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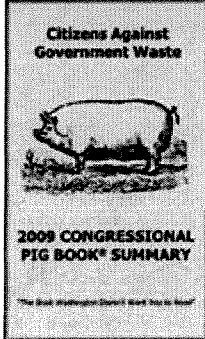
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MISSION/HISTORY

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization representing more than one million members and supporters nationwide. CAGW's mission is to eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government. Founded in 1984 by the late industrialist J. Peter Grace and syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, CAGW is the legacy of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, also known as the Grace Commission.

In 1982, President Reagan directed the Grace Commission to "work like tireless bloodhounds to root out government inefficiency and waste of tax dollars." For two years, 161 corporate executives and community leaders led an army of 2,000 volunteers on a waste hunt through the federal government. The search was funded entirely by voluntary contributions of \$76 million from the private sector; it cost taxpayers nothing. The Grace Commission made 2,478 recommendations which, if implemented, would save \$424.4 billion over three years, an average of \$141.5 billion a year all without eliminating essential services.

The 47 volumes and 21,000 pages of the Grace Commission Report constituted a vision of an efficient, well-managed government that is accountable to the taxpayers. CAGW has worked to make that vision a reality and, in a little over two decades, has helped save taxpayers \$1.04 trillion through the implementation of Grace Commission findings and other recommendations.

Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has stated, "CAGW researches and identifies the most blatant waste in government and shows how it can be eliminated. CAGW has a long and successful record of winning major cuts in wasteful spending without sacrificing America's defenses."

House Republican Policy Committee Chairman Christopher Cox (R-Calif.) went even further: "CAGW has fought side-by-side with us for welfare reform and massive cuts in wasteful spending to shrink the size of government and the deficit." Rep. Cox called CAGW "the premier waste-fighting organization in America."

CAGW's membership has grown from 5,000 members in February 1988 to more than one million members and supporters today. This phenomenal growth is the result of taxpayers' increasing frustration with the squandering of their hard-earned money in the nation's capital.

CAGW is nationally recognized as *the* source of information on government waste. CAGW representatives appear frequently on television, radio talk shows, and in print.

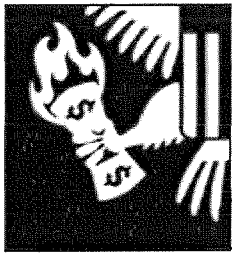
CAGW produces numerous publications highlighting wasteful government spending. *Government WasteWatch* is the group's quarterly newspaper, which is distributed to members of CAGW, Congress, and members of the media nationwide. The annual *Congressional Pig Book Summary* is CAGW's famous exposé of the most glaring and irresponsible pork-barrel projects in the 13 annual appropriations bills and their sponsors.

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) is the lobbying arm of CAGW. The CCAGW mission is to advocate the elimination of waste and inefficiency in

government through nonpartisan public education programs and lobbying activities. Each year, CCAGW tabulates its *Congressional Ratings*, evaluating how each member of Congress measures up on key tax and spending votes.

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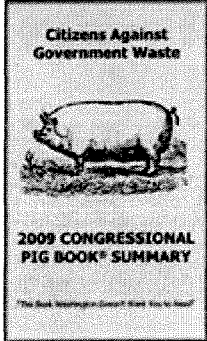
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Citizens Against Government Waste

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the United States. It functions as a think-tank, 'government watchdog', and advocacy group for fiscally conservative causes. The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) is the lobbying arm of CAGW, organized as a section 501(c)(4) organization, and therefore permitted to engage in direct lobbying activities. CAGW has been criticized for its links to the tobacco industry and to lobbyists including Jack Abramoff. According to their web site, "CAGW is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization representing more than one million members and supporters nationwide. CAGW's mission is to eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government."

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History

CAGW was founded in 1984 by industrialist J. Peter Grace and syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, former members of the Grace Commission or President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control. ^[1] CAGW's current President is Thomas A. Schatz. Schatz has been president since 1992. ^[2]

Publications

CAGW produces a number of publications critical of what it calls "pork-barrel" projects The *Congressional Pig Book Summary* (Pig Book) is an annual list of such projects and their sponsors.

The 2008 Pig Book identified 10,610 projects in the 11 appropriations bills that constitute the discretionary portion of the federal budget for fiscal 2008, costing taxpayers \$17.2 billion. ^[3] Related publications include Prime Cuts, a list of recommendations for eliminating waste in the federal government and Porker of the Month, a monthly press release.

