

spotlight

2018 Issue 2



You've partnered with people in St. Louis, Baltimore, New York City, and Pittsburgh to challenge Veolia—stopping the corporation's plans to privatize water across the U.S.

Victory for democratic control of water!

You compel Veolia to drop key scheme for privatizing water in the US

“You’ve shown the private water industry that people will rise up to keep water public.”

PATTI LYNN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Protect public water from Trump!

Trump's infrastructure plan would encourage water privatization across the U.S. Tell Congress to stop it.

Sign here: CorporateAccountability.org/InfrastructureScam

North America was supposed to be a new “expansion market” for Veolia, the world’s largest water privatizer. Veolia hoped to take control of public water systems with a contract model that would give it a foot in the door to water privatization across the U.S.

But thanks to years of organizing, powered by you, Veolia has had to abandon this approach. This is a huge setback for the entire private water industry—and nothing short of a breakthrough for the human right to water.

Private water corporations like Veolia undermine the human right to water by charging higher water rates, abusing workers’ rights, neglecting infrastructure, and taking shortcuts that jeopardize water safety. That’s

why we’ve partnered with organizers and communities in St. Louis, Baltimore, New York City, and elsewhere to challenge Veolia’s privatization plans.

When, together, we exposed its role in the lead crisis in Pittsburgh, we created a tipping point. Veolia was forced to retire this insidious scheme, leaving it few options for privatizing U.S. water systems.

Now, private water industry analysts are even questioning whether there’s a viable future in privatizing U.S. water systems.

This is just the beginning. Together, we’ll continue organizing for strong, public water systems in the U.S. and around the world.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Choosing hope

Dear friend,

Perhaps you, like me, feel beaten down some days by the horrors of this White House: its unabashed championing of corporate power, its dismantling of our most basic protections, and its virulent, racist policies.

I know from my conversations with many of you that sometimes it can be hard to face what's happening.

But I also know that we must. Because the only way we will be able to create the transformation we desperately need is by facing this raw power, truly seeing it for what it is, and understanding where it is vulnerable.

Taking on enormous power and campaigning to make systemic change is what Corporate Accountability has done for over 40 years—and it's what I have been privileged to do with this organization for 20 years.

And even after all this time, I still feel a thrill of inspiration when I look back at what we accomplish together every month. We make an outsized impact in curbing corporate power—and it is only possible because of your steadfast support.

Members like you played a vital role in ensuring that water privatizer Veolia is failing in its attempts to take over U.S. public water systems. Your phone calls, actions, and donations made sure that Big Polluters didn't have their way at the U.N. climate treaty talks. And that's just scratching the surface of what you've made happen over the past few months.

The world needs this organizing more than ever before. I am deeply privileged to be doing this transformative work with you. Our time is now.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patti Lynn".

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

You expose Philip Morris' phony foundation

At shareholders' meeting, you compel the corporation to answer for its deadly impact



During Philip Morris International's shareholders' meeting, you ensured the stories and voices of people most affected by the tobacco epidemic were heard.

"Philip Morris International claims it has turned over a new leaf, but it continues to target children and obstruct public health policy."

GIGI KELLETT | DEPUTY DIRECTOR:
CAMPAIGNS AND OPERATIONS

Philip Morris International is at it again with its brazen—and deadly—PR schemes.

The latest? Its new foundation—supposedly intended to create a "smoke-free world." In reality, the foundation is an elaborate front for interfering in policy, muddying the waters of scientific research, and bolstering its brand. (For more, check out our blog post, "The foundation fronting for Philip Morris.")

Meanwhile, Philip Morris International is doubling down on tried-and-true tactics for addicting new customers, like marketing to youth and meddling in public health policy.

But at the most recent Philip Morris International shareholders' meeting, you held the corporation accountable, disrupting its dog and pony show to tell the truth about its deadly impact.

And with your support, Corporate Accountability will be at the global tobacco treaty meetings this October, challenging Philip Morris International and supporting governments in protecting people's health from Big Tobacco.

Q&A

Member spotlight: Margaret Hornick

Margaret Hornick is a psychologist and a self-described "accidental activist." She has supported Corporate Accountability since its first campaign, the Nestlé boycott.

What motivates you to support Corporate Accountability?

Corporations don't start by asking how they can cause excess deaths, foul the waterways, or melt the polar ice caps. But they're not going to change course willingly because of those side effects. The power imbalance between them and individuals and communities can become so vast that it takes a group like Corporate Accountability to wrestle that back into some semblance of fairness. The bottom line for me is that I don't like to be bullied, and I don't like to see other people bullied. That's what you fight back against, and you have a niche in that struggle that I don't see anyone

else occupying. You are targeted, you are strategic, and you know which levers to pull. You focus on national and international coalition building, and you get results.

