



The Go-Back Club


Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: #27, January 2016

These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

Our members live in 20 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces, Korea and Nigeria.

Canada Shocks COP21 with **BIG** New Climate Goal

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

By Mychaylo Prystupa 
NationalObserver.com: December 7, 2015

Sunday night, Canada surprised a world of nations and negotiators in closed-door climate talks in Paris by endorsing a bolder, more ambitious target for cutting greenhouse gases than the UN climate change summit is officially aiming for.

Canada's Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna told a stunned crowd that she wants the Paris agreement to restrict planetary warming to just 1.5 Celsius warming—not two degrees. It was the first time she has made such a statement.

In the room was former CBC meteorologist Claire Martin, a Green Party observer at the talks. "I was freaking out," she said. "I was writing it all down like a nut."

Reading from her notes, Martin reported the minister's remarks like so, "We want to send a strong political signal. The necessity, that she sees, is one in which we transition sustainably."

"But she was quite clear—I support the goals of 1.5"—and echoed the comments of another party about human rights and indigenous peoples. Canada supports legally-binding provisions and we are committed to following through."

"She wants a five-year review and it must be 'ambitious' and 'accountable.'"

"Adaptation is 'incredibly important' and she has full support for the ambitious nature of this agreement," Martin added, about the minister's remarks.

McKenna's Office Confirms It

Minister McKenna's spokesperson confirmed Monday that she supports "including reference in the Paris Agreement to the recognition of the need to striving to limit global warming to 1.5, as other parties have said. Canada wants an agreement that is ambitious and that is signed by the greatest number of countries possible."



Photo by Mychaylo Prystupa
Canada's Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna in Paris last week.

And crucially, "The most important thing is that each country should be legally required to submit a target. And to report on progress on that target on a regular basis."

This is not the same as legally binding countries to reach their target, as many reports have noted. Countries' targets will still be outside the agreement. But McKenna's office added, "There should also be a legally-binding requirement in the agreement that countries improve their targets regularly."

"I am over the moon."

Green leader Elizabeth May said, "I am over the moon. It's fantastic news! It creates a very ambitious trajectory for reduction of emissions but it's what's required. If we're going to keep low-lying island states from going under water, that's what's required. If we want to have a reasonable prospect of not having the Greenland ice sheet create a five- to eight-meter sea level rise (16- to 26-foot), it's what's required. It's a safer zone than two [degrees], which represents a lot of irreparable, irreversible damage to large parts of the world. So 1.5 is good."

The moves come just one week after Prime Minister Trudeau promised the world in his speech to the UN climate gathering that cli-

mate change would be a "top priority" for Ottawa.

But this latest statement about aiming for 1.5 Celsius has environmentalists—who haven't been in the habit of congratulating their federal government after nine years of Harper rule—rushing to issue 'Happy-With-Canada' press releases.

"This is an incredibly promising signal that Canada really is ready to lead when it comes to ambition and securing a strong global climate deal. Now Canada has a chance to leverage this leadership across key pieces of this agreement and this is what we hope to see over the coming days," said Steven Guilbeault of Montreal's Équiterre* in Paris.

Likewise, Karen Mahon, of ForestEthics,** said, "Action and a strong deal in Paris will help Canada as it returns home and works closely with provinces to develop a plan that puts Paris promises into action. Canada is redefining itself in Paris but it will need to take its leadership home to prove that they really are back."

Dale Marshall, of Environmental Defence,** added Canada would confirm its climate leadership if it put in a "credible financing package" for a developing-country Loss and Damage Fund and continued work to get an ambitious mechanism that allows reviews of targets and financing before 2020.

Trudeau: 'No time to waste'

It remains to be seen if the world's nations agree to Canada's urging to cap dangerous global warming at 1.5 C.

But praises for Canada come on top of heaps of laudings from Canadian First Nations leaders for backing the inclusion of Indigenous rights in the climate treaty process, too. It's a move opposed by the European Union and United States over fears it could leave them liable for climate damages.

Prime Minister Trudeau said last week in Paris, "Indigenous people have known for thousands of years about how to care of our planet. The rest of us have a lot to learn and no time to waste."

A video of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

New Goal continued on page 8

Fundraising for Milk Basket Visit to USA

By Iona

The Go-Back Club is trying to raise money so that Ekwe Chiwundu Charles can come to America from Nigeria to network with people here about ways to help starving African children, starting in the highly-polluted area of the Niger Delta, where he served for one year as a volunteer after he graduated from college with a BS degree in Food Science and Technology. The project is called the Milk Basket and the goal is to provide canned milk and clean drinking water to these children. As time goes by, he also hopes to build libraries so that the young people can be educated and rise out of poverty.

We have published several articles by Ekwe and about a year ago he invited us to partner with him to help achieve his dream. Perhaps you've read some of his material but, if you haven't, here's a summary.

Background

"Acute malnutrition is reported to kill no fewer than 500,000 Nigerian children under the age of five annually, out of over a million of them that suffer the condition every year. This was disclosed by the Deputy Director and Head of Nutrition Division of the Federal Ministry on Health at the 31st National Scientific Conference organized by the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria. Over the last decade, it has risen from 11% to 18% in 2013. You will agree with me that we are indeed faced with a national challenge. This is worsened by the fact that nearly four out of five Nigerian children do not meet the WHO



Ekwe Chiwundu Charles
Founder of the Milk Basket NGO

recommendation for exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life.

"I am currently working on an NGO called Milk Basket here. We will donate milk to malnourished children all over Nigeria especially in the interior river-rine areas of Nigeria. Our motto is "Donate a tin of milk to a malnourished child in Africa today."

Proposed Itinerary

Both Ekwe and I have applied for scholarships to attend an Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. from February 28 to March 1. We will also visit Action Africa in Washington and The Hunger Project in New York City. Since Ekwe has a small farm and wants to use his knowledge of agriculture and nutrition to further his goals, we will visit Genesis Farm in New Jersey where they have a successful Community Supported Agriculture program with over

300 subscribers. We are currently investigating low-cost seminars through the Penn State Extension Service close to our home. Soon I will be arranging fund-raising events at churches our Grassroots Coalition has worked with in the past.

How Donations Will be Used

First, Ekwe needs to raise money for his flight. Once here, I will be driving him wherever he needs to go; therefore, we will need gas money. He wants to prepare a Power Point program to show when he gets here but lacks the funds for traveling to the Niger Delta area. Although he works full time, he only earns \$70 a month and sometimes doesn't even get paid. Hospitality here has been offered so lodging costs will be minimal. Some of the conferences and seminars that will further the goals of the Milk Basket have fees and we will need funding to attend those. I hope to learn as much as I can during this visit so that The Go-Back Club will be an effective partner. It's going to be a busy couple of weeks but we both hope that this effort will help launch the project with serious backing from our friends in America.

How to Make Your Donation

I recently opened a bank account to receive gifts for the Milk Basket. You may make a check or money order out to Milk Basket and mail it to me at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

Thank you for opening your hearts during this busy holiday season.

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club? A Simple-Living Brigade.

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.



Fair Use Logo

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What is The Go-Back Club about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual im-

pacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to www.gobackclub.org to see what we do.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), to John and Iona Conner about climate tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

Please send us your stories and photos. We rely on our members' contributions.