Also, since 1989, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) has examined Congressional roll-call votes to determine which members of Congress are voting in what they view as the interest of taxpayers. CAGW makes public what legislators are engaging in "pork-barrel" spending based on 'key' votes for each congressional session.

Activity of CAGW

CAGW and CCAGW seek to influence public policy through public education, lobbying, and mobilization for email- and letter-writing campaigns. CAGW claims to have helped save taxpayers \$944 billion through the implementation of Grace Commission findings and other recommendations.

CAGW was one of the critics of the 2001 \$23.5 billion Air Force plan to lease and then buy 100 refueling tankers from Boeing Co. Congress squashed the plan after it was revealed that an Air Force official inflated the price in exchange for an executive job at Boeing.^[4]

CAGW was a prominent critic of Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and his efforts to secure a record \$2.3 billion federal loan for a railroad company that once employed him as a lobbyist. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) cited an "unacceptably high risk to taxpayers" in denying the loan to the Dakota, Minnesota, and Eastern Railroad (DM&E) in 2007.^[5]

CAGW named Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) its June 2008 Porker of the Month for accepting a preferential mortgage deal from Countrywide Financial which stood to benefit from a mortgage bailout bill he was pushing through Congress.^[6]

Controversies

Microsoft's Antitrust Case (Litigation)

In 2001, the Los Angeles Times reported that at least two dead people sent a form letter by CAGW opposing the antitrust case against Microsoft to Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff. According to the Times, family members crossed out the names on the form letters and signed for them. This brought about the "Microsoft Supported by Dead People" controversy^[7] from Microsoft's and CAGW's opponents and the CAGW's response that they were not tied to Microsoft or to ATL despite Microsoft having donated money to CAGW^[8].

Freeware Initiative

In 2003, CAGW put out a press release opposed to what they called the "Freeware Initiative", which they claimed would have required "*that all IT expenditures in 2004 and 2005 be made on an open-source/Linux format*".^[9]

Responding to the press release, the state's secretary for administration and finance, Eric Kriss, denied the existence of a 'Freeware Initiative' and said the state was simply considering ways to integrate disparate systems using open standards such as HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), XML (Extensible Markup Language) and Java. "I never heard that term. I never said it. We're not pursuing any kind of 'Freeware Initiative' and anyone who is saying that is making inaccurate statements," he said.^[10]

CAGW and tobacco

The St. Petersburg Times reported that CAGW "got at least \$245,000 from the tobacco industry", and subsequently lobbied on its behalf. Internal tobacco industry documents made available by the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement indicate that CAGW and its affiliates supported the tobacco industry in several instances. Specifically, in 2001 when an industry-sponsored bill entitled the "Youth Smoking Reduction Act" was introduced in Congress, CAGW provided a letter of support, despite the opposition of most public health organizations.^[11]^[12] CAGW was also contacted to by Phillip Morris to include ASSIST, a federal tobacco control program, in their Pig Book. ASSIST was considered an imminent threat to industry activities at the time.^[13]

Asked about his group's tobacco work, CAGW president Tom Schatz said, "We have always welcomed contributions to support the issues we support. Many of them have to do with fighting higher taxes and more regulations."^[14] ^[15]

Other controversies

Throughout its history, CAGW has been accused of fronting lobbying efforts of corporations to give them the appearance of "grassroots" support.^[16] In part, this is because CAGW has accepted donations from Phillip Morris, the Olin Foundation, the Bradley Foundation, Microsoft, Merrill Lynch, and Exxon-Mobil.

According to the St. Petersburg Times in 2006, the Pig Book has been used to benefit corporate donors, specifically health clubs who donated to CAGW. The Pig Book listed federal grants to YMCAs who compete with those health clubs as waste. CAGW's president countered that "The Ys are there because they qualify as pork. Period."^[16]

A Senate Finance Committee investigating ties between CAGW and other non-profits and Jack Abramoff in 2006 stated in a report that the non-profits: 'probably violated their tax-exempt status "by laundering payments and then disbursing funds at Mr. Abramoff's direction; taking payments in exchange for writing newspaper columns or press releases that put Mr. Abramoff's clients in a favorable light; introducing Mr. Abramoff's clients to government officials in exchange for payment; and agreeing to act as a front organization for congressional trips paid for by Mr. Abramoff's clients."^[17]

