Writing a book is both a daunting and an energizing experience. My first book, Foodopoly, took months of research (helped by many here at Food & Water Watch) and sheer discipline. But the payoff was great: I was able to tour the country and meet people who are concerned about the state of our food and the state of our politics, and I felt palpably that the work of Food & Water Watch is necessary and making a difference by building a movement of concerned citizen activists to become politicized to protect our essential resources from corporate control.

Now, I’m back in the trenches of research and writing with my follow-up book, which will look at how a powerful citizen-led movement is making progress fighting one of the biggest and most powerful industries in the world on one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time: fracking.

In preparation for the book, I am interviewing people in affected communities across the country who have had their well water contaminated with methane, their health impacted, their air polluted and the value of their homes destroyed. As I start the initial chapters, I’m feeling excited about what lies ahead, and what the book represents. It’s a story of what’s possible and, ultimately, what will save our democracy: engaged citizens, impacted by an issue in their backyards, in a fight for their lives and making a difference.

This year is shaping up to be another banner year in the national effort to label genetically engineered foods. Early in January, Governor LePage of Maine signed into law a bill that will require labeling of GMO foods in the state. While this is a great victory, unfortunately Maine residents won’t see labels until several other New England states pass their own labeling laws.

This means that state legislative efforts in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have been getting a lot of attention. Food & Water Watch has been supporting these legislative initiatives, as well as doing a great deal of on-the-ground organizing to support GMO labeling legislation in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, North Carolina and elsewhere.

The other exciting news from the movement to label genetically engineered foods is that Oregonians will be working to put GMO labeling

(continued on A-2)
Fracking Movement Scores Big Wins, Continues to Grow

In recent months, the movement to ban fracking has continued to build, scoring big wins in the November election and starting 2014 with increasing power.

In November, communities across Colorado — in Fort Collins, Boulder, Broomfield and Lafayette — all passed measures to place moratoriums on or ban fracking, despite the industry spending nearly $900,000 to defeat them. This built on the 2012 victory in Longmont. Food & Water Watch worked closely with community allies to pass these measures as the movement in Colorado continues to grow.

Nationally, Food & Water Watch continued to engage partners from coast to coast through rallies and direct engagement with decision makers. In New York, along with our partners in New Yorkers Against Fracking, we organized a rally outside the State of the State address in January attended by over 2,000 people, calling on Governor Cuomo to ban fracking. In California, we joined with partners at Governor Brown’s annual address to the legislature to protest his move to frack California.

Across the country, we are working with allies on the ground — delivering comments, rallying outside of events and directly engaging decision makers — to build pressure for real change. From New Jersey to Illinois, Pennsylvania to Oregon, and Florida to Texas, we are working with our partners to build a movement that is stronger than ever.

Victories (continued from A-1)

• Helped pressure the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to finally withdraw approvals for most types of arsenic in chicken feed and to put out a long-overdue call for studies on the safety of triclosan.

• Stopped efforts to privatize water systems in Fort Worth, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri.

• Blocked approval of a pipeline through New Jersey’s Pinelands, a UNESCO International Biological Reserve.

• Influenced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to withdraw the controversial industry-sponsored Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, which would have created a food safety regime controlled by big growers that would have been unworkable for small farmers.

• Helped force the USDA to implement new and improved Country of Origin Labeling.

• Blocked a proposed long-term contract between Fryeburg Water Company and Nestlé Waters/Poland Springs that would have threatened community water resources in Maine.

• Passed numerous local bans and moratoriums on fracking, including measures in Erie County (Buffalo), New York; Dallas, Texas (de facto ban); Santa Cruz, California; and Middlesex County, New Jersey.

• Got Los Angeles County to stop proposed oil development by Matrix Oil in the Whittier Hills.

• Got a commitment from American University to set a goal to stop single-serve bottled water consumption on campus by the end of 2015, and worked with Plymouth University in New Hampshire to ban bottled water on campus.

• Secured introduction of legislation in Maryland — the Poultry Fair Share Act — that would require poultry companies to contribute money toward the clean up of the environment.

• Delivered over 100,000 petitions to McDonald’s calling on them to reject using genetically engineered potatoes.