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Photos by Ekwe Chiwundu Charles

Here are pictures of some of our charity activities during my service year.

Top left: Zenox leased out 10 pieces of small green laptops to the Charity group to help enlighten kids and show them the very importance of going to school. The laptops were returned afterwards.

Top right: We donated 30 pieces of sandals to children who go to school on bare foot. There are still more kids who still don't own sandals.

Middle left: Kids cutting cassava instead of going to school.

Middle right: A child bathing in the very dirty water very close to my house.

Bottom left: I was going to teach under the rain and took the picture of the people running in front of me.

I think that's all I have from my service. I lost my phone afterwards and don't have the rest of our activities on this phone.

Congress Moves to Sabotage Paris Climate Summit

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

By Elizabeth Kolbert 
The New Yorker: December 4, 2015

Don't trust the United States: as the international climate summit in Paris grinds along, this is the message Republicans in Congress are trying to send the delegates. The logic, such as it is, of the claim is that, merely by making it, the House G.O.P. goes a long way toward proving its validity.

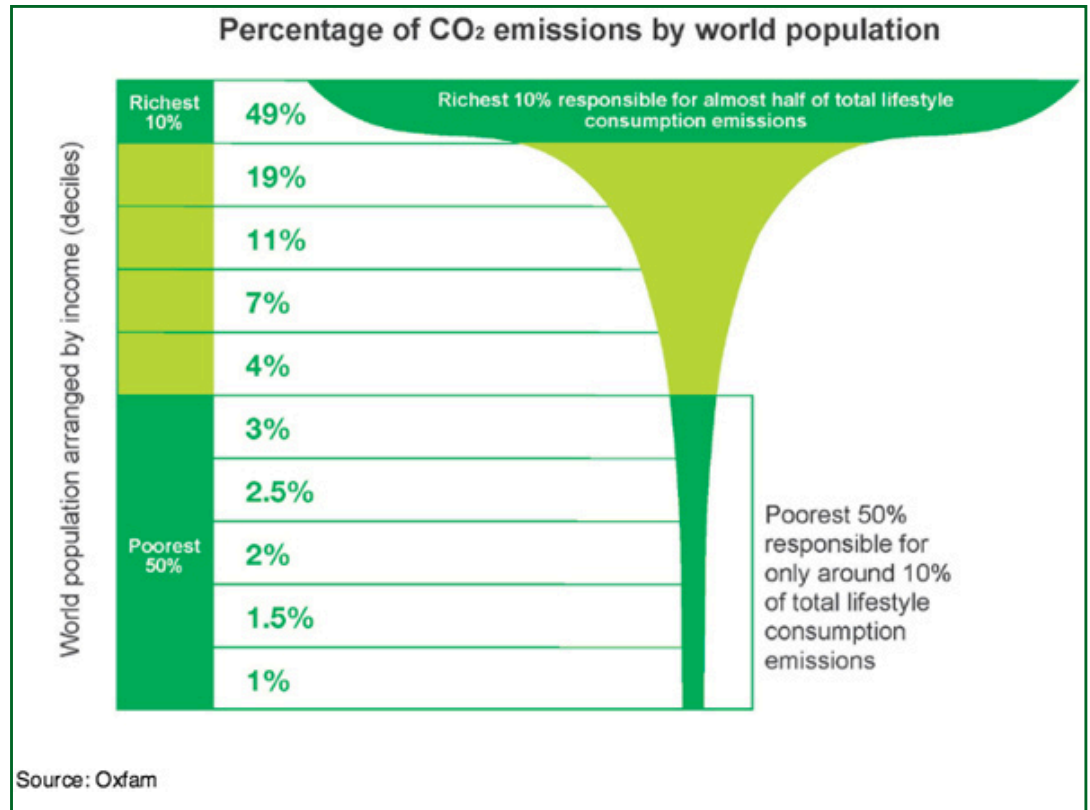
On Tuesday, at a news conference in Paris, President Barack Obama exhorted negotiators to keep in mind what is at stake at the summit. "This one trend—climate change—affects all trends," Obama said. "This is an economic and security imperative that we have to tackle now."

Even as he spoke, congressional Republicans were doing their best to undermine him. That same day, the House approved two resolutions aimed at blocking regulations to curb U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions. The first would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing rules aimed at cutting emissions from new power plants; the second would prevent the agency from enforcing rules targeted at existing power plants. Together, these rules are known as the Clean Power Plan and they are crucial to the Americans' negotiating position in Paris. (The Clean Power Plan is central to the United States' pledge, made in advance of the summit, to cut its emissions by 26 per cent.)

The House votes, which followed Senate approval of similar resolutions back in November, were, at least according to some members, explicitly aimed at subverting the talks. Lawmakers want to "send a message to the climate conference in Paris that in America, there's serious disagreement with the policies of this president," Ed Whitfield, a Kentucky Republican, explained.

As a practical matter, the importance of the votes is probably minimal. Obama has already threatened to veto the resolutions if they reach his desk and there isn't enough support for them for an override.

But the resolutions are not the only trick congressional Republicans have up their collective sleeves.



President Obama has pledged three billion dollars to what's known as the Green Climate Fund. The fund is intended to help developing countries cope with climate change and also to adopt clean-energy systems. In a just world, three billion dollars is far less than the U.S. should be contributing; Republicans are threatening to block even that contribution. Leaving the fund underfinanced increases the chance that poorer countries will walk away from any proposed accord.

Meanwhile, the impossibility of getting an agreement ratified by the U.S. Senate puts yet another constraint on negotiations. While many countries are pushing for a legally-binding treaty, the Obama Administration is insisting on a sort of legal chimera—partly binding, partly not—so that, if there is a pact, it won't require Senate approval. (The *Washington Post* has a good rundown on this particular problem.)

That Republicans would try to undercut the Administration's efforts to do something—anything—to reduce carbon emissions is no surprise. Willful ignorance about climate change has become a point of pride among elected officials in the G.O.P.

Recently, the Associated Press asked a panel of eight scientists to assess the accuracy of Presidential candidates' tweets

on climate change using a scale of zero to a hundred. (The tweets were shown to the scientists without the candidates' names, to guard against bias.) All nine of the Republican candidates graded got failing scores. Donald Trump, for instance, received a fifteen, while Ben Carson got a thirteen and Ted Cruz a six. "This individual understands less about science (and climate change) than the average kindergartner," Michael Mann, a climate scientist at Penn State University [and GBC board member], who served as one of the judges, wrote of Cruz's statements. "That sort of ignorance would be dangerous in a doorman, let alone a president."

But if the recent votes aren't surprising, they're still discouraging. They demonstrate, once again, the power of defeatist thinking. Congressional Republicans rail against the federal government; then, with their own antics, confirm their worst criticisms. (Who, nowadays, would make the case that Americans should have faith in Washington?)

The G.O.P. says that America can't be depended on to live up to its commitments and, by saying so, achieves its objective, which is sowing mistrust. The best that can be hoped for during the next week in Paris is that the rest of the world ignores the U.S.'s Republican leaders. Would that we had that luxury.

