Thank You for Making Food & Water Watch a Leader
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director

This year we’re celebrating our 10th anniversary at Food & Water Watch. We’re proud of the victories we’ve achieved and of how our organization is making progress on reaching our long-term goals (see page 6). Our accomplishments have only been possible because we are independent, passionate, uncompromising and fearless when it comes to taking on daunting challenges, like the corporate control of our essential resources and our broken democracy. And one thing is for certain: we are only able to operate this way because of your support — and the support of others who care about defending our environment, fixing our food system and protecting our drinking water.

Like Food & Water Watch, our members are in the vanguard, supporting game-changing activism that inspires movements. As the first national organization to call for an all-out ban on fracking, our work was key to building momentum to fight back against the oil and gas industry. We supported grassroots allies in safeguarding our water, air and environment from fracking with research and initiated the formation of the national coalition, Americans Against Fracking (now over 300 members strong). We worked with many communities across the country to organize against the corporate takeover of their publicly owned water systems, and have worked in large grassroots coalitions to help pass GMO labeling laws in Connecticut, Maine and Vermont (and we are working with allies to pass similar laws in New York, Illinois and other states).

You don’t get to where we are by sitting on the sidelines and waiting for others to pick the strategic fights. And we wouldn’t be where we are without you.

As World Focuses on Climate Change, Move to Ban Fracking Grows

This December, the world’s attention will turn to Paris, where global leaders will gather to discuss climate change and negotiate a potential response to our impending climate crisis. While there is little expectation that the talks in Paris themselves will produce significant and meaningful change, what is clear is that this moment in time gives us tremendous opportunities to pressure decision makers across the United States and to show how much the movement to ban fracking has grown.

In the lead-up to Paris, Food & Water Watch is spearheading the 4th Global Frackdown. Where in the past we helped coordinate single days of action against fracking, this year we have developed a sign-on letter to global leaders calling for a ban on fracking, keeping fossil fuels in the ground, and a quick transition to a 100% renewable energy future. This letter will be

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Meet Our New Website

If you’ve visited Food & Water Watch online recently, you may have noticed some big changes. Our brand new website has lots of ways to get involved, no matter how you want to help. You’ll find the latest news affecting your food and water, insights from our staff experts to help you stay informed, stories to inspire you to take action, and toolkits to guide you in advocating on the issues you care most about. You’ll also have more ways than ever to take action online, or to connect with us in your community.

Take a look at www.foodandwaterwatch.org.

Would You Be Our Partner in 2016?

Our Food & Water Partners make small monthly donations that add up to a big impact on the issues we all care about. Nearly 3,000 of your fellow members have pledged to make regular donations of $10, $20 or even $50 a month to provide the reliable funding we need to take on powerful corporations that are working overtime to control our most essential resources — our food and water — and threatening our health, our families and even the future of life on the planet. Knowing that we can count on these monthly donations is critical to our ability to act quickly to respond to new threats (like the DARK Act or the TPP) and to fund our ongoing campaigns to ban fracking and ensure your right to know what is in your food and how it was produced.

There is a form enclosed with your newsletter that encourages you to make a special year-end gift. We hope you will consider making that gift a monthly one, so that we know you stand with us every day, not just at the end of the year. While we will never match the budgets of Big Oil & Gas, or Big Ag, we know that when we take action together, we can win what we need: a democracy that works for people and the healthy food and clean drinking water that we all depend on to live and thrive.

Become a Food & Water Partner today. It’s easy: you can join via EFT (electronic funds transfer), credit card, and now, by check. Whatever method is best for you, we hope you will consider becoming a Food & Water Partner. You can sign up using this envelope, online at www.foodandwaterwatch.org/donate, or by contacting Alex Patton at apatton@fwwatch.org or by phone at 202-683-2535. Thank you for being a Partner with Food & Water Watch!

As World Focuses on Climate Change, Move to Ban Fracking Grows (continued from page 1)

delivered to world leaders — and state and local officials — who are going to Paris with actions during the month of November. The letter has been signed by over 1,200 organizations from 64 countries.

During the Paris talks, Food & Water Watch staff will be on the ground, coordinating with allies in the United States and Europe to organize official side events, demonstrations and an all-day anti-fracking forum. We also will be pressuring some of our top U.S. political targets like Governor Jerry Brown, who will be in Paris for the talks.