In 2007, CAGW supported a bill that would limit damages resulting from malpractice lawsuits.^[18] Many consumer watchdog groups opposed the bill.^[19]

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19. ^ <http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/nw/?postId=5176>

External links

- Home Page [cagw.org](http://www.cagw.org/) (<http://www.cagw.org/>)

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Categories: [Political advocacy groups in the United States](#)

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Environmental Working Group

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) is an environmental organization that specializes in environmental research and advocacy in the areas of toxic chemicals, agricultural subsidies, public lands, and corporate accountability. EWG is a non-profit organization (501(c)(3)) whose mission, according to their website, is "to use the power of public information to protect public health and the environment."^[1] Their funding is from "private foundations, individuals and select corporations." EWG was founded in 1993 by Ken Cook and Richard Wiles, and is headquartered in Washington DC in the United States.

A sister organization, the EWG Action Fund, is the lobbying arm (501(c)(4)) of the organization and was founded in 2002.^[1]

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Issue areas and projects

EWG works on three main policy or issue areas: toxic chemicals and human health; farming and agricultural subsidies; and public lands and natural resources. EWG's largest focus is reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). When the act passed it declared safe some 62,000 chemicals already on the market, even though there were little or no data to support this policy. Since that time another 20,000 chemicals have been put into commerce in the United States, also with little or no data to support their safety. EWG is working to pass the Kid-Safe Chemical Act which would require that industrial chemicals be safe for infants, kids and other vulnerable groups.

52% of EWG's resources go to toxic chemicals and human health ^[2].

Toxic chemicals and human health

EWG has created a cosmetics safety database [7] (<http://www.cosmeticsdatabase.com/>) which indexes and scores products based on their ingredients. Their Guide to Pesticides in Produce [8] (<http://foodnews.org/>) lists 44 fruits and vegetables based on the number of pesticides they were found to contain according to USDA data. A series of studies testing for the presence of chemicals in people's bodies is known as body burden[9] (<http://www.toxome.org/>). The organization has also constructed a national database of tap water testing results from public water utilities [10] (<http://www.ewg.org/sites/tapwater>). Their work has extended to a variety of other chemicals, including bisphenol A, perchlorate, mercury, flame retardants, and arsenic in treated wood.

Agricultural policy

EWG publishes a database of agricultural subsidies and their recipients [11] (<http://farm.ewg.org/sites/farmbill2007/>). The EWG Action Fund advocates for farm bill reform in the form of decreased disaster payments and subsidies for commodity crops, and increased funding for nutrition programs, conservation, specialty crops (i.e. fruits and vegetables), and organic agriculture.

Natural resources

The organization investigates and publishes information regarding oil and gas drilling and mining projects that may pose a threat to human health and the environment.[12] (<http://www.ewg.org/featured/18>)

Current Projects

Skin Deep

Skin Deep[13] (<http://cosmeticsdatabase.com/>) is a cosmetics safety database which pairs ingredients in over 41,000 products against 50 toxicity and regulatory databases. The database is intended as a resource for consumers, who can search by ingredient or product when choosing personal care products.

In June 2007, EWG updated Skin Deep with a report on sunscreen toxicity. The report states that 83% of 911 sunscreen products offer inadequate protection from the sun, or contain ingredients with significant safety concerns. The report identifies only 17% of the products on the market as both safe and effective, blocking both UVA and UVB radiation, remaining stable in sunlight, and containing few if any ingredients with significant known or suspected health hazards. [3][4]

Industry representatives call these claims "highly inaccurate." Personal Care Products Council (PCPC) general council Farah Ahmed stated "It is very clear to me that they have a very low level of understanding of the way sunscreens work and the way they are regulated by the FDA and tested by the industry." He expressed further concern saying "I would hate to think that there are parents out there not using sunscreen on their kids because of a report like this that is not based on real science." Representatives from Schering-Plough (Coppertone), Johnson & Johnson (Neutrogena), and Banana Boat also reiterated their products' safety and efficacy.[5]

2007 Farm Bill

EWG operates the farm subsidy database[14] (<http://mulchblog.com/>), an online searchable database of recipients of taxpayer funded agriculture subsidy payments. The information is obtained directly from the United States Department of Agriculture via Freedom of Information Act requests.

