

# spotlight

2018 Issue 1



At the most recent U.N. climate meetings, you demanded an end to the corporate capture of the talks and called on the U.S. to stop pushing Big Polluters' agenda. Pictured: In the lead-up to the talks, we marched with people from around the world, including organizational allies Tetet Lauron of IBON International (center) and Ian Rivera of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (right).

## You tell US to stand down at UN climate talks

Over 100,000 people challenge the US and Big Polluters for blocking climate action

**“The U.S. is pushing false solutions to the climate crisis, and Big Polluters are pulling the strings. We need to hold the U.S. accountable and kick Big Polluters out.”**

MICHÉL LEGENDRE | ACTION LEAGUE ORGANIZER

### Take action!

**Tell the U.S. government to stand down and stop blocking climate justice. Sign the petition here:**  
[CorporateAccountability.org/USStandDown](https://CorporateAccountability.org/USStandDown)

You are joining with people from around the world to challenge the U.S. government and Trump for fronting for Big Polluters. Thanks to people like you, we are ensuring that polluting corporations don't get away with undermining strong climate policy.

During the latest round of U.N. climate talks in Bonn, Germany, you helped generate enormous pressure on Big Polluters and the governments in their pockets.

Through media exposure and grassroots organizing, we challenged the ways in which the U.S. is undermining the Paris climate agreement to advance Big Polluters' agenda. We set the stage for youth and indigenous activists to

disrupt a U.S. panel promoting "clean" coal. And we partnered with allies across the Global South—including activists from Pacific Island nations who are organizing to save their homelands—to demand the U.S. get out of the way of true climate justice.

But that was just the beginning. In the weeks that followed, Corporate Accountability members and supporters like you organized local elected officials around the country to join the call for the U.S. government to stop undermining climate policy at Big Polluters' behest. Together, we're turning up the heat on the U.S. and Big Polluters—building our movement stronger than ever.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Creating social change, person to person

**Dear friend,**

I've been talking with many of you about the most effective ways to create social change. In the wake of mounting climate catastrophes, escalating white supremacist violence, and Trump's corporate takeover of our government, it's perhaps one of the most important issues we wrestle with together. And I've been inspired by the conversations we've had about how we create the change we need.

I've been reflecting lately on some of the myths of social change-making, and how they hold us back. The myth about the singular extraordinary, innovative change-maker who will come along and "crack the nut" on social change. Or the myth that if things get bad enough, people will spontaneously come together to solve the problem—no strategic planning required!

Both of these myths would have us believe that we are not the ones who can accomplish transformation. At the heart of effective change, however, is the thing all of us can be a part of: organizing.

Organizing is all about forging strong relationships with one another, mobilizing action, and building power that adds up to change the bigger picture. It's about having one conversation at a time and steadily driving monumental change.

I feel privileged to do that work every day at Corporate Accountability, in partnership with you. Together, we are reining in some of the most powerful and abusive corporations in the world to make a just future possible.

And that's why we're asking you to get even more involved, to keep saying yes and keep stretching with us to meet this pivotal moment in history.

Thank you for being the change-maker this world needs.



**Onward,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelle Louaillier".

**Kelle Louaillier**  
President

## Standing up to Big Tobacco around the world

With "knowledge hub," you equip governments to protect public health

**"We're leveling the playing field so governments can stand up to Big Tobacco's ruthless tactics and prioritize people's health."**

PATTI LYNN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As governments around the world have implemented lifesaving policies to protect people from Big Tobacco's deadly products, the industry has tried to undermine progress. From bribery to infiltrating policy-making spaces, Big Tobacco attempts to use all its wealth and clout to keep public health measures from taking hold.

But sunlight is the best disinfectant. So, with your support we've teamed up with the World Health Organization, governments, and academics from around the world to create a "knowledge hub." This robust tool will equip policymakers to understand Big Tobacco's tactics and pass gold-standard policies that stand up to industry interference.

Based at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, this hub will empower governments globally to take even bolder action and rein in Big Tobacco's interference.



Corporate Accountability is playing a key role in establishing a tool to help governments advance public health policy and counter Big Tobacco's notorious interference. Pictured: Senior Latin America Policy Organizer Daniel Dorado speaks at a World Health Organization global tobacco treaty meeting where we advanced progress on this "knowledge hub."