Most importantly, we will use the time before Paris, and organizing during the conference, to strengthen the global movement to ban fracking, get off fossil fuels and move to a clean energy economy — and we will coordinate with our partners on ramping up campaigns here in the United States, as we move into a critical year for politics and our climate.
Meat Industry Lawyers Deposed Me for Talking to the Media About Pink Slime
Patty Lovera, Assistant Director

As an advocate, I’ve seen corporations go to some pretty ridiculous lengths to defend their bottom lines, but the recent actions of Beef Products Inc. (BPI) takes it to a whole new level. BPI produces lean finely textured beef, otherwise widely known as “pink slime.” It made major headlines in 2012 when several news outlets, including ABC News, got wind that this ingredient could be found in many fast food hamburgers.

I appeared briefly on “ABC World News Tonight” during that time to speak about whether this controversial ingredient should be disclosed on labels. I routinely give interviews to the media about many of the issues we work on, and didn’t think twice about this particular appearance.

Two years later, the subpoena came. BPI is suing “ABC World News Tonight” and others associated with the story for defamation. The subpoena was handed down in July 2014, demanding that I hand over all communication I had with the network for an entire year. Their request was overly broad, and on the advice of Food & Water Watch’s legal counsel, I declined to turn anything over.

A few months ago, I received word that I was being deposed in the lawsuit, so in early October, I spent a day being bombarded with questions, mostly from BPI’s attorneys. While the lawsuit is obviously an attempt to gag ABC News for daring to air its report, it was pretty clear the company’s lawyers were set on making an impression on me, too.

This lawsuit has disturbing implications for the future of media coverage on vital food safety issues — ones that the public has a right to know about. We can only hope that the media stands firm and continues to report about food safety issues, even if it’s inconvenient for food companies’ profit margins. Regardless, Food & Water Watch will continue its part to expose food industry practices through any means we can.

Senate Expected to Take Up Monsanto’s “Dream Bill” Before Year-end

Food & Water Watch supporters have made more than 10,000 calls to Senate offices this fall, asking Senators to oppose Monsanto’s “Dream Bill”. In July, the House of Representatives passed a bill that prohibits states from labeling genetically engineered (GMO) foods, and that takes away local and state control over regulating the growing of GMO crops. We call it the Deny Americans the Right to Know, or DARK Act, because it would keep us in the dark about whether the foods we buy contain GMOs, which are untested and potentially unsafe for people and the environment.

As of early November, a large coalition of non-profits, organic producers, farmers and eaters has been able to keep the bill from being introduced in the Senate, but the Big Food corporations are ramping up their lobbying, and the Senate held a hearing in late October that largely focused on the benefits of GMOs. This harmful legislation could be introduced at any time. Find out the latest and take action by going to foodandwaterwatch.org.
Historic 28-year Prison Sentence to Peanut Exec on Salmonella Case

In 2008, salmonella-tainted peanuts distributed by the Peanut Corporation of America killed 9 people and sickened over 700 others. Now, Stewart Parnell, the executive in charge of the former company at the time, is effectively facing life in prison for knowingly distributing tainted food.

It shouldn’t have come to this. Our government should have the authority, funding and regulatory teeth to make sure that not one more person dies of salmonella. We can’t rely on corporations to self-regulate our food safety problems. That’s why Food & Water Watch is working to strengthen our food safety laws, limit unsafe imports and oppose trade deals that could make it all worse.

Go to foodandwaterwatch.org to learn more about our work to protect the safety of the food we eat.
Five Reasons to Support Our Work in 2016

We accomplished a tremendous amount in 2015, but we’re just getting started. We’ve got big plans for 2016 and we’re excited to share them. Coming next year, we will:

**Ramp up our clean energy campaign:** We will intensify campaigns to ban or place moratoriums on fracking in key cities and counties including Denver, Monterey and Santa Barbara and to protect local control against the oil and gas industry. We’ll also expand our work to build strong state-based coalitions in California, Colorado, Florida, Pennsylvania and beyond. We’ll be launching a new national effort to stop pipelines and releasing a roadmap to a publicly driven 100% clean energy future.

**Make fracking a national political issue:** With our allies, we will organize a major march and rally in Philadelphia in the lead-up to the Democratic National Convention, placing the issue of fracking and clean energy at the center of the national political debate. We’ll also support organizing around the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

**Stop the TPP dead in its tracks:** The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a corporate-driven trade deal that threatens our nation’s environmental and health and safety laws. It gives huge corporations the right to challenge food labeling, fracking bans and many other protective measures. We’ll rally activists and concerned people everywhere to defeat this terrible deal once and for all.