• Submitted over 40,000 letters to Congress calling for a fair Farm Bill.

• With our allies in Californians Against Fracking, delivered over 100,000 comments to Governor Brown and his regulatory agencies calling for a ban on fracking.

• Generated over 133,000 comments to members of Congress opposing fast track for the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

• With our allies in New Yorkers Against Fracking, organized a 2,000+ person protest at Governor Cuomo’s State of the State address in New York, calling for a ban on fracking.
Interview with Tony Corbo, Senior Food Lobbyist, on Food Safety

**Question:** You’ve been working on food safety issues for years. Why do you do this work?

**Answer:** We all need to eat in order to stay alive, so food safety should be a universal concern. But I became more aware of our food safety inspection system when I worked in the labor movement back in the 1970s and 80s, organizing and representing state and local food inspectors. I found those public employees to be very serious about their job responsibilities because they were protecting the public against unsafe food.

In 2000, I came to work at Public Citizen where Wenonah Hauter was developing a food safety program that was geared toward fighting corporate influence over the way our food was being produced and regulated. I have continued that work here at Food & Water Watch, where it is never a dull moment fighting Big Ag in Congress, at the USDA and at the FDA. I relish the challenge.

**Q:** What are some of the biggest threats you see to our food safety?

**A:** One of the biggest threats is the trend that started in the 1980s during the Reagan administration to deregulate food inspection. Unfortunately, even subsequent Democratic administrations have embraced this concept. There is still a fairy-tale notion that industry can regulate itself when it comes to food safety. Yes, industry does have a responsibility to make sure that the food it produces is safe to eat. But there needs to be a strong government presence to ensure that public health is being protected.

The other big threat that I see is the rise of imported food from countries that have weak or non-existent food safety regulatory systems. Over 80 percent of the seafood we consume is imported; over 20 percent of our fresh fruit and vegetables is imported; 10 percent of our meat is imported. There have been several serious foodborne illness outbreaks in recent years associated with imported food. This problem is going to get worse if the Obama administration is successful in negotiating new trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

**Q:** The USDA is making moves to put more power into industry’s hands when it comes to things like meat inspections. Why is this happening, and how can we stop it?

**A:** The move by the USDA to deregulate poultry inspection is very problematic. It is true that the levels of salmonella and campylobacter remain high on poultry products. However, the USDA currently does not have the legal authority to prevent poultry containing these contaminants from entering commerce.

Instead of going to Congress and seeking that authority, the Obama administration has bought into the notion that the industry can self-regulate by reducing the number of government inspectors from the poultry slaughter lines and turning those inspection responsibilities over to the companies so that they can police themselves. Furthermore, the companies will be able to increase line speeds from the current maximum of 140 chicken carcasses per minute to 175 birds per minute without any consideration of the food safety and worker safety implications.

We have been lobbying both the USDA and Congress to stop the implementation of this proposed rule. Our members have responded by sending in tens of thousands of e-mails to the USDA and Congress against this new inspection system. We need to continue to put that pressure on our public officials against this irrational policy.

**State Labeling Campaigns (continued from A-1)**

on the November ballot, letting the voters in Oregon weigh in on labeling in their state. Food & Water Watch’s Oregon Organizer Julia DeGraw is already working to build the volunteer base that will be needed to go up against the millions of dollars that the biotech industry will likely spend to defeat this effort. We’ll keep you posted on how you can best support all of these efforts to label genetically engineered foods.
IN HIS WORDS

Jim Walsh
Mid-Atlantic Region Director

It is a privilege to work for Food & Water Watch. It is a huge plus that we value independence, take strong stances on issues that matter, and directly challenge the forces that are exploiting the resources we need to live. However, the thing that I love most about working here is the strategic focus we have on building strong grassroots networks that empower local communities and change the balance of power.

When we hold trainings for our volunteers and community leaders, we are not just helping move forward the work of Food & Water Watch, but also building stronger allies and community leaders who will carry a torch for other issues of concern in their community. We are stronger as a movement when the human face of an issue in a community is someone from that community. When we chase Governors Brown, Christie, Corbett, Cuomo, Hickenlooper and Kasich around their states demanding a ban on fracking, it is grassroots leaders who help us expand the impact of these efforts and maximize our influence on these decision makers.