Which of our campaigns resonates with you the most?

I am particularly passionate about the issue of water privatization. Clean, abundant, affordable public water supplies are a human right, and you've put a spotlight on that issue. So whether it's Veolia or pro-privatization legislation in Massachusetts, I love to see you challenging those things. If you leave them unfettered, corporations will pollute the air and sell us oxygen tanks—and that



is what they are doing with water. Folks at Corporate Accountability are my heroes for challenging these practices. In my eyes, it's a matter of global survival.

California teachers reject McTeacher's Nights statewide

You support educators across the US to stop McDonald's exploitation



Educator Ingrid Gunnell introduces a resolution denouncing McDonald's thinly veiled marketing tactic. Photo: California Federation of Teachers.

During McTeacher's Nights, teachers work behind McDonald's counters without pay, serving burgers, soda, and fries to students. McDonald's claims these events raise money for schools,

but in fact schools keep just \$1.18 per student on average. As if that were not bad enough, during McTeacher's Nights, McDonald's cuts employees hours—hours they need because the corporation pays poverty wages.

You've said enough is enough, so you're joining forces with educators to stop this practice. This year, the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) passed a resolution to oppose and reject McTeacher's Nights.

CFT, which represents more than 120,000 education professionals, is building on momentum you've helped create. Last year, Los Angeles Unified School District became the first to end McTeacher's Nights after

30,000 people like you and more than 50 teachers unions representing more than 3 million educators demanded McDonald's end the practice.

"This is a leap forward for the movement to end McDonald's predatory marketing in schools, which contributes to diet-related diseases in our children."

AKILI | PROJECT COORDINATOR

With your support, we will keep building power with educators across the U.S. to hold McDonald's accountable for its abuses throughout our food system.

Against the odds, you keep the heat on Big Polluters

You advance climate justice as global climate policy is written



Associate Campaign Director Michél Legendre echoes your call for the EU to stand with people, not Big Polluters, at an action at the latest round of U.N. climate talks.

Government leaders from around the world met in Germany this May to write the next phase of international climate policy: guidelines for implementing the historic Paris climate accord. And, as usual, Big Polluters were out in force, trying to rig the rules of the U.N. climate treaty so they can keep profiting at the expense of people and the planet.

You didn't let them get away with it. While our team was in Germany, organizing with Global South government champions and allies to kick Big Polluters out, you had their backs in a big way. You raised your voice and made phone calls to demand the EU side with people, not Trump and Big Polluters. And it worked: Despite intense opposition, you helped move the EU to stop siding with Big Polluters. Together, we secured a way forward for a policy to kick Big Polluters out. This is huge!

And you're not letting up. In the midst of Big Polluters' annual shareholders' meetings, people like you gathered at local Nights of Action to hold them accountable for blocking climate justice. You tied up the phone lines at Exxon Mobil, Shell, Chevron, and BP in the lead-up to their most important day of the year, demanding they keep out of climate policy.

"2018 needs to be the year we turn the tide toward climate justice."

SRIRAM MADHUSOODANAN |
DEPUTY CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR

In the months ahead, you'll keep the heat on Big Polluters. With your support, we'll be building power in the lead-up to the December climate treaty talks to secure policy that protects people—not Big Polluters.

Become a monthly donor

Do even more to protect human rights, public health, and the environment.

- 1 Contact** Marilyn Willmoth, senior membership manager, at 617.695.2525.
- 2 Visit** our website at CorporateAccountability.org/Get-Involved/Give-Monthly/
- 3 Send** in the enclosed envelope.

Why monthly giving?

Your gift works faster and more efficiently to make a bigger impact.

You receive insider campaign updates to keep up-to-date on the influential role you have in creating a more just and equitable world.

It's easy to participate, and you help save resources and expenses.

Thank you for your partnership!



"Growing up in Kenya, I heard stories of how British tea corporations forced our community off our land. Today I give to Corporate Accountability to stop the violations of people's basic rights by corporations."

VICTOR MUTAI | SOFTWARE ENGINEER
AND MONTHLY PLEDGER



CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY
10 Milk Street, Suite 610 • Boston, MA 02108
617.695.2525 • CorporateAccountability.org



Corporate Accountability is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Federal tax ID number: 41-1322686.