In the 2007 Farm Bill, EWG is advocating for:

- Cutting wasteful spending to profitable large farm operations, absentee landlords, 'hobby' farmers.
- Increased support for organic agriculture, the fastest growing sector of the agriculture industry. In August 2007, EWG president Ken Cook delivered a petition of 30,000 names gathered online to Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI).
- Increasing funding for nutrition.
- Increasing funding for conservation.

During the fall 2007 debate over the farm bill EWG produced computer generated Google maps of cities across the country identifying the number of federal farm subsidy checks sent to that area. Acting-Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner used the maps during speeches and with the media as he advocated for fundamental reforms to the farm subsidy programs.

Who owns the West?

EWG has used computer mapping tools^[15] (http://www.ewg.org/sites/mining_google/communities/splash.php?URI=%2Fsites%2Fmining_google%2Fcommunities%2Findex.php) to demonstrate the surge in mining claims near the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and other national parks.^[6] The House of Representatives passed the first update of the nation's hardrock mining law since 1872 in 2007. The bill, which bans mining claims around national parks and wilderness and imposes the first-ever royalties on minerals taken from public lands, awaits action in the Senate.^[7] EWG staff testified before both the House and Senate during consideration of mining reform.^[8]

Critiques and Controversies

Involvement in reprimand of John Stossel by ABC

A February 2000 story about organic vegetables on *20/20* included a comment by John Stossel that ABC News tests had shown that neither organic nor conventional produce samples contained any pesticide residue, and that organic food was more likely to be contaminated by E. coli bacteria. The Environmental Working Group took exception to his report, mainly questioning his statements about bacteria, but also found that the produce had never been tested for pesticides. They communicated this to Stossel but the story was rebroadcast months later with not only the inaccurate statement uncorrected, but with a postscript in which Stossel reiterated his error. Then, after the New York Times took note of the error, ABC News suspended the producer of the segment for a month and reprimanded Stossel, who issued an apology over the incident, saying that he had thought the tests had been conducted as reported, but that he had been wrong. He asserted, however, that the gist of his report had been accurate.^{[9][10][11][12][13]}

Benzene in soft drinks

In 2006 EWG sent a letter to the [FDA] contending that the agency knew about the presence of benzene in soft drinks and suppressed the information from the public^[14]. EWG described the finding of benzene in soft drinks as a "clear health threat" without providing any rationale why the presence of benzene in soft drinks at low parts per billion (ppb) levels should be considered as such a threat. Both [FDA] and the Health Protection Branch (HPB) in Canada agree that low ppb levels of benzene found in these products did not and do not constitute an imminent health hazard.^[15] A second letter in April 2006^[16] reported that 80% of diet sodas tested from 1996-2001 in FDA's Total Diet Study^[17] had benzene levels above the 5 ppb, including one at 55ppb and a regular cola at 138 ppb. FDA found the analytical procedures used in its Total Diet Study to be faulty and released preliminary results of updated testing^[18]. Furthermore, the Agency continues to work with industry to reduce the formation of benzene in beverages below the drinking water standard of 5 [ppb].

Finances and Funding

For Fiscal Year Ending December 2006, EWG raised nearly \$3.6 million and spent \$3.2 million [16] (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=8564>). Over 84 cents out of every dollar go towards EWG's actual programs [17] (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=8564>). EWG's IRS Form 990 is available on GuideStar. As of March 2008, EWG reports 30 staff members [18] (<http://www.ewg.org/about/staff>) with its president Ken Cook earning \$192K per year in 2006 [19] (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=8564>).

Most (78%) of the funding comes from foundations, and a partial list of 25 major funders is available on the organization's website [20] (<http://www.ewg.org/about/funding>). 18% of the budget comes from individuals, with the rest stemming from interest, small sales, and consulting for other organizations.

Challenge to 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status

On February 8th, 2002, the Bellevue, WA based Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise filed a complaint with IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti, claiming that the EWG's "excessive lobbying and politicking" activities are "clearly illegal and should (at a minimum) result in revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status."

