

spotlight

2019 **Issue 3**



Your support ensured that policymakers at the U.N. climate treaty got the message loud and clear: People's voices and needs must be prioritized over Big Polluters' bottom line. Pictured from left to right: Sarah Dobson and Eilidh Robb of UK Youth Climate Coalition, Corporate Accountability Deputy Campaigns Director Sriram Madhusoodanan, Aneesa Khan of SustainUS.

Creating the climate impact the world needs

You power groundbreaking organizing on the climate campaign

"Together, we are ensuring climate policy serves the needs of people, not corporate profits."

GIGI KELLETT | DEPUTY DIRECTOR: CAMPAIGNS
AND OPERATIONS

Take action!

Help power our climate campaign in its next phase.

Donate here:

[CorporateAccountability.org/
DonateToday](https://CorporateAccountability.org/DonateToday)

With your support, Corporate Accountability is confronting Big Polluters for their role in fueling the climate crisis and blocking just and effective climate policy. Together, we are ensuring that climate policy serves people's needs, not corporate profits.

Big Polluters—the transnational corporations that have raked in profits while knowingly fueling and denying climate change—have blocked progress to address climate change for half a century. It's time for the fossil fuel industry to stop writing the rules—and start paying for the damage it's caused.

That's why thousands of you in the U.S. have emailed, called, used social

media, and are leading delegations to urge state attorneys general and members of Congress nationwide to investigate Exxon for its decades of climate deception.

And on the international front, you made it possible for Corporate Accountability to send a powerhouse team to organize at June's U.N. climate treaty negotiations to kick Big Polluters out. Despite fierce opposition from Big Polluters' lobby and the U.S. government, we made progress in pushing for real policy solutions as part of Paris Agreement implementation.

Thanks to you, we are on even stronger footing to secure just, visionary climate solutions that work for people, not polluters.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We will prevail

Dear friend,

Democracy. It comes up often when I speak with members like you, and no wonder: Every day democracy is being dismantled in sometimes small and sometimes big ways.

We know that it's not accidental.

There's been almost a half-century of a corporate-led systematized dismantling of democracy. Today's chaotic White House is the latest, most blatant example of corporate power run amok.

But, perhaps because of the extremes of our current presidential administration, more and more scholars and activists are exposing the hidden agendas behind the ideology that advances corporate power. And more and more people are listening—and rising up to reclaim and advance democracy in small and large ways.

In fact, when Nancy MacLean, celebrated author of "Democracy in Chains," came to strategize with our organizers, she told us she sees how people and organizations around the country are broadening our connections and working across differences to take back power. And she believes we will ultimately prevail.

Her sentiments reflected back to us what we experience in our campaigning. Whether we are organizing at U.N. climate treaty meetings, working with residents to promote democratic control of their local water systems, or engaging with members at house parties that propel campaign momentum, we can feel a great groundswell moving us all forward.

People are hungering for a world where corporate power no longer asserts so much control over their lives. They want a world where decisions are made for the good of people and the planet, not the corporate bottom line. And they see that as they campaign with us, they are working toward building such a world.

Your partnership makes all this possible. I am grateful to be forging our way toward a new and truly just democracy with you.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patti Lynn".

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

The votes are in!

You induct Koch Industries into the Corporate Hall of Shame



For the fourth year in a row, you call out Koch Industries for its toxic influence in U.S. elections, environmental policy, and more through the Corporate Hall of Shame. Image credit: Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress; Katie Harp; Sharon McCultcheon; Gavin Peters; and Fred Thompson

Systematically dismantling environmental safeguards. Raking in fossil fuel profits. Flooding U.S. elections with hundreds of millions of dollars.

With a track record like this, it's no surprise you voted Koch Industries into the Corporate Hall of Shame—for the fourth year in a row.

You voted. Then, you acted. We teamed up with a coalition of allies to challenge the Koch network for pushing junk science to sow doubt about the climate crisis. Together, thousands of people like you took action to demand Koch Industries stop funding junk science.

The ballot's now open for next year's Corporate Hall of Shame, and there are a slew of corporations giving the Kochs a run for their money.

Will it be Purdue Pharma for its role in the opioid crisis? GEO Group for exploiting the increasing crackdown on and demonization of immigrants for profit? Or one of the many other corporations devastating people's lives around the globe? You decide—by casting your vote today.

Cast your ballot for this year's Corporate Hall of Shame here:

[CorporateAccountability.org/
VoteCHoS](https://CorporateAccountability.org/VoteCHoS)

Q&A

Member spotlight: Karen Bachner Goozner

Karen Bachner Goozner is a retired school counselor, community organizer, and actress living in Chicago.



