You Know We Need Action! Now!
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director

I hope you like the changes we made to our newsletter. We are making these and other changes to better support the movement that you are helping create. Because as you’ve shown over and over again, the only way we can overcome the power of big corporations and make our democracy work to protect people and our environment is to join together to take action!

That is how you, working with thousands of activists and concerned people, banned fracking in New York and Maryland, and just this past May in Washington state. Time after time, you are showing that people — educated on the issues and standing together to demand the changes we need to live and thrive — can overcome the power of the giant corporations that make up Big Oil & Gas... and Big Ag... and the multinational water companies.

But you and I know that while this progress is necessary, it is not enough. The clock is ticking, and time is not on our side. In the face of the global climate crisis and all the threats to our food and water, we are called to do even more. I’m not exaggerating when I say we all must fight for our lives and our future.

For more than a decade, Food & Water Watch and our political arm, Food & Water Action, have been taking on many of the toughest public health and environmental fights our country has faced — standing up to the world’s biggest corporations like ExxonMobil, Monsanto and Nestlé. Thanks to your support and activism, we have demanded that our political leaders — from both parties — work for people, not giant corporations. Your support has enabled Food & Water Action to be uncompromising in our demand for a clean, livable future for all — a future free from industrial polluters and their government enablers.

You have been the key to our unwavering approach — and it is making a difference! In 2011, we became the first national organization to call for a ban on fracking everywhere. At the time, our demand was scoffed at as “not politically possible.” But

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Ray Kemble Is Fighting Cabot Oil Because You Stand With Him

Cabot Oil, the fracking company that has racked up hundreds of fracking violations in and around Dimock, Pennsylvania, continues its harassment of Dimock resident Ray Kemble. But Ray is not facing the giant company alone. You are making sure of that.

You may recall that Ray was one of many residents who sued Cabot Oil over its fracking that was contaminating drinking water, polluting airways and lowering property values. While the case was settled in 2012, Ray has continued to speak out before regulators, the media and the public against the many harms caused by the fracking industry. Cabot doesn’t like what Ray says about fracking, so they’re misusing the courts to try to sue him into silence.

Your support enabled Food & Water Watch to stand with the people of Dimock, including Ray, for years. And we continue to support Ray in his latest battle to save his home and protect his rights. Ray isn’t only fighting off Cabot, he’s also fighting for his life against cancer. Recently Cabot’s lawyers tried to corner Ray in a day-long deposition in his hospital room. He was forced to move continually from a chair to the hospital bed to relieve his pain. The lawyers also made it clear they’re really just using him to get at groups like Food & Water Watch.

We helped Ray get a new lawyer who is now going on the offensive. He just filed a set of demands for documents and records of Cabot’s years of irresponsible fracking and trampling of people’s rights in Pennsylvania. Ray’s lawyer is also demanding to depose one of the fracking industry’s loudest mouthpieces, Tom Shepstone, whose blog promotes pro-fracking propaganda and demeans anyone who speaks out against fracking, including Ray.

We know this is going to get harder before it’s over and Cabot is defeated. But thanks to you and our generous members, we also know that we can and will continue to back Ray throughout his courageous struggles against both Cabot Oil and cancer. He’s fighting because he lives here, and he can keep fighting because he knows that you are standing with him.

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you made the impossible possible, and today we have banned fracking completely in four states (and counting!), and at least seven Democratic presidential candidates are calling for a full ban on fracking.

And you know that fracking is not just drilling, it’s all of the infrastructure that supports more deadly fossil fuels. Just in the past several months, we’ve helped to stop a new interstate fracked gas pipeline in the Northeast and ban fracking waste in Connecticut. We led the fight to ban water privatization and stop unjust water shutoffs in Baltimore. And we are leading the way in Los Angeles to put our second biggest city on the path to a 100% clean, renewable energy future.