The complaint charges that the group hid its political-lobbying expenditures, failed to register as a lobbyist in California, submitted false or misleading reports with the IRS and acted as a political-action organization in violation of Section 501(c)(3) rules. Ron Arnold, executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, stated that "The Environmental Working Group is not what it seems. Its goal is not protecting the environment. Its goal is power--political power." [21] (http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1571/is_9_18/ai_83699668)[22] (<http://www.undueinfluence.com/worldnetdaily.htm>)

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See also

- Sustainability
- Biodiversity
- Global warming
- Ecology
- Earth Science
- Natural environment
- Deb Callahan

External links

- Environmental Working Group official website (<http://www.ewg.org/>)
- Profile on ActivistCash.com (http://www.activistcash.com/organization_overview.cfm/oid/113)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_Working_Group"

Categories: Environmental organizations based in the United States | Hazardous materials

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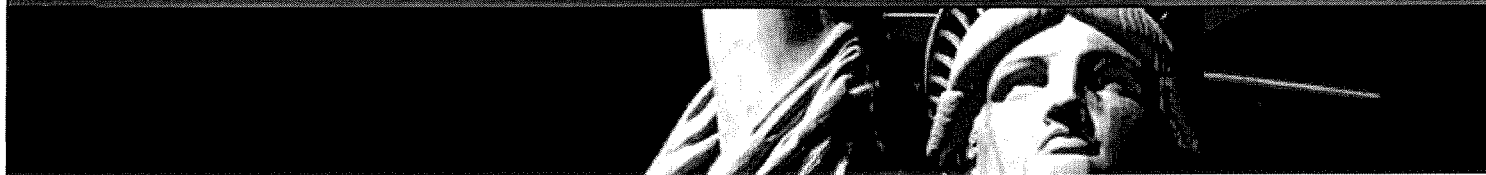
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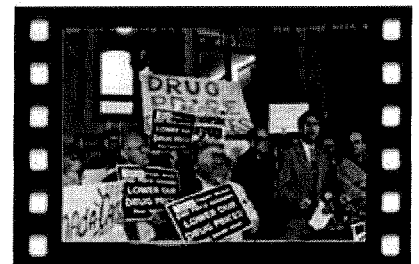
about public citizen

Public Citizen is a national, nonprofit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1971 to represent consumer interests in Congress, the executive branch and the courts.

We fight for openness and democratic accountability in government, for the right of consumers to seek redress in the courts; for clean, safe and sustainable energy sources; for social and economic justice in trade policies; for strong health, safety and environmental protections; and for safe, effective and affordable prescription drugs and health care.

We have six divisions and one state office. To learn more about each of the divisions and our Texas office, click on the links below.

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Public Citizen's accomplishments since its founding more than 30 years ago include forcing the carcinogenic product Red Dye #2 off the market, securing the release of the Nixon White House tapes, helping to organize massive protests against the World Trade Organization and publishing the best-selling Worst Pills, Best Pills. [Click here](#) to view a detailed timeline of the organization's achievements.

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- Public Citizen Membership
- Health Letter Subscriptions
- Worst Pills-Best Pills New Subscriptions
- Book Purchases and Inquiries

Auto Safety Group - email

- Auto Safety
- Fuel Economy
- SUV Safety
- 15-Passenger Vans
- Truck Safety
- NAFTA Trucks
- Child Safety
- Defects and Recalls
- Vehicle Rollover and

Communications Office

If you are a member of the media and would like to get in touch with Public Citizen's press office, you can call 202-588-1000.

Direct contact information:

Members of the print or online media can contact Joe Newman at (202) 588-7703, or email him at jnewman@citizen.org.

Members of the

Aggressivity

Congress Watch - email

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Government and Election Reform
- Health Care Reform & Rx Drugs
- Civil Justice and Legal Rights
- Federal Regulations: Health, Safety and Environment
- Corporate Welfare
- Congressional Voting Records

broadcast media can contact Barbara Holzer at (202) 588-7716 or email her at bholzer@citizen.org.

Media may also contact Communications Director Angela Bradbery at 202-588-7741 or abradbery@citizen.org

Energy Program - email

- Energy
- Nuclear Power Plants
- Nuclear Waste
- Oil Prices/Company Profits
- Energy Company Mergers
- Deregulation

For general questions, call (202) 588-1000

CLICK HERE if you would like information about JOINING Public Citizen, purchasing publications/newsletters, or are unsure which group to e-mail.