Robert Redford: We Have to Act on Climate Change Without U.S. Congress

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

By Vivienne Walt 
Time Magazine: December 6, 2015

Robert Redford, who turns 80 next year, has been an ardent environmentalist for most of his life ... He has fought against strip developers and coal companies, lobbied Congress, turned his Sundance Ranch in Utah into a place to plan action and, since 1975, has served as trustee for the New York-based organization, the Natural Resources Defense Council, on whose board Leonardo DiCaprio now also sits.

After decades of fighting for the cause, Redford feels new energy, sensing that environmental activism might finally have found its moment. In Paris, he appeared at a Conference of Mayors at City Hall and addressed a gathering of indigenous leaders at the U.N.'s cultural agency UNESCO.

In between, Redford sat down in his hotel with TIME's Vivienne Walt ...

Q: You were at Paris City Hall with mayors from around the world. Why such a big focus on mayors? Is it because things are so difficult in Congress that you need to focus on local politics?

A: Congress has become rather hopeless in terms of getting anything accomplished. Over the years I tried to put whatever voice I could on this but I went to the wrong place. I went to the Congress.

I lobbied in the Senate. I lobbied in the House [of Representatives]. And it wasn't going anywhere. I was ready to give up when I realized, wait a minute. How about mayors? Why don't we bring mayors to Sundance and have a conference?

So 10 years ago I invited mayors from all over the U.S. to come and discuss climate change ... But the game-changing moment belonged to the Pope. He put it above politics. He said, "This is not a political issue. It is a moral issue."

When he did that, that brought him very close to the people. He went to the people. He went above. At that moment he pushed the politicians aside and allowed the people

to have a direct link to some higher voice ...

Q: So are you saying you need to move on without Washington, rather than wait for a change in political sentiment in Washington?


A: You have to move on without it because if you wait for that you will die and they will still be talking. I guess the optimistic thing is that those people in Congress who are climate deniers, I think their time has run out.

From my experience in my country, America over and over again takes itself right to the brink, it puts one foot over but it never goes over. It wakes up at the last minute and says, "WHOA," and then pulls back because suddenly they get reasonable.

Q: In the political noise in the U.S. where does climate change rank? You have a lot of other issues obviously. But is climate change becoming one of those touchstone issues?

A: It has not been but I think it will be. People are finally able to look around and say, "I can see the drought; I can see the rising sea levels; I can see the crops dying. Okay, now I get it." It is finally beginning to sink in that there has been a lot of damage.

Wind and Solar Keep Getting Cheaper and Cheaper

By Chris Mooney, *excerpt* 
WashingtonPost.com via The Climate Mobilization
October 6, 2015

A new analysis suggests that we continue to move into a world in which it makes more economic sense to draw electricity from the sun or the winds, rather than from fossil fuels.

The report, from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, examined the "levelized cost of electricity" around the world in the second half of 2015—a metric that seeks to take a comprehensive look at costs including capital expenditures, interest rates and operating costs. It's an approach that is able to "put technologies on a level playing field and enable that comparison, which is valuable," says Seb Henbest, head of Europe, Middle East and Africa analysis for Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

The report was based on analysis of some 55,000 projects around the world, says Henbest. And it found that globally, onshore wind now on average costs \$83 per megawatt-hour of electricity (\$2 cheaper than in the first half of the year) and thin-film solar photovoltaics costs \$122 per megawatt-



Photo by Sean Gallup/Getty Images

A field of solar energy panels last month near Nauen, Germany. Germany has set ambitious goals for energy production from renewable sources. According to statistics released by the Fraunhofer Institute, solar, wind, water and biomass sources accounted for 34 percent of gross public electricity production in Germany by the first half of 2015.

hour—a drop of \$7 in just half a year. That presents an increasingly favorable comparison with fossil fuels—though it still depends greatly on where you are located. Coal-fired

electricity cost \$75 per megawatt-hour in the Americas but \$105 in Europe. Gas-fired generation cost \$82 in the Americas and \$118 in Europe, on average, the report found. ...

Our First Official Volunteer!!!!!!!!!!


Wire Editor Joins our Staff

Note from the Editor:

Allen Hengst of Washington, D.C. has been sending us electronic clippings of great articles for a long time now. You have probably seen his name over and over when he submits things to me. This month, he sent so many useful and important articles that I asked jokingly if he'd like to join our "staff." Well, he accepted the position of Wire Editor at zero salary. His salary matches the Editor/Publisher's so this is a fair company with no top-to-bottom wage differential.

Please join me in welcoming Allen to our staff with a round of applause and laughter if you like. It's OK—we are a fun-loving organization even though our mission is serious. Thank you, Allen! You have contributed greatly to the success of our newsbooklet and I'm sure I speak for our readers when I say we are looking forward to receiving more great news stories from you. Thank you for all the hard work you have done up to this point.

No really. This pencil grows into a tomato.

By Parija Kavilanz, *excerpt* 
CNNMoney via PositiveNews.US.org

What happens to a wooden pencil after you wear it down to a stub?
It gets tossed into the trash.

“There are 15 billion pencils made annually and three million of those just in the United States. That’s a lot of pencil stubs thrown away,” said Michael Stausholm, CEO of Sprout World.

Denmark-based Sprout World wants to shrink this waste. The startup makes plantable pencils that grow into vegetables, herbs or flowering plants once you’re done using them.

Stausholm said the pencils, made from cedar in Pine City, Minnesota, are the perfect sustainable product because, “One dying product is literally giving life to a new product.”

Where a typical eraser would be, these wooden pencils have a capsule made from biodegradable material that contains a small mixture of seeds and peat.

You plant the capsule in a pot of soil and use the stub end of the pencil as a marker. The capsule dissolves and the seeds grow into a plant.



Sprout World CEO Michael Stausholm.

The pencils come in 14 varieties (\$19.95 for a pack of eight), including tomato, lavender, basil, sunflower and green pepper.

The pencils were developed by three MIT students in 2012.

“At the time, I was living in Denmark and working a lot with sustainable companies,” he said. “But sustainability is hard to illustrate to consumers. I was searching for a product that could easily do that.”

A year later, he came across Sprout Pencils when it was a Kickstarter campaign.

“I loved the idea. It was a perfect way to

explain what sustainability is all about,” said Stausholm.

Stausholm partnered with the students and convinced them to let him sell the pencils in Denmark. “We sold 70,000 pencils in the spring of 2013. We realized there was definitely demand for them,” he said.

By 2014, the startup had sold a million pencils across Europe.

Later that year, Stausholm acquired the patents and rights to the brand and became Sprout World’s CEO.

He said Sprout World now sells an average of 450,000 pencils a month and has logged more than \$3 million in revenue.

These plantable pencils from Sprout World grow into herb, vegetable and flowering plants. The next step is to conquer the U.S. market.

Stausholm opened a small office in Boston in September to get momentum going. There are two employees there and 15 in Europe.

“America is a couple of years behind Europe in terms of embracing eco-friendliness,” he said. But he thinks it’s a perfect market for Sprout World pencils because its creators and manufacturers are U.S.-based.

In January, Sprout World will start selling plantable greeting cards with seeds embedded in them.

The pencils are sold on Amazon (AMZN, Tech30) and in Whole Foods (WFM) stores in the U.S.