As we continue on in 2014, I look forward to more folks joining our on-the-ground efforts and giving me more reasons to love working for Food & Water Watch.

Renew Your Membership in Food & Water Watch in 2014

Doug Lakey • Director of Development

If you are like me, when the calendar hits January 1st, you make a list of resolutions to better yourself and the world in the New Year. And, like me, I imagine that you list a host of things related to taking better care of yourself and your family: eating right, drinking more water, getting more exercise, etc. And then there are the things you want to do to make the world better: to volunteer, get more engaged in your community, make a difference. There is one act that I hope you put on your list for 2014 — and it’s an act that will help you and your family while making the world a better place: renewing your membership in Food & Water Watch today.

Your support for Food & Water Watch is a powerful statement that you stand with us on the front lines making sure that government is doing its job to protect the health and safety of our food, whether it be in Congress or at regulatory agencies like the USDA or the FDA, or by challenging huge corporations that are threatening the health and safety of our food system and water resources, just to protect their profits. Your renewed support will give us the resources we need to stop fracking, halt the misuse of antibiotics on factory farms that is threatening our essential medicines, and protect your right to know what is in your food and where it comes from.

In the face of powerful industries — Big Oil and Gas, biotech and chemical, Big Ag — Food & Water Watch is working to build a movement of educated and mobilized concerned citizens to protect our most essential resources: our food and water. You have been critical to the progress we have made, with over 400 municipal resolutions passed against fracking, with GMO labeling laws passed in Connecticut and Maine, and with stopping federal budget cuts that would jeopardize food safety. But we have so much more to do. Please renew your membership today! You can use the enclosed envelope or renew online at: foodandwaterwatch.org/renewtoday.

If you can, please consider making your donation a monthly gift by joining our Food & Water Action Partners. Your regular small donation will have a big impact by supporting our aggressive advocacy to protect our essential water resources and to rebuild our food system so that it produces healthy food in a sustainable way.
What’s Consolidation Got to Do With It?

Why does it matter that just a handful of large corporations controls a majority of the food we eat? Why, despite the appearance of an array of brands in the supermarket, are we really left with very few actual choices?

Building off the work of Wenonah Hauter’s book Foodopoly, Food & Water Watch recently launched a report on consolidation in the grocery store aisle, as well as a new Foodopoly website featuring an interactive quiz. Want to know which brand of bleach makes your favorite salad dressing? How many parent companies own the yogurt brands Dannon, Stonyfield Organic, Activia and Oikos? Just how much the food industry spends on lobbying? Take the Foodopoly quiz to find out, at Foodopoly.org.
Food & Water Watch  •  foodandwaterwatch.org

Planned Giving: James Krivo’s Legacy Gift to Food & Water Watch

Planning a legacy gift can help provide the resources that Food & Water Watch relies on to achieve our goals: (1) healthy food sustainably grown and available to all, (2) safe water managed for the public good as a common treasured resource, and (3) oceans protected from devastation by commercial interests. With your legacy gift, you help Food & Water Watch continue our work to benefit your children and grandchildren and the planet we love.

Food & Water Watch recently received just such a legacy gift. Dr. James Krivo, a New York activist with Food & Water Watch, lived for over 30 years on Long Island and moved to Beacon with his partner Vivian Walter several years ago. By all accounts, Jim was a modest and unassuming person. Although a retired doctor, he did not introduce himself as a doctor. He just said, “Hi, I’m Jim, what can we do to make things better?”

Jim was a long-time participant in the peace movement; in addition to belonging to many peace and environmental organizations, he volunteered for WBAI, a New York radio station. Jim remembered several of these groups in his will, including Food & Water Watch.

We have been told that Jim thought Food & Water Watch’s work is important and that our organization is “really dedicated and authentic.” His generous gift was greatly appreciated by our organizers in New York, who had the pleasure of working closely with Jim over the years and who were deeply saddened by his passing away.

We can think of no better way for Jim to have demonstrated his faith in our long-term mission than through his gift. We are truly grateful for the impact that Jim’s bequest will have on furthering Food & Water Watch’s work to hold corporations and public policymakers accountable and to advocate for practices and procedures that will result in healthy, safe and sustainable food and water systems.

