tobacco treaty in 2006 and then went on to pass its landmark national tobacco control law—one of the strongest in the world.

As we gear up to attend the next negotiations of the global tobacco treaty in November, we will be holding Dorado's spirit and determination in our hearts. Carrying forward his legacy, we will ensure progress on a policy he was working on at the end of his life: Article 19, which holds the tobacco industry liable for its abuses and its cost on society.

The successes in these pages are made possible with your support. Thank you!

10 Milk Street, Suite 610 Boston, MA 02108

Corporate Accountability International stops life-threatening abuses of global corporations and increases their accountability to people around the world.

#### CHALLENGE CORPORATE CONTROL OF WATER

### Big wins for the right to water

You are blocking the corporate takeover of water

Global water corporations and financial backers like the World Bank are coming up against a powerful organizing force.

People the world over are demanding water corporations stop endangering their health and access to water.

And they are holding accountable decision-makers who fail to protect their water.

Just one example: Michigan's attorney general recently sued one of the world's largest water corporations, Veolia, for its role in the Flint water crisis.

Tasked with assessing Flint's water, the corporation failed to sound the alarm about possible lead contamination, prolonging the time people in Flint

were exposed to poison in their water.

We have been partnering with Flint residents to ensure the private water industry cannot position itself as the solution to the crisis it helped create.

On the other side of the world, the grassroots organizing you supported in Lagos, Nigeria led to a huge victory: The World Bank recently abandoned a water privatization plan, despite spending decades and millions of dollars promoting water privatization in Lagos.

In Nigeria, the U.S., and around the world, you are helping realize a world where everyone has access to clean water.



oto credit: k

Rep. Gwen Moore is the ranking member of a subcommittee that holds the purse strings for the U.S. contribution to the World Bank. With your support, she demanded the World Bank stop promoting water privatization, pending a review of its conflicts of interests.

**♦ Learn more:** Read how the private water industry is contributing to the U.S. lead crisis: StopCorporateAbuse.org/LeadAstray

### **MAKE A BEQUEST**

## Sustain this work to protect human rights, public health, and the environment.

For further information, contact Membership Manager Marilyn Willmoth at (617) 695-2525.

"Including Corporate Accountability International in my will means I'll continue to help protect the environment from corporate abuse, leaving a more sustainable world for our children and grandchildren."

ANNE STEPHANSKY | MEMBER SINCE 1990

### Why monthly giving?

- You direct your estate to something you care deeply about.
- You have a personal way to meet your estate planning goals.
- You guarantee deep and long-lasting change to build a more just and equitable world.

Thank you for your enduring support!





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