Our First Ad!!!!!!!

Note from the Editor: Greenline is a great company. I've been ordering products from them for years and have always been happy with them. Please support GreenLine and tell your friends they, too, can help minimize their eco footprints. We welcome ads from other eco-friendly companies. Pay what you can. Every dollar counts! Thanks.



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Photo by Silji Lundberg

Frustrated by a ban on demonstrations during international climate talks, hundreds of protesters clashed with police Sunday in Paris' Place de la Republique. A major march through central Paris was called off because of the state of emergency declared after the deadly shooting and bombing attacks two weeks ago. Instead, thousands of people formed a human chain along the intended route and lined up shoes in the square to represent those who could not march.

New Goal continued from page 1

speaking to the UN COP21 climate summit last week in Paris produced by Zack Embree for the *National Observer* can be seen at <http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/12/07/news/canada-shocks-cop21-big-new-climate-commitment>.

*Equiterre helps build a social movement by encouraging individuals, organizations and governments to make ecological and equitable choices, in a spirit of solidarity. We see the everyday choices we all make—food, transportation, housing, gardening, shopping—as an opportunity to change the world, one step at a time. (web site)

**ForestEthics (sic) is a nonprofit environmental group committed to protecting North America's forests and the people and wildlife that depend on them. (web site)

***Environmental Defence has been working since 1984 to protect Canadians' environment and human health. "We are Canada's most effective environmental action organization. We challenge and inspire change in government, business and people to ensure a greener, healthier and prosperous life for all. Our vision is to create a world Canadians are proud to pass on to their children." (web site)



Photo by Mychaylo Prystupa

Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray and Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May at COP21 forum in Paris. May declared, "I am over the moon."


News Briefs Submitted by Our Members



Heart-wrenching aerial photography and crumbling homes and sea wall videos by The New York Times can be seen at http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/02/world/The-Marshall-Islands-Are-Disappearing.html?_r=0. If you don't know dire poverty, watch this!

Rising Seas Claiming a Vulnerable Nation

Submitted by Carole Baker, Pennsylvania

By Coral Davenport, *excerpt* 
The New York Times: December 2, 2015

EBEYE, Marshall Islands — Linber Anej waded out in low tide to haul concrete chunks and metal scraps to shore and rebuild the makeshift sea wall in front of his home. The temporary barrier is no match for the rising seas that regularly flood the shacks

and muddy streets with saltwater and raw sewage but, every day except Sunday, Mr. Anej joins a group of men and boys to haul the flotsam back into place.

“It’s insane, I know,” said Mr. Anej, 30, who lives with his family of 13, including his parents, siblings and children, in a four-room house. “But it’s the only option we’ve got.”

Standing near his house at the edge of a densely packed slum of tin shacks, he said, “I feel like we’re living underwater.”

Worlds away, in plush hotel conference rooms in Paris, London, New York and

Washington, Tony A. deBrum, the foreign minister of the Marshall Islands, tells the stories of men like Mr. Anej to convey to more powerful policy makers the peril facing his island nation in the Pacific as sea levels rise—and to shape the legal and financial terms of a major United Nations climate change accord now being negotiated in Paris.

Mr. deBrum’s focus is squarely on the West’s wallets—recouping Loss and Damage, in negotiators’ parlance, for the destruction wrought by the rich nations’ industrial might on the global environment. Many other low-lying nations are just as threatened by rising seas. In Bangladesh, some 17 percent of the land could be inundated by 2050, displacing about 18 million people.

But the Marshall Islands holds an important card: Under a 1986 compact, the roughly 70,000 residents of the Marshalls, because of their long military ties to Washington, are free to emigrate to the United States, a pass that will become more enticing as the water rises on the islands’ shores.

The debate over Loss and Damage has been intense because the final language of the Paris accord could require developed countries, first and foremost the United States, to give billions of dollars to vulnerable countries like the Marshall Islands. Senior Republicans in Congress are already preparing for a fight, they say, on behalf of the American taxpayer.

“Our constituents are worried that the pledges you are committing the United States to will strengthen foreign economies at the expense of American workers,” 37 Republican senators wrote last month. They are also skeptical about sending billions of their hard-earned dollars to government officials from developing nations.

Mr. deBrum is undeterred.

“It does not make sense for us to go to Paris and come back with something that says, ‘In a few years’ time, your country is going to be underwater,’” Mr. deBrum said in an interview at his seaside home in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands. “We see the damage occurring now. We’re trying to beat back the sea.” ...

Retirement is not a time to sleep but a time to awaken to the beauty of the world around you and the joy that comes when you cast out all the negative elements that cause confusion and turmoil and allow serenity to prevail.

- Howard Salzman -

Capitalism vs. the Climate

Submitted by Carole Baker, Pennsylvania

Naomi Klein on why only a mass movement can save us from ourselves

Interview by Sam Mowe, *excerpt*
Tricycle: Fall 2015

The author of two previous bestsellers, The Shock Doctrine and No Logo, Klein recently spoke with Tricycle contributing editor Sam Mowe about climate change as a narrative crisis, the importance of connecting different social movements and how she maintains a sense of possibility and purpose while facing overwhelming challenges in her new book, This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate.

...What are the broad outlines of the future as you imagine it?

What excites me is that our response to climate change could be one that systematically attempts to heal the wounds of colonialism and slavery, to close the gaps of inequality that scar our world. A lot of environmentalists hear that and say, “Wow, you’re really making this a lot harder than it was already.”

My counterresponse to that is, “Well, we have had two and a half decades of treating this like it’s a technocratic problem, that it’s just about proving that solar energy is viable and getting the right agreement at the UN. And that hasn’t worked.”

The reason why it hasn’t worked is that responding to climate change is expensive and it requires that some of the most powerful and wealthiest interests in our society become less powerful and less wealthy. What I’m trying to outline in the book is not just a moral response to climate change. It’s also a political strategy to build a movement powerful and fired-up enough to take on those vested interests.

To be concrete, I think that the communities that have been the sacrifice zones of yesterday—whether it’s indigenous reservations or the poorest neighborhoods in the United States that have the dirtiest power plants and the highest asthma rates—are the places that should own and control a great deal of the generation of renewable energy. The jobs should go first to the people who live there. And those

jobs should pay a living wage. When we think about the types of policies we want to champion, we should be championing things like cheap or even free public transit because those types of policies help the poorest people in the United States. That way you are fighting climate change, inequality and racism all at once.

We live in a time of overlapping crises and we need to connect the dots because we don’t have time to solve each crisis sequentially. We need a movement that addresses all of them, one that brings hope and the possibility of a better future. That’s why we have to bring services and dignified jobs to the most neglected areas. We see climate action as something that only takes away from people. Instead we need to lay out a vision for the future that people will fight for, because it’s better than what they have right now.

Won’t we also need to make certain sacrifices?

There are people—including me—who are going to have less. They will fly less and consume less and have smaller homes. But there will be so many more people who will have a tangibly better life and they will be willing to fight for that future. That’s what climate justice means. If we aren’t able to connect climate action to the bread-and-butter issues—we need jobs, we need resources, we need better services, we need to believe that there’s a future for our kids—then we will be outgunned by the fossil fuel industry again and again and again as we have been for decades.

