

# spotlight

2025 Issue 3



We partnered with allies all over the globe to expose Big Polluters' influence in international policymaking at last spring's climate negotiations. Photo by David Tong, Oil Change International. Action visuals by the Activist Network.

## Putting Big Polluters on notice

### We expose the failures of carbon markets

**"Real climate action centers justice for people and the planet, not profit-making ventures that benefit Big Polluters."**

RACHEL ROSE JACKSON | DIRECTOR OF  
CLIMATE RESEARCH AND POLICY

#### Learn more!

Read the latest report now:  
[CorporateAccountability.org/  
BuiltToFail](https://CorporateAccountability.org/BuiltToFail)

#### Support this work:

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

Right now, every tiny increment of temperature rise, every acre of rainforest logged, and every family who loses their home to wildfires or flash floods matters.

The devastating costs and impacts of the climate crisis are undeniable. Yet Big Polluters continue to do everything they can to delay real action and evade accountability for fueling this crisis.

For years, the industry has championed carbon markets as an antidote to climate change. The truth is that this is another industry-driven scheme that is ineffective and harmful to people and the planet. And through our hard-hitting research, we are exposing the failures of this system to policymakers and investors, making it a less-viable option for climate action.

Since we began releasing our research into the global carbon market system, we've seen the industry try to defend the legitimacy of this scheme. It's spending time and money to discredit any attempt to expose the failures of this system.

But we're unfazed by this response. In fact, it only makes us more determined to move global decision-makers to reject these dangerous distractions. And at the most recent global climate talks, thousands of people like you demanded that the U.N. reject these false solutions.

With your support, we are making it much harder for Big Polluters to advance their deadly agendas unchallenged. Thank you!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Every action counts: collectively challenging the corporate-backed regime

**Dear friend,**

We made it. We're in the final stretch of 2025, still standing with dignity and resolve. Or sitting. Or lying down. Despite the many horrific efforts of the corporate-backed Trump regime to force us to go along with the authoritarian takeover of our government, we're not complying.

This year, members like you participated in many courageous actions. You supported the work to challenge the corporate power behind this regime. You took to the streets, attended noncompliance trainings, took part in boycotts, and so much more.

Every action you took individually and collectively to halt business as usual, to resist authoritarianism, and to support communities most under attack—it all adds up. All successful social movements require many people taking action within their sphere of influence. Together, we do what we can to resist, refuse, and dream of a different future. This is how we win.

As a member of Corporate Accountability you've been part of the work to challenge the corporate pillar holding up this regime. This matters not just in the U.S., but also globally. The actions of the U.S. government and corporations have ripple effects around the world, often with particularly damaging consequences for communities in the Global South.

As you'll read in this newsletter, our global campaigns are achieving both short-term victories that impact people's lives, and effecting long-term changes that fundamentally shift harmful power structures—in the U.S. and around the world.

I hope you feel proud of what you've made possible. We have plans to ramp up our work challenging the corporate-backed regime in the coming year. We can bring about a different world, together. I'm committed and inspired to do this work alongside you.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ari Belathar'.

**Ari Belathar**  
Executive Director

## Chevron wins year's biggest dishonor

Thousands of you vote for  
Big Polluter as 2025's worst  
corporation

**"Your vote is a powerful  
way to keep the spotlight  
on some of the most  
abusive corporations  
operating today."**

TAYLOR LEAKE | DIGITAL DIRECTOR

Imagine waking up one day to the stench of burning chemicals, oil-slicked rivers, and your loved ones falling ill from mysterious illnesses.

This is life for many communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, thanks to Chevron's toxic legacy of fossil fuel drilling and operating with impunity in the region. And it's why thousands of you voted to induct Chevron into the 2025 Corporate Hall of Shame.

This year's nominees are all part of a web of corporations that are propping up the Trump regime and profiting from its cruel agenda. Yet Chevron stands out as one of the most abusive corporations—with a global record of harm and attempts to delay justice. It continues to use its wealth to protect its interests, including by donating to Trump's inaugural fund this year.

You play a critical role in the growing movement to resist the rise of fascism in the U.S. And together, we'll continue leveraging our collective power to hold corporations like Chevron accountable for their abuses.

### Read more!

Learn more about this year's  
Corporate Hall of Shame nominees:  
[CorporateAccountability.org/  
CHoSFY26](https://CorporateAccountability.org/CHoSFY26)

# Q&A

## Ally spotlight: Gabby Gray

Gabby is the lead organizer for the Our Water Campaign at Pittsburgh United and a close campaign partner.



### Where does your commitment to organizing come from?

Living in the Black community, we are always organizing and “building village” as a group that’s historically been starved of resources. Growing up, my family was very involved in our church. We all worked together to care for the people in our community.