**Stop Nestlé and other water privatizers:** We’ll defeat Nestlé’s efforts to bottle Oregon water by passing a ballot measure in Hood River County in March 2016. We’ll continue our work across the country to stop privatization of our nation’s water supplies and to ensure people’s access to clean, affordable drinking water.

**Label GMOs in New York, New England and beyond:** We’ll take on Monsanto and the junk food industry’s DARK Act that would prevent GMO labeling, and ramp up our efforts to pass labeling measures in New York and across New England.
Food & Water Watch 10th Anniversary

Top 10 Victories

In just ten years, Food & Water Watch has grown into your powerful advocate for healthy food and clean water for all. Thanks to you and our nearly one million supporters, we have won some incredible victories that show the power of people can overcome even the most powerful corporations. Together with allies, activists and grassroots partners, we are demanding that our democracy work to improve people’s lives and protect the environment. There is no more important fight for today and for the future of life on the planet!

**Banned Fracking in New York** – Thanks to Food & Water Watch and our allies in New Yorkers Against Fracking, after years of public education and grassroots organizing with hundreds of local groups and thousands of concerned residents, Governor Cuomo announced a ban on fracking in New York State in 2014. We also just won a campaign with allies in 2015 that achieved a multi-year moratorium on fracking in Maryland.

**Got Toxic Arsenic out of the Meat We Eat** – We helped pass a bill in Maryland to ban the use of arsenic in chicken feed in 2012. The pressure from Food & Water Watch supporters and our allies continued, and we convinced the FDA to end the use of arsenic drugs nationally in 2015.

**Sparked the National Movement to Ban Fracking** – In 2011, Food & Water Watch became the first national organization to call for a ban on fracking. We were a founding member of Americans Against Fracking, which now includes over 400 local, state and national organizations. We also helped form state coalitions in California, Colorado and Pennsylvania, and are organizing to stop fossil fuel infrastructure projects (pipelines, export terminals, etc.) across the country. The grassroots movement has so far passed over 475 measures against fracking.

**Passed First-Ever GMO Labeling Laws in Connecticut, Maine and Vermont** – We campaigned successfully with allies to pass the first laws in the country to require labeling of genetically engineered ingredients, and we have supported ongoing efforts in more than 20 states to require GMO labeling.
Kept Drinking Water Under Public Control – Food & Water Watch has worked with community members to stop attempts by private water companies to privatize local water systems across the country, including in Akron, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Trenton, New Jersey; Fort Worth, Texas; and many more.

Blocked Approval for GMO Salmon – For more than five years, we have worked with allies to prevent the FDA from approving GMO Salmon — the first GMO animal that could be approved for use in our food.

Reduced the Use of Bottled Water – We exposed the environmental, health and equity problems with the bottled water industry sparking a national movement against its use and have worked with concerned residents and community organizations from coast to coast to stop Nestlé from bottling local water supplies. Through our Take Back the Tap campaign at 50 colleges, we are training the next generation of activists to keep our water clean and available for all and eliminating the use of bottled water on college campuses.

Kept Your Food Safer – We prevented Big Ag from weakening key meat inspection rules that are critical to keeping our food safe. After years of work, we helped to pass a bill to require country of origin labels on meat and produce to give consumers important information about their food and continue to protect the law in the courts and Congress.

Worked to Improve the Food Safety and Modernization Act in 2010 – Food & Water Watch and our allies worked to keep our food safe and protect small farmers in the first overhaul of our food safety regime in decades. We successfully fought for common sense exemptions for small farms from rules designed for industrial size farms.

Organized to Get the UN to Declare Water a Human Right – Food & Water Watch worked with global allies to pass a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 2010 recognizing the human right to water and sanitation.
Giving at Work to Champion Healthy Food and Clean Water

It’s the time of year when many people are choosing which organizations to support through their workplace giving campaigns. If you’re a federal employee, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world, and is a great opportunity for you to make a difference in supporting our critical campaigns to stop fracking and protect people’s access to safe food and clean drinking water.

Simply designate Food & Water Watch for your Combined Federal Campaign contribution during the next campaign. Look for CFC number: 17460.

If you’re not a federal employee, but your workplace also has a giving campaign (typically done through United Way), we hope you will consider designating Food & Water Watch (through Earthshare) for your workplace gifts in 2016!