This spring, Food & Water Watch has been busy working in cities across the country to build the support for our campaign to Save Antibiotics for Medicine, Not Factory Farms! So far, we’ve been able to work with our supporters and allies to pass local resolutions to ban the misuse of antibiotics on factory farms in Cleveland; Providence, R.I.; Madison, Wis.; Seattle; Pittsburgh; St. Paul, Minn.; and Red Bank and Secaucus, N.J.

The problem is that factory farms are feeding healthy animals antibiotics to make them grow faster and to compensate for the filthy conditions that they live in. More than 80% of all

(continued on A-2)

FRACKING UPDATE

In March, when the New York Times reported on a major push by the Obama administration and Congress to ramp up exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in response to the crisis in Ukraine, Food & Water Watch sprang into action.

After all, gas exports cannot help the current situation in Ukraine, because it would take years for our export facilities to be able to process the volumes of gas proposed for overseas sales. And when legislation on exports was introduced, it would have fast-tracked exports of U.S. LNG to 158 World Trade Organization member countries, not just Ukraine. But it will help the oil and gas industry exploit a crisis to push through their agenda of maximizing profits at the expense of communities and the environment.

(continued on A-2)
Antibiotics (continued from A-1)

antibiotics used in the United States are used in agriculture, and many of these antibiotics are the same ones that people use for medicine. The continual feeding of antibiotics to animals on factory farms creates antibiotic-resistant bacteria. These bacteria can spread quickly and cause life-threatening infections in people.

We’re working to pass local resolutions to support two bills in Congress that would ban the misuse of antibiotics on factory farms for good. Go to foodandwaterwatch.org to learn more about our campaign and to download your own toolkit for passing a local resolution in your community.

Fracking Update (continued from A-1)

We quickly organized a joint letter with our Americans Against Fracking coalition partners to get more than 200 organizations to oppose this push, sent in over 100,000 messages from Food & Water Watch supporters to Congress and the President, organized a petition on MoveOn.org with actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, and held rallies and petition deliveries to a dozen members of the U.S. Senate.

Many told us that this was an unwinnable fight — and it may be as the push for exports continues — but no fight was ever won by not trying, and at Food & Water Watch, we work to change the political reality. It’s the only way we will ever win the major campaigns in which we engage.

We see this in New York, where with partners we have held the line against fracking; we see this in Colorado, where communities have passed five ballot measures to stop fracking in the last two years; and we see it in California, where we’ve seen communities across the state from San Benito to Compton and Butte to Los Angeles moving toward moratoriums on fracking, and where the momentum toward a statewide moratorium is building daily.

The campaign to ban fracking continues to grow — and we can win if we fight for the future we want, not the one we are told is politically viable.

TPP Update

The appointment of the leading Senate sponsor of fast track, Max Baucus, as U.S. Ambassador to China put another speed bump in the way of efforts to pass a fast-track bill this spring. While its supporters continue to push fast track and wait for an opportunity to pass the bill, President Obama traveled to Asia in April to encourage completion of the negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The administration hopes to have the TPP completed this year so it can push the deal through Congress.

Only Superman could inspect 175 chickens per minute.
Workers will be put at further risk by speeding up already fast slaughter lines.
And Americans don’t want to eat filth, even if the bacteria have been killed in chemical baths.
Eliminating government inspectors and replacing them with chicken company employees may save a few dollars, but at too high a price.

Kill the Filthy Chicken Rule Now.

American Federation of Government Employees • Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Consumer Federation of America • Food & Water Watch • Friends of the Earth
National Family Farm Coalition • Oxfam America • Southern Poverty Law Center
The Humane Society of the United States

Go to foodandwaterwatch.org to learn more.