Sorry for the military metaphor. No guns.

Do you think we sometimes overemphasize what we can accomplish with our individual consumer choices and sacrifices? Should we focus on the bigger picture?

What powerful forces fear most is not what we do as individuals, like changing our lightbulbs or going vegan. They fear what we do when we act together as organized and mobilized groups. As groups we can go after the legitimacy of their profits. This is what the student-led fossil fuel divestment movement is doing and it has these companies pretty panicked. They care when we come together to block their pipelines. They care when we demand that our governments build the infrastructure that will get us to 100 percent renewable

energy.

This is not to say that we should lead wasteful lives and burn as much carbon as possible. Lifestyle changes are part of the solution and will ultimately make us healthier and happier. But we shouldn’t confuse that scale of action with the deep structural changes that are required to lower our emissions in line with climate science.

What do you think about writers who describe a kind of wisdom in letting go of our human urge to control?

Right, and we can watch the scenery on the way down. Frankly, I think that is a morally reprehensible position.

Of course, there are parts of it that appeal to me as well but then I remember that in most parts of the world people are fighting for their lives. They don’t have the option to just decide to give up. That stance of letting it all go betrays a position of such extraordinary privilege.

There’s a sense of kinship around the discourse that sees humans as the God species—we can fix it all with GMOs and nuclear and geoengineering—and the discourse that sees humans as a cancer on the Earth—everything would be fine if we were gone, so let’s just celebrate our annihilation.

Both of these put humans at the center of the story. And in a weird way, they’re flip sides of the same coin. Neither of them embraces the idea that humans actually are nature. Both of these are stories of apartness.

Some of that “we’re a cancer” stuff resonates with me. I go back and forth between being hopeful and hopeless, and between feeling really motivated and feeling like it’s too late.

Yeah. I find that this strain of “it’s too late” and “there’s sort of a beauty in surrender” is getting stronger. A lot of people I respect, who are wonderful writers, are going down that path. Roy Scranton, for example, wrote *Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene*, which connects Buddhist theory with the idea that it’s too late. But the scientists I trust the most don’t think it’s too late; it’s just really, really hard.

That’s why I am not without hope, although I’ll point out that that’s different than saying “I am hopeful.” A few weeks ago I was at a conference in Oakland that

Naomi Klein *continued on next page*



Jury Finds Blankenship Guilty of Conspiring to Violate Mine Safety Rules

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C. FU logo

By Ken Ward Jr., *excerpt* ©
Charleston Gazette-Mail: December 3, 2015

Former Massey Energy Co. chief executive Don Blankenship, once one of the most powerful men in the region's coal industry, was convicted Thursday by a federal jury of conspiring to violate mine safety and health standards at Massey's Upper Big Branch Mine, where 29 miners died in an April 2010 explosion.

The federal jury found Blankenship not guilty of two other charges, securities fraud and making false statements, after a landmark, two-month trial that revisited the worst U.S. coal-mining disaster in a generation and closely examined the longstanding argument from Blankenship's critics that he put coal production and corporate profits

ahead of the safety of his company's miners.

Blankenship faces a maximum of one year in prison—compared to the 30-year maximum sentence had he been convicted on all three charges—but he also could be sentenced to pay fines of up to twice the financial gain resulting from the mine-safety conspiracy.

"The jury's verdict sends a clear and powerful message," U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin said. "It doesn't matter how rich you are, or how powerful you are—if you gamble with the safety of the people who work for you, you will be held accountable" ... The verdict came after jurors had twice reported to Berger—once on November 19 and again on Tuesday—that they could not agree to a unanimous verdict. Over defense objections and repeated demands for a mistrial because of the deadlock, [U.S. District Judge Irene] Berger encouraged jurors to continue their work, issuing an instruction that they

needed to "re-examine" their positions and be willing to change their minds if convinced they should do so.

Late Thursday morning ... as word spread that a verdict announcement was coming, family members of the Upper Big Branch miners—seated in the front row, as they had been throughout the trial—began to sob and kept crying until after the verdict was read ... During the trial, more than a dozen former Upper Big Branch miners testified about working day after day with inadequate fresh air, high levels of dust and other problems and still being ordered to keep "running coal."

Prosecutors introduced evidence that Massey—and the Upper Big Branch Mine in particular—racked up far more serious safety and health violations than other mines operated by other major coal producers. ...

Source: <http://www.wvgazettemail.com/article/20151203/GZ15/151209810>

Naomi Klein *from previous page*

was convened by the Berkeley School of Law professor John A. Powell (sic), called "Othering and Belonging." Professor Powell (sic) says he considers himself not as an optimist or a pessimist but as a "possibilist." It is still possible for us to prevent catastrophic climate change and it is possible for us to build a movement that could do so. So long as that is possible, then we have a moral responsibility to work toward enlarging that sense of possibility. And it's unacceptable to give up in the face of that still outstanding possibility because the stakes are too high.

That's the way I feel. I don't feel optimistic, but I'm a possibilist.

How are you able to maintain this sense of possibility and purpose when your vision seems very unlikely to happen?

As I've been saying, it's in connecting this movement to other movements. That's

what gives me hope because I think that if this is just about the people who already define themselves as environmentalists and spiritually-ecologically enlightened, then we're cooked. We know we're not a powerful enough movement to do this on our own.

I think part of the reason why we feel so hopeless is that we are so separate. But let's look at what's happening in social movements in the United States. You've got a whole new civil rights movement of young people that is profoundly morally based, saying, "Black lives matter." There's also an explosion of organizing around the demand for a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, as well as growing movements calling to get money out of politics and end corporate personhood. And then you have the student divestment movement, which has taken off in ways that we never could have anticipated, and all these anti-extraction battles and so on, the anti-fracking move-

ment winning massive victories, like the one in New York State.

This is why we need a lens that brings us together, because if we do that, we won't feel hopeless. We are so segmented into our little issue silos, so we feel powerless because we are powerless when we're separate. But if we can find the courage to come together despite the incredible difficulties of building those sorts of coalitions, we might actually win something.

Sam Mowe is a Tricycle contributing editor. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

"Capitalism vs. the Climate" by Naomi Klein, originally published in the Fall 2015 issue of Tricycle: The Buddhist Review, vol. XXV, no. 1. www.tricycle.com. Complete interview at [tricycle.com](http://www.tricycle.com/interview/capitalism-vs-climate) at <http://www.tricycle.com/interview/capitalism-vs-climate>. 2015 Tricycle Magazine. Reprinted with permission.



Photo from The Trust for Public Land/Brendan Moriarty

A California landowner is returning his family farm to a neighboring Native American tribe (that was forced inland, away from their breathtaking coastline, 150 years ago) with help from Sonoma County, foundations, local groups and The Trust for Public Land. The Tribe will manage the land as protected open space and a demonstration forest for educating and engaging the public about the history and practices of native people in the area.

Farmer Returns 700 Acres of California Coast to Native American Tribe

Good News Network
via PositiveNewsUS.org: October 27, 2015

A California landowner is returning his family farm to a neighboring Native American tribe that was forced inland, away from their breathtaking coastline, 150 years ago.