Global Trade Watch - email

- Fast Track
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA/ALCA)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China
- "NAFTA for Africa" Bill (H.R. 434)
- Harmonization

Health Research Group - email

- Worst Pills Best Pills News
- Health Letter
- Eletter on Drugs for Serious Mental Illness
- Worst Pills Best Bills
- Drug Safety
- Health Care Delivery
- Medical Devices
- Occupational Health
- Health Links
- Activist Courses

Litigation Group - email

- Supreme Court Assistance Project
- Freedom of Information Clearinghouse

- General Litigation

State Offices

Texas State Office - email

- Clean Up The Capitol
- Electric Deregulation
- Environmental Protection
- Fair Trade
- Food Safety
- Global Warming
- Hospital/Patient Dumping
- Nuclear Safety
- Pesticides
- Product Safety
- Texas Emissions Reduction Plan/SB5
- Water

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California State Office - email

- Food Irradiation
- Water For All
- Global Trade Watch
- Arbitration
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Energy Deregulation

With the conversion of our rented office space to condos and the coincidental departure of several staff members, we are taking this opportunity to restructure our California operations. Since the remaining California staff are working from their homes for the time being, calls to the California office phone number are being answered by our main Washington DC office. When we have completed the restructuring, we will post information on our website, www.citizen.org.

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Public Citizen

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Public Citizen is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public interest advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C..

Since its founding by Ralph Nader in 1971^[1], Public Citizen has fought for corporate and government accountability in order to guarantee the individual's right to safe products, a healthy environment and workplace, fair trade, and clean and safe energy sources.

Public Citizen's work is based on the belief that the public needs advocates representing their interests in the United States Congress, the executive branch and the courts to push back against the influence of corporate lobbyists on government. To maintain its independence, Public Citizen does not accept government or corporate funds. It is funded by dues and contribution from its members and supporters, foundation grants, and publication sales^[2].

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Public Citizen



Type	Nonprofit organization
Founded	1971 by Ralph Nader in the US
Headquarters	Washington D.C.
Staff	Sidney M. Wolfe, M.D., acting President Robert C. Fellmeth, Foundation Chair) Jason Adkins, Inc. Chair Joan Claybrook, emeritus President
Area served	Nationwide (US)
Focus	Consumer advocacy
Method	Research, lobbying, media attention, direct-appeal campaigns
Website	http://www.citizen.org

Work and Issues

Public Citizen works for openness and democratic accountability in government; for the right of consumers to seek redress in the courts; for clean, safe and sustainable energy sources; for social and economic justice in trade policies; for strong health, safety and environmental protections; and for safe, effective and affordable prescription drugs and

health care.

Divisions

Public Citizen has six divisions, each with a specific issue emphasis:

- Auto Safety
- Congress Watch
- Energy Program
- Global Trade Watch
- Health Research
- Litigation

Public Citizen also has a branch office in Austin, Texas.

Current Priorities

- Acting as a watchdog to federal regulatory agencies^{[3][4]}
- Reforming campaign finance^[5]
- Fighting for increased government openness^[6]
- Stopping companies from making consumers sign forced arbitration agreements ^[7]
- Fighting corporate globalization and advocating pro-democracy trade reform^[8]
- Raising automobile fuel economy standards ^[9]
- Battling the unsustainable energy sources like coal and nuclear power^[10]
- Advocating for the creation of a single-payer health care system^[11]
- Defending Internet free speech^[12]

Issue Areas

Government Accountability

Public Citizen works to make the U.S. federal government more open, accountable, and ethical while lobbying the legislative branch to support public interest issues and working as a government watchdog. Public Citizen has worked to push consumer protections in regulatory agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Through its good government efforts, Public Citizen shines a spotlight on the influence of money in politics by issuing reports revealing corporate and lobbyist donations to elected representatives and those running for office^[13].

Energy

See also: List of anti-nuclear groups in the United States#Public Citizen Energy Program

Public Citizen's energy advocacy works to protect citizens and the environment from the dangers posed by nuclear power; advocates for environmental enforcement policies; supports high fuel efficiency standards for automobiles; and seeks policies that will lead to safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy.

Trade

Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch division was created in 1995 to monitor the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Like Public Citizen in general, the trade program advocates for a greater public role in international, federal, state and local policymaking, and for a different set of policies and institutions that govern the current model of globalization. The division was established to promote government and corporate accountability in the globalization and trade arena. Its work makes the measurable outcomes of globalization accessible to the public, press, and policymakers, but places an emphasis on the fact that the model can and must be changed or replaced if the results are not acceptable.