President Obama and Secretary Vilsack: Kill the Filthy Chicken Rule.
By the time you’re reading this, Ver- mont could be the first state to require genetically engineered (GMO) foods to be labeled. On April 15, 2014, the Ver- mont Senate voted 26-2 to give prelimi- nary approval to a GMO labeling bill. It is expected that this bill will make it through the final hurdles in the state to become law. This is great news, as Vermon ters will gain the right to know what’s in their food! Last year, Maine and Connecticut passed GMO labeling laws that will go into effect only once other states have also passed bills, so citizens in those states will be one step closer to getting GMO labeling as well. While many states have wrapped up their state legislative agendas for this year, GMO labeling bills in New York and New Jersey are still being consid- ered, and we’re continuing to build sup- port for those bills. We’re also getting ready for the likely ballot initiatives in Oregon and Colorado this fall. All in all, 2014 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for GMO labeling. Check out our web- site for more information about how you can get involved in these efforts.

In the first quarter of 2014, working with our allies at the national, state and local levels, we attained the following victories:

- Passed resolutions opposing the misuse of antibiotics on factory farms in Cleveland, Providence, R.I., Red Bank and Secaucus, N.J., Madison, Wis., Seattle, Pittsburgh, and St. Paul, Minn.
- Stopped bills that would have stripped New Mexicans of their right to file nuisance complaints due to the impacts of factory farms on their health and property.
- Stopped ag-gag legislation in Indiana that could deter whistleblowers from documenting abuses on factory farms.
- Made significant progress with our Take Back the Tap campaigns, getting additional water filling stations on campuses at Marquette, Kutztown, UC Santa Cruz and UNLV (which also finalized a bottled water reduction plan with the university).
- Blocked legislation in Colorado that would have given oil and gas companies the power to use eminent domain to build pipelines through private land, over landowner objec- tions.
- Defeated a Pennsylvania bill that would have provided im- munity from lawsuits and damage claims against fracking operators that use acid mine drainage in their frack fluid mixture.
- Helped get a fracking and fracking waste ban signed by the Erie County Executive in New York.
- Stopped legislation in Iowa that would have undermined local control of frac sand mining.
- Defeated two industry-sponsored bills in Florida that would have allowed chemicals from fracking to be trade secrets while subtly allowing fracking to move forward in the state.
- Passed measures in California to ban fracking or advance fracking moratoriums in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Butte County, and passed a measure to ban fracking in Franklin Township, New Jersey.
- Blocked plan to privatize water in Red Bank, New Jersey.

Delivered 219,000 comments to President Obama and Secretary Vilsack opposing the “filthy chicken rule,” along with a letter from over 100 organizations. We also produced a video highlighting this issue that has been viewed over 65,000 times on YouTube.

Submitted over 60,000 comments to the U.S. Depart- ment of Agriculture asking them to reject approval of 2,4-D-resistant corn and soybeans.

Delivered over 100,000 petitions to members of Congress urging them to reject exports of natural gas.

Organized over 25 buses to bring people to the mas- sive 4,000 person rally in Sacramento calling for a ban on fracking in California.

Sent over 100,000 comments to members of Congress and President Obama opposing the Trans-Pacific Part- nership (TPP) and fast track.
IN HIS WORDS

Sam Bernhardt
Pennsylvania Organizer

Early on in my career, I thought organizing was all about being extroverted. Campaigning required people, and getting people involved required being the loud, talkative, outgoing type. The colleagues, volunteers and coalition partners that I work with can tell you that that’s not me.

Hitting my stride as Food & Water Watch’s Pennsylvania Organizer meant finding my own organizing style at the intersection of my introverted temperament and our organizational mission. This was only possible because of the emphasis that we place on long-term power building. At Food & Water Watch, we take strong stances on the most important issues out there, issues we can only win through hard, long-term fights.

At Food & Water Watch, I’ve been able to honor my introverted nature, to abandon the archetype of the organizer as social butterfly in favor of deliberatively building real, lasting relationships with community leaders. That means I am building the movement infrastructure that we know we need to protect our food and water, but it also means I am doing it in a way that is empowering and sustainable for me.

Who Is “Dr. Evil,” and Why Is He Targeting Food & Water Watch?