By donating to Food & Water Watch through planned giving, you too can give a gift to be used where the need is greatest or for a specific purpose. You can also give a gift from the remainder of your estate after all other bequests have been distributed. We recommend that people who are considering making a legacy gift work with their financial adviser or contact Food & Water Watch.
Fast Tracking Corporate Power: Investor-State Dispute Resolution and the TPP

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade deal that includes little-known provisions allowing companies to challenge as illegal trade barriers any government policies that purportedly infringe on the companies’ profits. The contentious “investor-state dispute resolution” allows a corporation to sue federal, state and local governments if it believes that a law or regulation will negatively affect its bottom line. Foreign companies or investors could challenge regulatory safeguards that protect our families, our communities and our air and water at a global trade tribunal that could overturn the rule and award the investor monetary damages.

Investor-state trade disputes turn democracy on its head by making governments more responsive to the profits of foreign companies than to the health and safety of their own citizens. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the first trade deal to include the investor-state dispute provisions. Ever since, the right of foreign companies to challenge local governments has been a hallmark of U.S. trade policy.

A foreign company that has “invested” in a trading partner’s country can sue for damages at an international tribunal if it alleges that a law or regulation takes away its ability to earn expected profits in that country. For example, if a foreign firm is harmed because a new environmental law curbs pollution from the firm’s plants, it could sue to recoup the lost profits from reducing its emissions or cleaning up its factories. State or local laws that banned or even just delayed the controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas could be at risk, as could state efforts to require labeling of foods made with genetically engineered ingredients.

Companies already aggressively lobby Congress and the executive branch agencies to limit oversight and to block essential consumer and environmental safeguards. Sometimes companies even resort to local courts to prevent regulations from going into effect. The corporate free trade investor-state provisions allow foreign companies to simply sue a country, state or locality, challenging the laws of these regions if the companies’ million-dollar lobbying efforts don’t succeed in the political and regulatory arena. These suits are becoming more common, with a record number of cases filed in 2012. Since NAFTA was signed in 1993, more than 500 cases had been filed as of the end of 2012. And there are many surprising places where these cases are waged.

Defend Your Local Democracy: Stop Fast Track

Congress is considering giving “fast track” authority to the U.S. administration to accelerate passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and its odious investor-state provisions. The investor-state provisions are just one ugly chapter in a book of free trade horrors. But under fast track, Congress can vote trade deals like TPP only up or down; Congress could not amend the TPP to eliminate the investor-state provisions and to protect the right of local communities to pass laws that protect their families and environment.

Ask your Representative and Senators to oppose fast track. To take action, visit: foodandwaterwatch.org.

IN MEMORIAM: Pete Seeger (1919–2014)

Activist and folk singer Pete Seeger died in January, leaving a legacy of progressive activism in the environment, labor, civil rights and peace movements. Seeger’s last major cause was the movement to stop fracking, singing “This Land is Your Land” at Farm Aid 2013 with additional lyrics about keeping fracking out of New York State. We fondly remember Seeger, a hero and guiding light for social equality and a cleaner, more peaceful world.

New York is my home / New York is your home From the upstate mountains / Down to the ocean foam With all kinds of people / Yes, we're polychrome New York was made to be frack-free.
Save Antibiotics for People, Not Factory Farms

Antibiotics are critical tools for human medicine, yet far more antibiotics are given to food animals than to sick people, and this practice is putting all of us at risk. Agriculture accounts for 80 percent of antibiotics sold in the United States, using drugs from every major class of antibiotics used in human medicine. The way that most antibiotics are used on livestock, such as chickens, pigs and cattle, has been linked to the rise of antibiotic-resistant (AR) bacteria. This means that the bacteria can survive exposure to antibiotic drugs that had previously been effective in killing them.

How Factory Farming Drives Antibiotic Resistance

In the 1950s, researchers discovered that a small, constant dose of antibiotics helped food animals grow slightly faster. Livestock producers began using feed with antibiotics mixed in, both to promote faster growth and as an attempt to prevent infections in densely packed and unsanitary factory farms. These "nontherapeutic" doses are just a fraction of the amounts typically used to treat infections.