The small, water-poor reservation that became home for the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians has become 18-times larger and, for the first time in more than a century, will reach to the Pacific coast where they and their ancestors once hunted, fished and roamed free.

Bill Richardson's family bought the 688-acre property, which features dense redwood forest, towering coastal bluffs and waterfalls along the Pacific Coast Highway, in 1925.

Last week, after five years of fundraising by the Sonoma County government, The Trust for Public Land, private foundations

and groups, the newly established Kashia Coastal Reserve restores ownership of the land to the tribe.

Sonoma County contributed two million dollars for the project, while another six million was raised by the coalition of groups seeking to buy the property for the Kashia. In exchange, the California Coastal Trail will extend north for one mile across their land, giving the public access to a cliff walk overlooking this dramatic stretch of coastline.

The Tribe will manage the land as protected open space, and a demonstration forest for educating and engaging the public about the history and practices of native people in the area.

The Pomo Indians will get to start using the land immediately, while Richardson will get to live out his days on the mile-long stretch of property—and be buried on a hillside when he passes on.

Film: Here and Now — Kashia Coastal Reserve from Bay Area Open Space Council

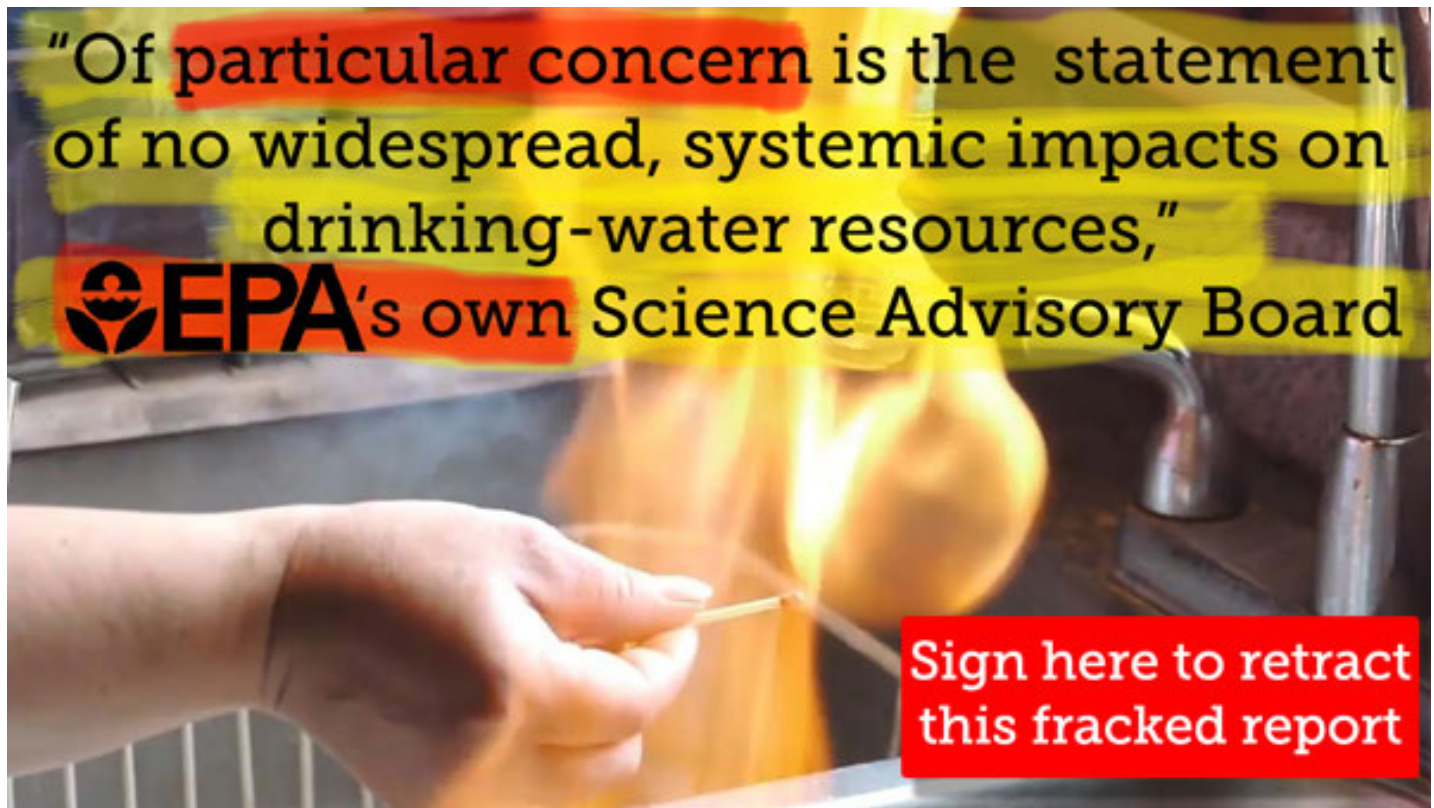
The film weaves together social justice, land conservation, human history and scientific knowledge into a cohesive and moving story about what's possible by working together.

"We're the original keepers of this land ... You look up there and see bracken ferns, things for baskets—our grocery store's up there—the berries that we pick; our pharmacy's on that hillside there—all the different things we use to heal and stay healthy," says one member of the tribe as he walks through the forest in the film.

Watch the short film at: vimeo.com/139467688.

More info: bit.ly/hereandnowfilm

Contact: Annie Burke, annie@openspacecouncil.org



Email received from Environmental Action
November 28, 2015

Note from Editor: *I tried calling to see if this action was still appropriate but couldn't get through to anyone; however, the information is important.*

A panel of EPA scientists said there was no basis for the agency's earlier claim that fracking doesn't cause 'widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water.' Sign now to tell EPA to listen to the science, its own people and retract the fracked up report.

This could be big. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) panel of independent scientific advisers just called B.S. on the study issued last summer that downplayed the risks of fracking to our drinking water.

We've been calling on EPA administrator Gina McCarthy to retract that study for months and, with a major hearing next week of this panel, known as the Science Advisory Board (SAB), now is the perfect time to turn up the heat.¹

The SAB particularly criticized the flawed headline of that report, that fracking is unlikely to lead "to widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water resources in the United States." Frackers and their allies have been using that misleading claim from this one report to declare fracking is 'safe' and label all of us fighting to keep fossil fuels in the ground and protect public health as 'alarmists.'²

The SAB's findings carry special weight because its members come from academia, industry and federal agencies, as opposed to just industry scientist and self reporting the report mostly relied on.³ And their job is to evaluate whether the science done by EPA is up to snuff.

In this case they found that EPA's cheer-leading for the fracking industry was inconsistent, "with the observations/data presented in the body of the report."⁴

The SAB has already said, "Neither the system of interest nor the definitions of widespread, systemic or impact are clear and it is not clear how this statement reflects the uncertainties and data limitations described in the Report's chapters." Next week, they're holding a live, telecast hearing for four hours to review public comments and independent analysis.⁵

This is our chance to strike at the heart of the EPA's flawed report and hold the frackers responsible once and for all.