# Q&A

## What motivated you to get involved with Corporate Accountability?

I have a degree in public health, so I've always been interested in what affects our health. Corporations have an outsized impact on basic things—housing, water, clean air. So I really feel a kinship with Corporate Accountability's mission to hold corporations accountable for abuses that harm people.

## What aspect of our work are you most passionate about?

Here in Pittsburgh, Veolia managed the water system very badly. High levels of lead were measured in a significant number of homes—in some cases

## Member spotlight: Nancy Bernstein

Nancy is a public health advocate, philanthropist, and nonprofit board member. A Pittsburgh resident, she first got involved during the Nestlé boycott.



approaching levels in Flint. The city is considering different management models, but pressure is still needed to prevent privatization. It's really wonderful to have Corporate Accountability working with us. It's exciting to be part of an organization that understands the depth and breadth of the issue and learns from organizing happening all over the country and the world.

## What makes you proud to be a part of Corporate Accountability?

I'm proud of the campaign here in Pittsburgh, and all of Corporate Accountability's work: the campaigns are all related to our health, our

environment, our communities. What's so impressive about Corporate Accountability is that you understand the global reach—the thousand-foot view—and you work right down at the granular local level, where people like me can get involved. I think it's really important to both give money and be active. Being part of the action now makes me feel I'm living a life more consistent with my values.

## You stand with educators to end junk food marketing in schools

### Teachers organize nationwide to end McTeacher's Nights

Before Karlana Kulseth was an educator, she worked at McDonald's. There, she saw firsthand how the fast food giant exploits cash-strapped schools to market to children.

During events called McTeacher's Nights, the corporation has teachers work behind the counters for free and sell burgers, soda, and fries to their students. The schools keep a small percentage of the proceeds, while McDonald's gets the kind of marketing money can't buy.

Thousands of parents, teachers, and activists like you have called on McDonald's to end McTeacher's Nights.

Last April, Los Angeles Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the country, voted to end the practice. And the movement is growing: At the 2017 National Education Association meeting, Karlana called on educators from across the country to end McTeacher's Nights.

With your support, we are partnering with educators like Karlana who've had enough of McDonald's exploiting schools to market fast food to children. Together with this network of educators, we're building power to end the practice in school districts all over the U.S., protecting thousands of kids' health.

**"These teachers are facing down the world's biggest fast food corporation because they know that protecting their students' health now will have impacts that last a lifetime."**

SRIRAM MADHUSOODANAN |  
DEPUTY CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR



Over 50 teachers unions, representing 3 million educators, have voiced their opposition to predatory marketing events called McTeacher's Nights. Pictured: Teachers and students join a demonstration in downtown Chicago calling for an end to the practice.

# Building toward water justice in Pittsburgh

In the midst of a lead crisis, you take a stand for community control of water



Pittsburgh residents scored a victory for the human right to water by winning a moratorium on water shut-offs. You're standing with residents like Joel Malloy (center) as they organize for a strong, public water system for all.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is in the midst of a lead crisis that is taking a toll on people across the city. But with your help, city residents just scored an important victory for people's access to water by passing a moratorium on water shut-offs.

In 2014, while Pittsburgh's water system was under private water corporation Veolia's management, a key chemical used to prevent lead contamination was switched to a cheaper alternative without the required state approval.

Now people across the city are at risk from dangerously high lead levels in their water. Not only that, but they will soon have to pay more—for water that may not be safe.

Fortunately, members of the Our Water Campaign just won an important victory, with your support. They successfully moved the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority to put a temporary halt

**"People in Pittsburgh are clear: They want a strong, publicly controlled system. And we're helping make that possible."**

JULIA GABBERT | ORGANIZER

on water shut-offs for low-income residents. And you've had their backs every step of the way: Corporate Accountability has been partnering with the campaign's organizers on strategy, research, and media.

In the months ahead, we'll continue to call for a thorough investigation into Veolia's role in the lead crisis and stand shoulder to shoulder with the organizers and residents calling for a just resolution to the lead crisis and putting an end to water shut-offs for good.

## 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/](https://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!**



**"Corporations endanger our planet and human lives every day, and governments don't stop them. That's where Corporate Accountability comes in. I work three jobs, so I'm busy. But by donating monthly, I am helping hold corporations accountable."**

ÁNGEL LUIS MELÉNDEZ NOVAS | EDUCATOR AND MONTHLY PLEDGER



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