Treatment of sick animals requires just a few animals to receive medicine for a short time and is less likely to contribute to resistance. Nontherapeutic uses mean an entire herd or flock of animals receives small doses for an extended period of time. This practice kills bacteria that are susceptible to the drug, leaving resistant bacteria to survive and reproduce. The use of even one antibiotic can select for resistance to multiple classes of antibiotics because the genetic trait that allows bacteria to survive exposure to one antibiotic is often linked to traits allowing it to survive others. Even worse, AR bacteria can transfer genetic resistance traits to other bacteria in animals and the environment.

Imagine including a low dose of antibiotics in your food every day. Does that make sense given the advice we hear from doctors to take the full course of antibiotics and to take antibiotics only when needed to treat bacterial infections? Yet that's essentially what happens in modern livestock production. And once AR bacteria develop on factory farms, they can spread to farmers, workers and neighbors, through food produced from animals raised there, and when contaminated waste enters the environment.

These risks to human health aren't theoretical. In 2011, antibiotic-resistant Salmonella caused the recall of 36 million pounds of ground turkey from one plant, the third largest meat recall in U.S. history. That meat sickened at least 136 people, causing 37 hospitalizations and one death. Researchers have found strong evidence that a strain of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, commonly known as MRSA, originated in humans, migrated to pigs where it acquired antibiotic resistance, and now is infecting humans again.

More Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria = More Sick People

Antibiotic resistance has become a serious problem in human medicine. There are few or no treatment options for some infections from AR bacteria, and pharmaceutical companies are not producing new treatments fast enough to replace drugs that become ineffective. People get sicker from resistant infections, as it takes multiple rounds of increasingly stronger antibiotics to stop the infection. Researchers estimate the national medical and social costs of AR infections to be in the billions.

Medical authorities are calling the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria a public health crisis. The American Public Health Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, Infectious Disease Society of America and World Health Organization have all issued statements calling for restrictions on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock.

Take Action to Protect Lifesaving Antibiotics!

Despite the urgent need to address this growing public health threat, neither Congress nor the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have done enough to stop the overuse of antibiotics in food production. The FDA relies primarily on voluntary suggestions to industry, rather than withdrawing the approval of nontherapeutic use of these important drugs.

Congress needs to step in to end the use of medically important antibiotics for nontherapeutic purposes in livestock production. Contact your members of Congress and tell them to support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA) in the House and the Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) in the Senate.

Text “ABUSE” to 69866 to sign the petition, and contact your members of Congress and ask them to protect antibiotics today!

For more information, visit: foodandwaterwatch.org/food/antibiotics
How Antibiotic Misuse on Factory Farms Can Make You Sick

1. Factory farms use feed that’s pre-mixed with antibiotics to promote faster animal growth and prevent infections.

2. Giving low doses of antibiotics to groups of animals over extended time periods fuels the development of antibiotic-resistant (AR) bacteria.

3. The digestive tract contains many bacteria. Low doses of antibiotics kill some bacteria. AR bacteria survive and reproduce, passing along the resistance genes. AR bacteria also share resistance genes with other bacteria through horizontal gene transfer.

4. AR bacteria in livestock can spread to farmers, farmworkers, meat plant workers and the general population.

5. Consumers encounter AR bacteria while handling raw meat and eating undercooked meat.

6. Waste is stored in lagoons and used as fertilizer. AR bacteria in the waste continue to reproduce and share genes with other bacteria in soil, streams, ponds and groundwater, creating “reservoirs of resistance.”

AR bacterial infections have become increasingly common. Doctors are concerned that some antibiotics no longer work to treat sick people.

foodandwaterwatch.org/food/antibiotics
Thousands Contact Their Representatives to Stop Secret Trade Deals

On February 12, over 2,125 people contacted their member of Congress telling them to vote NO on fast-track authority for deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). If passed, this secret trade deal would threaten everything we fight for by undermining our democratically enacted laws to protect our environment and consumers. President Obama is asking Congress to allow him to negotiate the deal by himself, without the input of the American public or Congress. If you haven’t already, please contact your member of Congress and tell them to Vote NO on Fast Track. Text “TRADE” to 69866 to take action.