He’s been called an “arch-enemy of do-gooders” by 60 Minutes. Thanks to his orchestration of massive corporate PR campaigns using deceptive front groups to discredit public interest efforts, he’s earned the nickname “Dr. Evil.”

And now, thanks to our outsized effectiveness in relation to our relatively small budget, he’s targeting us.

If you’ve never heard of Rick Berman, he earned his reputation in Washington, D.C. for spreading attacks on advocates through the Center for Consumer Freedom, which was funded initially through a sizable grant from Phillip Morris. Other funders of the Center for Consumer Freedom have included Monsanto, Cargill, Tyson Foods and various fast food restaurants. Websites like BermanExposed.org and Sourcewatch have helped reveal several other industry-funded front groups led by Berman.

It appears that he’s now doing the same sort of work to discredit advocates for environmental protections.

We knew this day would come. If you’re doing effective work to challenge corporate control, eventually those corporations will attack you. As you know, the industries that we’re up against have nearly unlimited resources to spin lies about us, and to try to discredit our work, but we have you and over half a million others who stand with us.
A Legacy for the Future

In our last newsletter, we told you about a valued supporter, James Krivo, who made an extraordinary gift through his estate to Food & Water Watch. His gift and others got us thinking that it was time to establish a more formal program to steward and recognize people who make planned gifts to Food & Water Watch.

So, we are pleased to announce the formation of a planned giving circle at Food & Water Watch — the Food & Water Future Fund. When you designate Food & Water Watch in your will or other planned giving instrument, you are joining a circle of supporters who want to ensure that the values that sustained them in life will also be sustained for future generations.

To become a member of the Food & Water Future Fund, all we ask is that you notify Food & Water Watch regarding the nature of the gift plan you have made. And, because we want to recognize your leadership and commitment — and to help inspire others — we ask that you provide us with information about how you want your legacy to be recognized (or to be anonymous).

If you want to join the Food & Water Future Fund or would like to discuss how you can leave a legacy gift, please contact Doug Lakey at dlakey@fwwatch.org or by phone at (202) 683-2469.

Citizens for a Healthy Fort Collins (CFAHFC) was founded in May 2013 in order to protect the health, safety and property of residents in Fort Collins, Colorado, from fracking. Led by community members, CFAHFC collected over 8,000 signatures to qualify a measure that would establish a five-year moratorium on fracking and require a study on the impacts that fracking would have on health and property values before allowing it next to homes and schools. Then, despite being outspent nearly 30-to-1 by the oil and gas industry, CFAHFC successfully passed this five-year moratorium with 57% of the vote in November 2013. Food & Water Watch was thrilled to partner with CFAHFC and other organizations to help gather the signatures, knock on doors, produce materials and support their efforts to pass this moratorium on fracking!

Kelly Giddens, President
Citizens for a Healthy Fort Collins
When Big Business Calls the Shots: A Maryland Case Study

It’s no secret that corporate lobbyists wield immense power over our decision makers. For a great example of how this dynamic works, just look to Maryland.

For years, Food & Water Watch has been working to unravel the close ties between the chicken industry — chief among them the corporate giant Perdue, Inc. — and Democratic Governor Martin O’Malley. In 2012, we released emails obtained from a Public Information Act request showing an ultra-cozy relationship between O’Malley and Perdue lobbyist (and old O’Malley law school buddy) Herb Frerichs.

Back in November 2011, the Governor released a letter he wrote to the University of Maryland environmental law clinic denouncing the merits of the ongoing litigation by local environmentalists against Perdue and essentially calling on students to represent polluters instead of nonprofits trying to protect the Bay. On the day that letter went public, the governor received a pat on the back from Frerichs in a stand-alone email that simply said, “Very nice.” Earlier that month, when Frerichs complained about O’Malley’s secretary of agriculture, Buddy Hance, compared to the agency’s counterparts in Delaware and Virginia, O’Malley responded: “I’m guessing you don’t have the personal email of governors of DE or VA, so let me know when Buddy can/should be doing more to help you push stuff. I’m serious. I’ll have him call you Monday [sic].”