To help fight back using science and public opinion to show that fracking is a seriously dirty drilling practice to get at a mostly-dirty fuel, sign the petition at https://environmental-action.webaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=11588&utm_campaign=EPA_SAB&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email_15380&track=email_15380.

Please sign our petition today.
Drew and the fracking truth crew at Environmental Action

Here's what the petition says:

Administrator McCarthy:

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. But your latest report on how hydraulic fracturing (fracking) impacts drinking water fails at that mission. The report relies heavily on data from the oil and gas industry, which calls the integrity of the data into question. Furthermore, your conclusion that fracking has no "widespread impact" on water resources is false and indefensible.

I urge you to retract this report and release a new one that reflects the true impacts of fracking.

Footnotes:

- 1 - Neela Banerjee, EPA Finding on Fracking's Water Pollution Disputed by Its Own Scientists, INSIDECLIMATENEWS, November 19, 2015.
- 2 - Everett Rosenfeld, EPQ says no evidence that fracking has 'widespread' impact on drinking water, CNBC, June 4, 2015
- 3 - EPA. Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
- 4 - EPA Science Advisory Board, Preliminary Summary Responses to Charge Questions from Members of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel, U.S. EPA, October 30, 2015
- 5 - Public Teleconference of the Science Advisory Board Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel, December 3, 2015; 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Gambia Bans Female Genital Mutilation

President Yahya Jammeh outlaws practice that affects three-quarters of women in west African country.

By Kate Lyons 
theguardian.com via PositiveNewsUS.org
December 1, 2015

The Gambia has announced it will ban female genital mutilation (FGM) after the *Guardian* launched a global campaign to end the practice.

The president, Yahya Jammeh, said last night that the controversial surgical intervention would be outlawed. He said the ban would come into effect immediately, though it was not clear when the government would draft legislation to enforce it.

FGM involves cutting female genitalia—often when girls are young—to remove their labia and clitoris, which often leads to lifelong health complications, including bleeding, infections, vaginal pain and infertility. More than 130 million women worldwide are subjected to the procedure in Africa and the Middle East.

The practice is widespread in many African countries, including The Gambia, where 76% of females have been subjected to it. The age at which FGM takes place in the Gambia is not recorded but it is reported that the trend of practicing FGM on infant girls is increasing. By the age of 14, 56% of female children in the country have had the procedure.



Photo Seyllou/AFP/Getty Images

Yahya Jammeh said the ban on female genital mutilation would come into effect immediately

Highlights of the *Guardian's* Global Media Campaign to Help end FGM

Jaha Dukureh, an anti-FGM activist whose campaign to end the practice in the country has been supported by the *Guardian*, spent the past week meeting cabinet ministers in The Gambia and sent them articles from the newspaper to inform them about the issue.

"I'm really amazed that the president did this. I didn't expect this in a million years. I'm just really proud of my country and I'm really, really happy," she told the *Guardian*. "I think the president cared about the issue, it was just something that was never brought to his attention.

Jammeh's announcement came late last night as the president was visiting his home village on Kanilai as part of a nationwide

tour. The announcement was unexpected for both campaigners and the public.

Our children need to know about FGM.

Letters: We made genuine advances to tackle and begin to end this harmful practice but the Tories refused to make teaching about FGM mandatory.

"The amazing thing is it's election season. This could cost the president the election. He put women and girls first, this could negatively affect him but this shows he cares more about women than losing people's votes," said Dukureh.

Dukureh will return to The Gambia on Tuesday to thank Jammeh for the ban and to help with drafting the legislation that will enforce it.

A ban on FGM would be a significant development on an issue that has proved controversial and divisive in The Gambia, with some arguing that FGM is permitted in Islam, the major religion in the country.

Senior Muslim clerics in The Gambia have previously denied the existence of FGM in The Gambia saying instead that what is practiced is "female circumcision."

In 2014, state house imam, Alhaji Abdoulie Fatty told *Kibaaro News*, "I have never heard of anyone who died as a result of female genital mutilation (FGM)... If you know what FGM means, you know that we do not practice that here. We do not mutilate our children."

Jaha Dukureh: "I'm really amazed that the president did this. I didn't expect this in a million years."

Photo:
Louis Leeson



Good News on GMOs but Also a New Threat

Submitted by Ella McElwee
Health By Choice
Pennsylvania

Email from info@westonaprice.org

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced it is revoking the registration of “Enlist Duo,” a toxic pesticide developed to be used with genetically engineered “Agent Orange” crops!

The agency approved this combination of glyphosate and 2, 4-D (one of the main ingredients in Agent Orange) just over a year ago, to be used on genetically-engineered crops designed to withstand this potent herbicide cocktail. But, after being challenged in court, the EPA has stated that it realized that the combination of these chemicals is likely significantly more harmful than it had initially believed.

This decision means that the Agent Orange crops will not be widely planted this spring, relieving the fears of many non-GMO farmers who could have seen their crops wiped out by herbicide drift.

But, even as we celebrate this good news, Monsanto, Dow and their Big Food allies are working on a new, underhanded approach to hide information about GMOs.

Will you take action to help stop it?

Recognizing that the “Deny Americans the Right to Know (DARK)” Act that they pushed through the House of Representatives is likely dead in the Senate, they’re offering a “compromise” piece of legislation. It would require GMO labels on food products but ONLY if they’re hidden in QR codes (which take a smartphone to decipher) on the back of a product.

This plan would still overturn the GMO labeling laws already democratically passed in Vermont, Connecticut and Maine—and bar future state labeling laws.

Have you ever used a QR code? If you haven’t, you’re not alone. Less than 20% of the U.S. population has ever used one.

The stakes just got even higher because on November 19th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Aquabounty’s genetically-engineered salmon—the first-ever GMO animal to be approved for human consumption. This decision threatens the survival of our native salmon populations and could have unknown health impacts on humans.

If Monsanto and the biotech industry get their way, this legislation would keep us in the dark about this GMO salmon—as well as corn, soy, canola, sugar, squash and all the GMO crops and animals they have in



Photo Submitted by Doug Davis, Ohio

the pipeline.

Tell your U.S. Senators to oppose this dangerous affront to our right to know what’s in our food! Details on how to take action are below.

TAKE ACTION

Call or email both of your U.S. Senators to urge them to oppose any bill that pre-empts state laws for labeling GMOs.

You can look up who your Senators are and find their contact information at <http://www.senate.gov> or by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Here’s a sample script for a call:

Hi, my name is ____, and I am a constituent. I urge Senator ____ to vote against any bill that would overturn state laws on mandatory labeling of genetically-engineered foods. This is both a states’ rights issue and an individual rights issue.

The use of a bar code or QR code is not a valid substitute for mandatory labels. Over a third of all Americans don’t even own smartphones and could not read such codes.

And many of those who own smartphones are not familiar with QR code and wouldn’t even know that the information was available.

Moreover, QR codes are extremely burdensome for consumers. With on-package labeling, you can quickly find the information you need on the package—simple, fast and practical. Under the industry’s proposal, the shopper needs to pull out his or her smartphone (while still holding the package of food), open up an app, wait for the camera to focus on the bar code, wait for a web page to load and then search the web site for the relevant information.

There’s no real benefit to QR codes, since food manufacturers will still have to track which products have GMO ingredients. The real reason industry is pushing for QR codes instead of physical labels is to continue to keep the majority of consumers in the dark about what they’re eating.