Now, as the urgency of our climate crisis worsens every day, and as a critical presidential race shifts into high gear, at Food & Water Action we are honing our messaging and tightening our approach. With everything we hold dear at risk, I’m pleased to share with you our new logo and our sharp new tagline: Fight Like You Live Here.

It is simple — this is the only planet we’ve got. It is up to you and me to fight to keep it livable and to ensure a future for us and our families. Food & Water Action is proud to be your partner in demanding a livable climate and safe food and water for all. Thank you for all you do and all you give. Most of all, thank you for fighting along with us to protect our home!
Water Action and Food & Water Watch have been fighting back at the state and local level — and winning important victories for people and our future.

In just the past few months, several campaigns that you have supported for years have borne fruit with significant wins that are important right now and also help build momentum for even bigger victories for people and our future. For example, following a huge campaign where we pressured more than 50 communities across the state to call for local bans, the Connecticut state legislature passed a ban on fracking waste that Governor Lamont signed into law. Banning fracking waste protects people whose water systems cannot safely treat the waste (thereby allowing it into drinking water), but it also helps make the fracking industry less profitable.

You know that our historic win to ban fracking in New York in 2014 was absolutely critical to protecting the state’s water. But it also helped us build a movement in the state that continues to have huge ripple effects in the region. As a result, just in the past few months we were able to block permits for the proposed Williams pipeline between New York and New Jersey, defeat the South Jersey gas pipeline and win a shutdown of the Cayuga Power Plant.

And nationally, we continue to make progress in the campaign to ban fracking. Recently Washington became the fourth state in the country to ban fracking, and Oregon passed a five-year fracking moratorium. We also just won a moratorium on fracking in Ventura County, an oil-producing region in California, following years of building coalitions and organizing concerned residents.

These victories are the result of the investments you have made in time and money. Back in 2011 when we were the first national organization to call for a ban on fracking, we stood alone on the national stage. Today, there are seven presidential candidates who agree, and there is a growing international movement to ban fracking and move off of fossil fuels entirely.

This progress — achieved by working together with grassroots allies and concerned people like you at the national, state and local levels — would not have happened without you. And it is why I am not just hopeful, I am confident. Confident that, with your continuing actions and donations, we will shut down the dirty fossil fuel industry and save a livable climate for ourselves and future generations.
People Must Have Water: Leading Baltimore to Water Justice for All

Imagine a day without running water in your home. How do you bathe and take care of yourself and your family? For too many across the country, no water is a daily reality. More and more families are losing access to clean water due to water bills that are too high. People can even lose their homes because of incorrect or unpaid water bills.

This is not right. This should not happen anywhere. In Baltimore, people faced this situation in growing numbers, and Food & Water Action is helping them fight back. After leading Baltimore to become the first major city to ban water privatization, our team in Maryland has worked relentlessly to make sure the city’s public water system is accountable and affordable.

And our work paid off in April, when we passed a critical bill in the city to permanently protect homeowners, renters and places of worship from losing their properties over unaffordable or incorrect water bills. The bill stops the city from sending these properties to tax sale if the owner has an unpaid water bill — a practice that the city had been using when people owed as little as $350. Thanks to you, we saved thousands of homes and places of worship from the threat of foreclosure due to unaffordable and erroneous water bills.

Our campaign garnered top press coverage and powerful legislative support, and helped grow our grassroots movement to pass the national WATER Act (Baltimore Rep. Elijah Cummings signed on as a sponsor) to ensure safe and affordable water for all!

How Your Food Is Grown Matters — That’s Why We’re Taking Back Our Family Farms, Starting in Iowa

Across the country, family farms continue to disappear as industry giants like Tyson and Prestage run roughshod over rural communities. More and more, our food system is based on an industrial model that encourages huge corporations to pollute our water, drive independent family farmers off their land and devastate our local economies — all for the sake of more profits for Big Ag. It is time to demand change — and we’re working in Iowa, one of the most important agricultural states in the country, to draw a line in the dirt and say Enough!