It was no surprise, then, that as soon as the Poultry Fair Share Act was introduced into the Maryland legislature earlier this year — a bill that would require the poultry industry to pay into a fund for Chesapeake Bay cleanup, just like Maryland citizens do — O’Malley promptly came out and said he’d veto it. Nor was it surprising to see that around the time Governor O’Malley became head of the Democratic Governor’s Association (DGA), Perdue began shifting its political giving from the Republican Governor’s Association to the DGA.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland produces over a billion pounds of chicken manure a year. This excess manure, and the massive amounts of pollution that pour off of it, is one of the primary reasons why the Chesapeake Bay has been on a downward spiral for the past three decades. The influence that Perdue has over Governor O’Malley is helping to ensure that the company will continue to operate business as usual — and that the Bay will continue to deteriorate, thanks to factory farms.
students are building efforts to Take Back the Tap at over 50 schools across the country. Holding educational events, organizing film screenings, and pitting tap against bottled water in blind taste tests — our team of student activists is raising awareness and turning support into action at their schools. Thirty-four campuses are competing in the Tap-a-palooza contest, where the two schools that collect the most pledges to choose tap over bottled water take home $1,500 each to fund a new hydration station and help improve access to tap water.

This spring,

Monthly Donors: Small Gifts, Big Impact

In our culture, it is easy to fall into the trap of “big is better.” But you know in your own life that it is the little things that can give you the greatest joy and make the biggest difference. This is true for our campaigns, too. Every email you send, every petition you sign, every rally you attend, every donation you make — all of these actions make a huge difference in our fight to stop fracking and to protect the things that we can’t live without, like our food and water.

We know that many of you don’t have the time to be a frontline activist, nor do you have the resources to make a transformative major gift.

But you do have the power of numbers — numbers that are amplified when you join our Food & Water Partners by committing to making a small monthly gift. I’m proud to report that we now have over 1,000 Food & Water Partners! Each of our Partners makes a regular gift of what he or she can comfortably afford. And when you add them all up, it makes a huge difference to our campaigns. It gives Food & Water Watch the certainty we need to stand strong and to fight for what we need in order to have safe food and clean water, and a democracy that works for all, not just the rich and powerful.

Of course, we are just getting started. We have a long road ahead to retake our democracy and build a just and sustainable world. But we need more of you to stand with us by making a monthly commitment and becoming a Food & Water Partner. It’s easy: you can join via EFT (electronic funds transfer), credit card and, now, by check. While EFTs and credit cards are easier for us (and allow more of your contributions to go directly to support the work you care about), we also know that some people prefer to write monthly checks.

Whatever method is best for you, we hope you will consider becoming a Food & Water Partner. You can sign up online at foodandwaterwatch.org/monthly, or you can contact Alex Patton, at apatton@fwwatch.org or by phone at (202) 683-2535.
2014 Food & Water Election Update

Mark Schlosberg, National Organizing Director

With governors running for re-election in California, Pennsylvania, Colorado, New York and Ohio — all states with increasingly strong movements to ban fracking — that issue and other issues impacting our food and water promise to loom large this election year.

In New York and California in particular, Food & Water Watch has been bird-dogging Governors Andrew Cuomo and Jerry Brown across the state, and the elections will mean that these officials will be making increasingly frequent public appearances where we can deliver the message directly to them that they are accountable and need to ban fracking now.

In Colorado, there may be measures on the ballot that would impact local control over fracking, and in Pennsylvania, our political arm has created a candidate pledge and is using that during the primaries for governor and lieutenant governor to move our agenda forward. There will also be a number of local ballot measures to ban fracking in California that we will be working to support.

Food issues will also feature prominently, and we are deeply involved in an effort in Oregon to require labeling of GMOs. Measures were narrowly defeated in California and Washington the past two years and are helping to lay the groundwork for a robust field campaign with our state and national partners. A labeling measure may also be on the ballot in Colorado, which we will be supporting as well.