This division conducts research, publishes educational materials, educates the public through a grassroots program, maintains relations with press and policymakers, and coordinates with an array of domestic and international allies. It is ultimately working to build a diverse nationwide grassroots coalition.

Health and Safety

Public Citizen promotes research-based, system-wide changes in health care policy and provides oversight concerning drugs, medical devices, doctors and hospitals and occupational health. Public Citizen's Health Research Group tries to make sure federal regulations protect consumers and works to re-label unsafe or ineffective drugs and medical devices; improve safety standards at work sites; and educate consumers about the health care services they receive by providing information about doctors disciplined by state medical boards. The division also publishes the Worst Pills, Best Pills news, monthly analysis of information compiled from well-regarded medical journals and unpublished data obtained from the FDA, that allows Public Citizen to sound the alarm about potentially dangerous drugs long before they are banned by the federal government, and to recommend safer drugs^[14].

Courts

Public Citizen's attorneys specialize in cases involving health and safety regulation, consumer rights, access to the courts, open government, and the First Amendment, including Internet free speech. Often playing a supporting role to other parts of the organization's work, the Public Citizen Litigation Group has argued 55 cases before the Supreme Court and sued the federal government numerous times.

It litigates cases at all levels of the federal and state judiciaries and has a substantial practice before federal regulatory agencies. Its efforts are also pursued through programs such as the Alan Morrison Supreme Court Assistance Project, the Consumer Justice Project, and the Freedom of Information Clearinghouse^[15].

Past Accomplishments

- White House ethics policy crafted with input from Public Citizen experts implemented in 2009^[16]
- Won a Supreme Court decision upholding the right of people injured by federally regulated medical devices to sue to recover compensation in 2009^[17]
- In 2008, successfully pushed members of Congress to pass legislation to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Congress passed a landmark lobbying and ethics bill in 2007 that was crafted with input from Public Citizen experts
- Public Citizen repeatedly plays key role defeating Fast Track trade legislation, most recently in 2007
- 2003 FDA bans dietary supplement ephedra who years after Public Citizen petitions for its removal and after 155 deaths
- In 2002, sued the Bush administration to win release of Reagan administration records
- Documented corporate abuse of NAFTA investor protection provisions and NAFTA's negative impact on U.S. farmers in 2001
- In 1999, led a global coalition to organize the massive, landmark demonstrations in Seattle against the World Trade Organization.
- Forging a historic settlement to secure the release of the 4,000 hours of Nixon's secret White House tapes after 15 years of litigation in 1996
- Public Citizen court victory in 1990 forces the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue mandatory training requirements for nuclear plant workers
- Report on Nuclear Power Safety in 1987 documents 3,000 mishaps occurring in U.S. nuclear plants
- After lengthy campaign, in 1986 FDA requires aspirin makers to include warning that aspirin can cause rare Reye's Syndrome in children suffering from chicken pox or flu, virtually eliminating this source of death and injury in children
- After 20-year battle with automakers, federal regulation requires air bags or passive seat belts in all cars in 1989
- In 1989, Public Citizen obtains court order forcing the FDA to require labels warning women that high-absorbency tampons are more likely to cause toxic shock syndrome
- Suing the first Bush administration in 1989 for release of Oliver North's diaries from the Iran-Contra affair
- In 1985 exposed the EPA's failure to accurately assess the danger of toxic waste dump sites in successful campaign to strengthen Superfund cleanup laws
- In 1976, successfully petitioned the FDA to ban the use of Red Dye No. 2 as food coloring, citing links to cancer and birth defects
- In response to Public Citizen's lawsuit, President Nixon's firing of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox is ruled illegal in 1973

- Advocating for the creation of the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1972
- Public Citizen petitions FDA to ban the use of Red Dye No. 2 as food coloring, citing links to cancer and birth defects in 1971

