

spotlight

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As world leaders gathered in New York City, your support helped launch a global rallying cry to make Big Polluters pay for knowingly fueling and denying the climate crisis. Photo credit: Binita Mandalia

You organize to make Big Polluters pay for real climate solutions

At U.N. climate summit, you put climate justice front and center

“It’s clear: To advance climate justice, we must make Big Polluters pay.”

PATTI LYNN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Take action!

Join the global campaign for Big Polluter liability at MakeBigPollutersPay.org

A handful of corporations—the world’s Big Polluters—have knowingly fueled and denied the climate crisis while profiting richly. It’s time to make them pay for the damage they’ve knowingly caused.

That was your message to world leaders gathered at the United Nations’ Climate Summit in New York City in September. It’s simple: Big Polluters have fueled this crisis. Denied the science. Blocked progress. They’re still doing it. And, with their billions of dollars of profits, they should be made to pay for real climate solutions.

You made sure world leaders got the message. In partnership with our climate

justice allies from around the globe, we launched a bold campaign to demand government officials worldwide make Big Polluters pay for real, just climate solutions. And we carried that message from the streets of the youth-led climate strikes; to media coverage in Reuters, The Washington Post, and more; to an action outside Big Polluters’ dinner party exposing their greenwashing.

Now, we and our allies are organizing hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of people to help make industry liability a rallying cry for the next big U.N. climate treaty meetings. With you by our side, we can advance the real, just solutions the world needs.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Corporate abuse knows no borders—neither does our work together

Dear friend,

I've spoken with many of you recently about our role as citizens of the world. For some, the youth-led climate strike this fall—the largest climate protest in history—was a powerful reminder that our desire for climate action is shared by people everywhere. For others, seeing the connections between issues of water justice in Flint, Michigan and Lagos, Nigeria has provided that spark. Perhaps, as the Trump administration attempts to isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world, many of us are reacting by strengthening and deepening our connections to people and issues beyond U.S. borders.

I have long believed that a respectful global approach is absolutely necessary to building a just world. As a young person I was deeply inspired by the anti-apartheid movement. And I saw how the global divestment campaign played a critical role in supporting the enormous change won by the organizers in South Africa.

Today, corporations continue to grow richer and more powerful than many countries as they exploit people, destroy the environment, and subvert democratic systems. And I am more convinced than ever that a global approach is the only way to build a world where everyone can thrive.

As you'll see in these pages, from climate policy to the global tobacco treaty, we are advancing precedent-setting policies that rein in corporate power. We do so even as that means confronting the U.S. government and other countries representing corporate interests. But we are only able to organize in this way because of our political independence, made possible by you and the thousands of other members like you. Thank you! Together with people around the world, we are making global justice possible.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patti Lynn".

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

Same playbook, new deadly tricks

You challenge tobacco industry as vaping takes its toll

“The public health community is united: We reject Big Tobacco’s tactics.”

MICHEL LEGENDRE | ASSOCIATE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Enticing flavors. Flashy marketing. And an epidemic of teens getting very, very sick.

It sounds like the stuff of decades past. But it's the deadly consequence of Big Tobacco's latest attempts to reinvent itself. The industry is marketing electronic products with unfounded health claims. And it's recycling tactics from its old playbook, like establishing the so-called Foundation for a Smoke-Free World to pump out junk science and policy.

But as the latest headlines show, e-cigarettes and nicotine devices are anything but safe. That's why the public health community is pushing back. And people like you are pushing back, too.



With your support, at last year's global tobacco treaty meetings, government officials affirmed that the treaty's strong measures apply to e-cigarettes and electronic nicotine devices—the tobacco industry's newest generation of deadly products. Pictured: Daniel Dorado, Senior Latin America Policy Organizer.

Cast your vote!

To challenge Big Tobacco's shameful tactics, vote for Philip Morris International in the Corporate Hall of Shame... or see if another abusive corporation deserves your vote this year at CorporateAccountability.org/VoteCHoS

Q&A

Member spotlight: Jessie Bluedorn

Jessie Bluedorn is a donor-activist and climate justice organizer



Why did you get involved in the Corporate Accountability Giving Circle?