### Tell us about your work organizing through the lead crisis in Pittsburgh.

It all started when my request to get my \$30,000 water line replaced by the water authority got denied. I thought I would have to face this massive problem alone until I learned that my neighbors were having the same issue.

Together, we led education sessions, held protests outside of City Hall, and met with elected officials to demand that the water authority cover this cost. We succeeded. After that, I was hooked.

### And what has been the impact of your partnership with Corporate Accountability?

I got connected with the water team when I started my role at Pittsburgh United. By that time, our organizations were already working together to challenge water privatization. When I jumped in, we organized a day of action and solidarity to commemorate the start of the Flint water crisis. This event gave us the momentum we needed to take

the campaign to the next level: to win a local referendum to keep the city’s water system public.

### What inspires you to keep organizing?

I’m driven by the momentum that we’ve created to protect our water, and by a vision I have of communities that organize, empower, and equip themselves. During this time of authoritarianism, that vision grounds me and gives me hope.

### Read more!

Check out Gabby’s extended interview: [CorporateAccountability.org/GabbyGray](https://CorporateAccountability.org/GabbyGray)

## Advancing public water from cities to conference halls

We unmask water privatizers at national water summit

**“The same corporations that prey on our communities for profit cannot be trusted to address our water issues.”**

NISMA GABOBE | SENIOR RESEARCHER

Protecting access to clean, safe water is core to Corporate Accountability’s mission. That’s why we challenge corporations that profit richly from this life-giving resource at the expense of everyone else.

And this summer our organizing at the U.S. Water Alliance’s “One Water Summit” achieved a significant milestone: we and our allies forced the Alliance to publicly acknowledge that it no longer includes industry giant Veolia, which was removed

as a member from the organization’s website.

Though the summit was billed as a forum to discuss water solutions, the presence of private water corporations meant that the industry had a platform to market its profit-driven agenda to cities facing critical water issues.

But we and our allies disrupted these plans. From a counterprogramming event to panel interventions, we set the record straight: water privatization



With our allies from Flint, Houston, and Pittsburgh, we educated community members and attendees of a national water summit about the dangers of privatization. Photo credit: Christina Curry.

is a corporate cash grab that often leads to higher bills, poorer service, and less community control over this critical resource.

We are building a future where water is protected under public control, not sold as a privilege. Thank you for your support!



# We build global momentum towards making Big Tobacco pay

A special on-the-ground dispatch from Geneva

**"It's simple: To break the industry's reputation and stop future abuses, we need to make Big Tobacco pay for its long history of harm."**

DANIEL DORADO | TOBACCO CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR



Daniel Dorado addresses policymakers and tobacco control experts in the lead up to the tobacco treaty negotiations. Photo credit: Pan American Health Organization

Hello from Geneva, where the global tobacco treaty talks are in full swing! These meetings will have ended by the time you read this. But today as I write this note, I'm inspired by the energy in the room: buzzing and united in the belief that we can make Big Tobacco pay for its abuses.

When I attended my first treaty negotiations in India back in 2016, the idea of making the tobacco industry pay for damaging the health of millions of people and of the environment seemed radical. But less than a decade later, these demands have become central to the treaty negotiations. This shift is a testament to the power of our long-term organizing to challenge corporate abuse and weaken Big Tobacco's grip over life-saving policies.

For years, we and our allies have worked on building global support for making Big Tobacco pay. We've educated policy-makers, built strong relationships with government champions, and exposed the industry's interference through our in-depth research. And through our organizing, we've moved the World Health Organization to prioritize liability at these talks.

The global tobacco treaty is one of the most powerful tools we have when it comes to reining in corporate abuse. And the decisions made here can help protect the people that Big Tobacco exploits with its deadly products—whether that's a teenager addicted to flavored vapes or communities in the Global South flooded with cheap cigarettes.

Big Tobacco knows this, which is why they'll do everything they can to discredit these talks. But together with our allies, we'll continue exposing their dirty tactics and protect these life-saving measures for generations to come.

## Take action!

Join the call to make Big Tobacco pay: [MakeBigTobaccoPay.org](https://MakeBigTobaccoPay.org)

**Sustain this work to protect human rights, people's lives, and the planet.**

**Contact** Associate Membership Director Adjwoa Addae at [info@CorporateAccountability.org](mailto:info@CorporateAccountability.org) or 617.695.2525.

**Visit** our website at [CorporateAccountability.org/MonthlyGift](https://CorporateAccountability.org/MonthlyGift).

**Send** your gift 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!**



**"Corporate Accountability faces corporate greed head on, which is critical to challenging fascism. And I'm proud to support this compassionate and strategic team in building the better world that I believe is possible, especially right now."**

ROBERT JANTZAN | PROFESSOR AND MONTHLY DONOR



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