What drew you to becoming a member of Corporate Accountability?

Corporate Accountability is helping rebuild community identity—to resuscitate the energy and focus that people have when they work together. You locate people who have the time, energy, and passion to be leaders, and you give them the research tools they need to organize

and move toward effective solutions. You take the huge, interconnected problem of corporate abuse head-on.

You are one of those leaders: You are organizing your friends and neighbors to call on your state attorney general to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for its role in climate catastrophe. Why?

More and more of us are coming out of denial that something is really happening, and it's happening really fast. A couple of years ago I suddenly noticed that there were far fewer lightning bugs and crickets, and the whine of tiny insects had died down.

Something is wrong: The tiniest gears of our creation are disappearing. We have to do something to protect them, or the

whole watchwork will stop. And the prime movers of this cascading environmental catastrophe are the petroleum, coal, and chemical industries. So when your organizers reached out about this project, I was attracted to it because it addressed the reality of the problem. And it's supported by a model that's shown to be effective: the Big Tobacco strategy. I thought: "This is right, this is do-able, and it could help."

So far, working on this project has felt like a snow crystal forming—everything is coming together almost serendipitously. I look forward to the opportunity to speak with our attorney general and hear what he has to say about the state of Illinois going forward with an investigation.

Speaking truth to corporate power

You expose corporate abuse during what would otherwise be empty PR events

"We confront CEOs about the harms their corporations perpetuate. That's powerful engagement."

JOHN STEWART | DEPUTY CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR

Abusive corporations often use shareholders' meetings to paint a rosy business picture, masking ruthless practices that harm people and the planet. But Corporate Accountability attends these meetings to expose and challenge deadly industry behavior.

This spring, when Coke and McDonald's wanted to showcase their family-friendly veneer, you ensured shareholders and



Dr. Esparanza Cerón Villaquirán of Colombia's Educar Consumidores delivers a scathing statement on Coca-Cola's damaging political interference at Coke headquarters.

the media saw how both corporations are perpetuating abuses in the U.S. and around the world. With public health allies from Latin America, we highlighted

Coke's disturbing history of political interference in health policymaking.

And when Philip Morris International tried to paint itself as a corporation in the business of selling "harm reduction" products, we forced the corporation and its shareholders to contend with the fact that its core business model continues to be hooking people on addictive and deadly tobacco products.

Speaking truth to power at shareholders' meetings is just one of the ways we shed light on the abuses corporations would rather keep in the dark. To see how you can get involved in exposing the truth behind the slick corporate PR, please see the Corporate Hall of Shame news on the facing page.

Victory! Pittsburgh mayor rejects water privatization

Your staunch support is protecting public water in Pittsburgh and beyond



Recent progress in Pittsburgh to protect the city's public water system is part of a growing trend. People across the country are demanding, campaigning, and winning victories for public water—as documented in the recent video *The Story of Water*, which you helped make possible. Image credit: Story of Stuff Project

“People and democratic institutions—not corporations—should control the water we drink. Together with our allies and partners, Corporate Accountability is advancing the human right to water throughout the world.”

JULIA GABBERT | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MAJOR GIFTS

Recently, Pittsburgh's Mayor Bill Peduto rejected water privatization, protecting control of public water for hundreds of thousands of people. In no uncertain terms, he declared: “Pittsburgh's water belongs to its people and the PWSA (Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority) will never be up for sale.” And the city advanced a cooperation agreement with the PWSA to formalize this principle.

Just three years ago, the PWSA was in clear danger of being privatized, following its disastrous contract with water privatizer Veolia (under whose watch the PWSA switched corrosion control chemicals, followed by elevated lead levels in the water). Mayor Peduto was entertaining so-called public-private partnerships (which are simply

privatization under a different name) as the solution.

The mayor's announcement is a step forward for the people of Pittsburgh. But we're not done yet. We will continue to campaign to ensure that the City Council adopts a strong agreement with the PWSA.

We believe that Pittsburgh could become a leading city championing public water. Corporate Accountability recently teamed up with the Story of Stuff Project to highlight other cities implementing innovative public water solutions—and explain why water privatization is a threat to communities all over the globe. Check out the video at CorporateAccountability.org/StoryOfWater

Make a monthly gift

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

- 1 **Contact** Marilyn Willmoth, Membership Organizing Director, 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!



“As an organizer, I'm grateful for how Corporate Accountability disrupts corporate power with finesse. Their grassroots funding is key to their integrity. That's why I give monthly and increase my pledge each year if I can.”

NICOLE DIPAOLO | MONTHLY PLEDGER, FORMER INTERN, SOCIAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ORGANIZER



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