A lot of the resources I have access to are a direct result of my family's corporate successes. So I'm interested in how I can use my position to impact the changes I want to see. I work primarily around issues of climate justice, so I am most drawn to Corporate Accountability's climate campaign. I'm very invested in campaigning for fossil fuel liability, and excited about how the resources gained from holding the fossil fuel industry accountable can be reinvested in communities that have been most affected by the climate crisis.

On that note, what do you think is unique about Corporate Accountability's climate campaign?

Sometimes it's easy to get lost in these big issues, and not have a clear plan forward. I'm in awe of the clarity and strategy that's present in all of Corporate Accountability's work. Seeing the connectivity between the success of the tobacco campaign, and then understanding how that success and that framework can be brought forward to rein in the fossil fuel industry—that seems so smart and strategic. And, it's been really amazing to see the significant seat at the table that Global South allies have. It's clear that the strategy is influenced by all of the people who should be at the table.

You support national parks to think outside the bottle

Bottled-water-free movement boosts new legislation

“Together, we're building lasting power to protect our human right to water.”

MELISSA HALE WOODMAN | DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The likes of Nestlé rejoiced when the Trump administration rescinded a policy meant to help national parks take commonsense steps to phase out bottled water. But they neglected to consider the powerful bottled-water-free movement you've helped build.

This fall members of Congress introduced a bill to reinstate that policy—a step forward to challenge



Hundreds of thousands of people like you have taken action to support our national parks going bottled water free—including by advocating for new legislation that would let our parks do so.

the private water industry, reduce plastic waste, and advance water justice.

For decades, the bottled water industry has attempted to use our national parks

as a billboard and concession stand to paint its eco-unfriendly products green.

But people like you have pushed back. You've led delegations to your local national parks to urge them to go bottled water free. And hundreds of thousands of people like you have raised your voices to support our parks in challenging this abusive industry—including by advocating for this legislation.

We'll keep organizing to protect our water from corporate clutches and advance water justice around the globe. With you, we're sending a clear message: Water is a human right—not a commodity to be sold for profit.

Speaking truth to power in Lagos, Nigeria

You support the Our Water, Our Right campaign



At a recent conference organized by Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria (ERA), Nigeria staffers of Lagos State Governor Babajide Olushola Sanwo-Olu attended—a huge sign of the power the Our Water, Our Right campaign has built to advance public water in Lagos. Photo credit: ERA

“The campaign in Lagos shows how people, united, can advance water justice.”

AKILI | PROJECT COORDINATOR

When we and our allies at Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria (ERA) first heard about the threat of water privatization in Lagos in 2014, local officials were already calling it a done deal. Undeterred, we sprang into action.

Five years later, the Our Water, Our Right Campaign we launched together in Africa’s largest city has successfully kept water privatization at bay. And we just had another historic first: Representatives of the Lagos State government recently participated in a conference organized by ERA on advancing water access in Lagos.

This is a huge sign of the power you’ve helped build. When we launched the

campaign, elected officials did their best to ignore the demands from the people of Lagos for public water. But the campaign has proven it’s a force to be reckoned with. And now, after making water justice an inescapable issue in the most recent elections, ERA is playing an active role in shaping Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s agenda on water.

We’re amplifying the voices of the people of Lagos and water justice activists like you around the world. Together, we’ll make sure we stop privatization and advance the human right to water—not only for the 21 million residents of Lagos, but for people all over the globe.

Make a legacy gift

Sustain our campaigns to protect human rights, people’s lives, and the planet.

Contact Marcia Whitehead, Managing Director at 617.695.2525.

Visit our website at CorporateAccountability.org/get-involved/make-a-legacy-gift/

Send in the enclosed envelope.

Why legacy 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 partnership!



“I’ve been a Corporate Accountability board member, supporter, activist, assisted on the 1991 film about GE, ‘Deadly Deception,’ and more. It’s a lifelong relationship—we change the world, together. I want us to keep going!”

SUSAN LASALLE | AWARD-WINNING PRODUCER, FORMER BOARD MEMBER, AND LEGACY DONOR



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