Just like with fracking, we know that you are inspired by real activism with bold demands. That is why we are calling for a ban on factory farms. And just like with fracking, we know that we first must build power locally in order to win at the state level. In the past few months, your support has enabled Food & Water Watch to pass 26 county resolutions in Iowa calling for stronger protections against factory farms. This spring we introduced a factory farm moratorium bill in the state legislature with more sponsors than ever before — and we’ll continue growing the momentum behind this bill in the upcoming legislative session.

To help people in Iowa suffering from Big Ag’s pollution, we filed a lawsuit against the state for failing to ensure clean water is maintained for the benefit of all Iowans. Your robust support makes it possible for us to use

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Research to Arm You in the Fight to Stop the “Fracking Endgame”

You know that fracking is a threat to clean water and a livable climate, and that we need to move off of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. But it turns out the industry has a different problem all its own: Fracking isn’t profitable. Our new report, The Fracking Endgame: Locked Into Plastics, Pollution and Climate Chaos, documents how Big Oil and its dirty drilling profiteers plan to stay in business: by pushing surplus gas liquids to plastics manufacturers, pumping up use of more gas by exporting it overseas (Trump officials dubbed this “freedom gas”) and locking us into using even more natural gas to generate our electricity here at home.

Even though oil and gas companies are losing money on fracking like reckless gamblers, their plan is to double down. We must stop them. Our new in-depth report, released in June, exposes their dangerous plans. In The Fracking Endgame, we identified more than 700 new facilities built or being planned to soak up the oversupply of cheap fracked gas. That means more air and water pollution, and more of the greenhouse gas emissions that are literally fueling the climate crisis.

The threats posed by these polluting partnerships can be seen very clearly in the fights we are waging on the ground: from the Mariner East pipelines in Pennsylvania, to a billion-dollar pipeline in New York Harbor, to a massive fracked gas power plant planned for the New Jersey Meadowlands.

We know the science tells us we have about 10 years to get off of fossil fuels if we are going to have hope for a livable climate. Every one of these dirty energy projects, backed by billions of corporate dollars, would take us in the exactly wrong direction.

That’s why we must fight like we live here — because we do. All of us and our communities are threatened by the deadly alliance between frackers, corrupt utility companies and the dirty petrochemical corporations that are accelerating climate chaos and filling the world and our oceans with plastic pollution. This is a fight we must win. And standing together, we will.

Taking Back Our Family Farms (continued from page 4)

all our advocacy tools — from lawsuits, to public education, to mobilizing people to pressure elected leaders — to protect us from industrial agriculture and its unregulated pollution.

Of course, Iowans also play a critical role in electing our next president. This gives us a unique opportunity to meet many of the candidates and ensure they are prioritizing issues that matter to us. Recently, as a Food & Water Action organizer, I had the chance to sit down with Senator Bernie Sanders to discuss the dangerous rise of corporate agriculture. I met briefly with Senator Cory Booker to hear his thoughts on our factory farm crisis. And I had the chance to illustrate the ways in which the industrial model of farming is so harmful to Senators Kamala Harris and Kirsten Gillibrand, and Mayor Pete Buttigieg, as they crisscrossed Iowa. I hope to meet all the remaining candidates to share that message before the primaries are over.

The only way to stop all of us from being hurt by factory farms is to stop constructing new ones. This is what we’re fighting for, in Iowa and across the nation.
In the past several months, working with our allies, we achieved the following victories and milestones:

- We banned fracking in the state of Washington — now four states (including Vermont, New York and Maryland) have stood up to say NO to fracking!
- We helped pass a five-year moratorium on fracking in Oregon.
- We banned fracking wastewater in Connecticut.
- We stopped key permits required for the Williams pipeline, which would transmit dirty natural gas in New Jersey and New York.
- We fought for a moratorium on oil drilling in Ventura, California — and won!
- We passed the Baltimore Water Taxpayer Protection Act to keep people from losing their homes because of expensive water bills.
- We released a powerful new report, The Fracking Endgame, that exposes how Big Oil plans to create more artificial demand for its dirty products. Its plan is summed up in two words: More Plastic. Our response is just one: NO!
- We passed an amendment in the U.S. House blocking Trump’s Department of Energy from using clean energy funds for dirty fossil fuel projects.
- We mobilized people across Los Angeles and convinced Mayor Garcetti to stop the plan to rebuild three gas-fired power plants.
- We helped elect clean energy champions to the Denver City Council that will stand with us to demand a ban on fracking.
- After years of our organizing and coalition building, the new mayor of Chicago pledged a moratorium on water shutoffs.
- We defeated the South Jersey Gas pipeline, which would have shipped deadly natural gas through the New Jersey Pinelands, the country’s first National Reserve.
- We worked with students to win a temporary ban (which we’re seeking to make permanent) on the use of the toxic chemical glyphosate (aka Roundup) on University of California campuses.
- We fought and won the denial of a permit for the Jordan Cove LNG project in Oregon, dealing a huge blow to expanded fracking in the region.
- We helped win a shutdown of the Cayuga Power Plant, a dirty coal-fired power plant in New York.
- We helped get the Food and Agriculture Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review reintroduced in the U.S. Senate to take on the giant corporate monopolies that control our food system.
- We also got the Farmers Fairness Act introduced in Congress to help make smaller farming both possible and equitable.
Los Angeles Says NO to Natural Gas Power

Your investment in renewable energy is paying dividends for all of our futures. We are seeing the fruits of this in Los Angeles, where Food & Water Action is leading a campaign to move the city to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030.

In February of this year, we saw a decisive step in L.A., when Mayor Eric Garcetti held a news conference to state, “[N]ow is the time to start the beginning of the end of natural gas.” He announced that the nation’s second-largest city would not spend billions of dollars rebuilding three gas-fired power plants along the coast and instead would close them.

Through our campaign, you have a seat at the table. Food & Water Action staff attend meetings with the L.A. Department of Water and Power and the mayor to advise on the best course of action for the city’s energy goals.

In April, Food & Water Action held a candidate forum for those running for L.A. City Council district 12, the district most affected by the Aliso Canyon methane blowout of 2015. Eleven of the fifteen candidates joined the panel discussion, and two hundred residents and reporters attended. From this event, the LA Times chose to endorse Dr. Loraine Lundquist, a long-time supporter and college professor who teaches environmental sustainability at California State University, Northridge. Food & Water Action then endorsed Dr. Lundquist and knocked on 11,000 doors, helping her to win the primary!

With Dr. Lundquist setting the example, L.A. is that much closer to closing Alison Canyon Gas Storage Facility for good.
In April 2019, Food & Water Watch and allies organized a large-scale march of more than 500 participants over the Brooklyn Bridge against the Williams fracked gas pipeline. For more than two years, Food & Water Watch has been fighting to stop this pipeline, which would threaten New York Harbor and the shoreline in communities hit hardest by Superstorm Sandy. The state permit for this pipeline has been denied, but Williams Transco has already reapplied. Our work continues to stop this dangerous pipeline.

Make Your Legacy A Sustainable Future

Your support is building power — power to protect people’s health, communities and democracy from the growing destructive power of huge corporations and wealthy special interests.

Keep that power going — and growing — into the future.

Contact us to find out how to create a legacy of which you can be proud.

Email royelen@fwwatch.org or call (202) 683-2509

Food & Water Watch is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that educates and advocates for safe food, clean water and a livable climate.

Food & Water Action is our affiliated 501(c)4 nonprofit that mobilizes people to win campaigns that protect us all and builds political power to make elected officials accountable to people, not giant corporations.

Your donations to Food & Water Action fund our hard-hitting political work, and are not tax deductible; gifts to Food & Water Watch are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

We hope you will use the enclosed form to make your special contribution to help stop the global climate crisis and protect your food and water. We don’t take any corporate or government funding, so we are accountable completely to our members — people like you!