Publications

- Federalism and Global Governance (2008)
- The Rise and Fall of Fast Track Trade Authority (2008)
- Courting Change: The Story of the Public Citizen Litigation Group (2004)
- Whose Trade Organization? Corporate Globalization and the Erosion of Democracy (2004, 1999)
- NAFTA's Broken Promises (1995)
- Green Buyer's Car Book (1994)
- Women's Health Alert (1991)
- Who Robbed America? A Citizen's Guide to the Savings and Loan Scandal (1990)
- Questionable Doctors (1998, 1990)
- Worst Pills, Best Pills (2005, 1993, 1988)
- Citizen's Guide to Radon Home Test Kits (1988)
- Freedom from Harm: The Civilizing Influence of Health, Safety, and Environmental Regulation (1986)
- Retreat from Safety: Reagan's Attack on America's Health (1984)
- Over the Counter Pills That Don't Work (1983)
- Representing Yourself (1983)
- A Worker's Guide to Winning at the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (1981)
- Pills That Don't Work (1980)
- Care of the Seriously Mentally Ill: A Rating of State Programs (1986)
- Getting Yours: A Consumer's Guide to Obtaining Your Medical Records (1978)
- Through the Mental Health Maze: A Consumer's Guide to Finding a Psychotherapist (1975)
- Taking the Pain Out of Finding a Good Dentist (1975)
- Little Injustices: Small Claims Courts and the American Consumer (1971)

Criticism

Public Citizen's efforts have been criticized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and some groups representing business interests that favor market solutions instead of strengthening federal regulations and oversight^[18].

Disassociation from Nader

In the aftermath of the 2000 presidential election, Public Citizen has disassociated itself from its founder. Wrote *Mother Jones*, "For evidence of how rank-and-file liberals have turned against Nader, one need look no further than the empire he created. Public Citizen, the organization (Nader) founded in 1971, has a new fundraising problem—its founder. After the election, contributions dropped... When people inquire about Nader's relationship to the organization, Public Citizen sends out a letter that begins with a disclaimer: 'Although Ralph Nader was our founder, he has not held an official position in the organization since 1980 and does not serve on the board. Public Citizen—and the other groups that Mr. Nader founded—act independently.'"^[19]

See also

- Public Citizen Litigation Group
- Consumer Project on Technology
- Global Trade Watch
- Food & Water Watch
- Anti-nuclear movement in the United States

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6. ^ Hanson, Kristopher (2009-05-21). "Lawsuit seeks info about Maritime Commission's opposition to clean-truck port program (http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_12421281)". *Contra Costa Times*. http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_12421281. Retrieved on 2009-06-01.
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External links

- Public Citizen Website (<http://www.citizen.org/>)
 - Public Citizen Blog (<http://www.citizenvox.org/>)
 - Energy Program (<http://www.energyactivist.org/>)
 - Clean Up Washington (<http://www.cleanupwashington.org/>)
 - Litigation Group (<http://www.citizen.org/litigation>)
 - Auto and Highway Safety Program (<http://www.citizen.org/autosafety>)
 - Lobbying Info (<http://www.lobbyinginfo.org/>)
 - Stealth PACs (<http://www.stealthpacs.org/>)
 - Worst Pills (<http://www.worstpills.org/>)
 - White House for Sale (<http://www.whitehouseforsale.org/>)
 - Global Trade Watch (<http://www.tradewatch.org/>)
 - Ranking of state Medicaid programs by eligibility, scope of services, quality of service and reimbursement (<http://www2.citizen.org/hrg/medicaid/?CFID=2859090&CFTOKEN=60099810>)
- The Public Citizen Texas Office Website (<http://www.citizen.org/texas/>)
 - Citizen Advocacy (http://www.citizen.org/texas/_texas_advoc/index.cfm)
 - Clean Up the Capitol (<http://www.citizen.org/texas/cleanpolitic/>)
 - Consumer Protection & Product Safety (http://www.citizen.org/texas/cons_protect/)
 - Diesel Emissions (<http://www.citizen.org/texas/diesel/>)
 - Energy, Efficiency & Renewables (<http://www.citizen.org/texas/Dereg/>)
 - Environmental Protection (<http://www.citizen.org/texas/EnvProt/>)
 - Global Warming (http://www.citizen.org/texas/global_warmi/)
 - Nuclear Energy (http://www.citizen.org/cmep/energy_enviro_nuclear/nuclear_power_plants/)
 - Transportation (<http://www.citizen.org/texas/transport/>)
- Alan B. Morrison: Senior Lecturer in Law (<http://www.law.stanford.edu/directory/profile/47/>)
- Charity Navigator Rating of Public Citizen Foundation (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/search.summary/orgid/5425.htm>)
- Dr. Craig Holman Interview on Liberadio(!) with Mary Mancini & Freddie O'Connell December 1, 2008

(<http://www.liberadio.com/audio/liberadio20081201part2craigholman.mp3>)

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