We have a right to know what is in our food so that we can make educated decisions

GMOs continued on page 16

For Whom the Bell Tolls

- John Donne -

Submitted by John Conner, Pennsylvania

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were,

As well as if a manor of thine own
Or of thine friends were.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

GMOs *continued from page 15*

about the food we eat. The free market can only work when consumers have the information they need to make informed choices among different products. Without mandatory on-package labeling, consumers are effectively being defrauded.

I urge Senator ___ to vote against any bill that would block mandatory physical labels on GMO foods.

A phone call is more effective than an email. If you do send an email, please replace the opening few lines with your own personalized message—personal messages have more impact than form emails.

Good News: EPA Revokes Herbicide Approval

Good news has been rare in the fight against GMOs but the EPA's latest announcement is definitely a major victory.

The agency approved the "Enlist Duo"—a combination of glyphosate and 2, 4-D, one of the main ingredients in Agent Orange—just over a year ago, to be used on genetically engineered crops designed to withstand this potent herbicide cocktail. The EPA now states that it has received new evidence from Dow, indicating that the combination of these chemicals is likely significantly more harmful than it had initially believed.

Why was it developed in the first place? Because the biotech companies ignored the basic principles of science and evolution when they developed "Roundup Ready" crops, genetically engineered to resist the herbicide, so farmers can spray the fields during the growing season and kill the weeds while leaving crops unharmed.

The biotech companies assumed that weeds would not become resistant to glyphosate even if it was repeatedly sprayed on a widespread basis year after year.

But, as was predicted by independent scientists, we now face an epidemic of "superweeds" that can withstand repeated glyphosate applications.

The logical response would be to recognize that herbicide-resistant crops are

not a solution and to work on better ways to address weed control. But that doesn't make as much money as patented seeds and herbicide cocktails. So Dow created Enlist crops, designed to resist both glyphosate and 2,4-D, in the hopes that the combination would be more effective. But some weeds have already developed 2,4-D resistance and basic science tells us that the new GMO crops, dubbed "Agent Orange" crops, will simply cause the same destructive cycle of increasing herbicide resistant weeds.

Although 2,4-D is already used on some crops, the approval of the Enlist Duo would have increased its use dramatically. Corn and soybeans—the crops engineered to be used with Enlist—are the nation's largest crops and many non-GMO farmers have been scared that the widespread use of the 2,4-D mixture would destroy their crops.

EPA's decision to revoke the approval means that Enlist Duo, which is currently on the market, won't be in wide use for plantings next spring.

Caveats: Some farmers are already in possession of Enlist and it's unclear whether or not they will be able to use it. And EPA hasn't closed the door to re-approving Enlist in the future, with increased requirements for buffer zones or other restrictions on its use.

Even with those caveats, the decision by EPA to withdraw the illegally-approved Enlist Duo crops is a huge victory for our farmers and the future of our food!

Bad News: GMO Salmon Approved

Now for the bad news: despite insufficient testing and the vocal opposition of hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens, the FDA just approved the GMO AquaBounty salmon.

GMO salmon poses potential health risks to people who eat it and sets a terrible precedent for approval of future GMO animals. This GMO fish could also decimate

native fish populations and wreak havoc on our ecosystems. What's worse, it will be unlabeled on grocery store shelves, so consumers won't be able to avoid it when they shop.

A few reasons why approving GMO salmon is a terrible idea:

- It's been genetically engineered to produce growth hormones year-round but there's been no real testing about what these increased levels of hormones will mean for the people consuming them.

- The FDA used the fiction that the genetically-engineered salmon was actually a "drug" so that public participation in the approval process was severely limited.

- The FDA's lax approval process included reviewing an AquaBounty study that only examined six salmon—which nonetheless showed a 20 to 50 percent increased allergenic potency.

- GMO salmon posed a threat to wild fish populations. Academic scientists found that GMO salmon readily breed with a different species of fish. And since they grow so fast, the non-GMO wild fish could easily be outcompeted and become extinct.

- Canadian government scientists also found that AquaBounty's salmon are more susceptible to disease-causing bacteria, which means that they will most likely be fed even more antibiotics than typical farmed fish, threatening the health of those who eat them and the continued efficacy of these antibiotics to treat human disease.

- They won't even be labeled. This product will be hitting store shelves without a mandatory labeling requirement, so concerned consumers won't even be able to choose whether or not they're eating it.

The public outcry delayed the FDA approval of GMO salmon for several years but the agency finally caved to the industry. This is disappointing, but not surprising.

We can win the fight against GMOs but it will take a lot of people and a lot of work. Thank you for speaking up and being part of this effort!



Photo © Jürgen Freund / WWF World Wildlife Fund

More than 500,000 World Wildlife Fund supporters from 177 different countries helped protect one of the Earth's most beautiful and lively places, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, a World Heritage Area.

Australian Government Bans Dumping in Great Barrier Reef

New protection is a victory for both conservation and the power of concerned citizens. GBC helped achieve this with our grassroots, electronic activism. Thank you, all!

"For everyone around the world who cares about the Reef, this is a moment to savor."

- Dermot O'Gorman -
CEO, WWF Australia

WorldWildlife.org: November 20, 2015

In a landmark victory for the Great Barrier Reef, the Australian government passed a much-anticipated bill to ban dredge dumping in the World Heritage waters. This law closes for good a legal loophole that could have allowed 46 million cubic meters of seabed to be dug up and dumped in this fragile ecosystem.

Thanks to more than 500,000 WWF supporters from 177 different countries, we're able to protect one of the Earth's most beautiful and lively places.

"For everyone around the world who cares about the Reef, this is a moment to savor," WWF-Australia CEO Dermot O'Gorman said.

Earlier this year, the Australian government banned the dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. But in recent years, about 80% of dumping has occurred outside the park, closer to the shore. This new bill now extends protection to the whole World Heritage Area.

The Great Barrier Reef is home to more than 1,500 species of fish, 411 types of hard coral, one-third of the world's soft corals, 134 species of sharks and rays, six of the world's seven species of threatened marine turtles and more than 30 species of marine mammals, including the vulnerable dugong.

We can work together to solve the world's greatest environmental problems. Join us at <http://www.worldwildlife.org>.



Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out
Make it do or do without.

Iona's Memoir: How on Earth Did I Become a Pacifist Activist?

Heart Leads, I Follow

By Iona (aka Susan Wynne Norris Hnatt Topf Conner)

First Reviews

Your book has many touching stories inside. It's not only a book, it's an inspirational body. You are absolutely unique and you have made a lot of sacrifices and I still wonder why you did them. ECC, Nigeria

Happily, I got your book today. I started it tonight and can't put it down. I am enjoying your light-hearted writing style.

Mostly I wanted to touch base and say I totally forgot your mom had MS as my mother did and we both had more responsibility at a very early age. I was ironing my own clothes at 9 or 10. I also didn't remember that you were a member of the DAR. My mother was and I'm going to join. I've talked about it long enough and you've put it front and center. So I'm doing it!! It's such an honor, even if it ends with Jackie — if she even wants to join.

Best of luck with your book and I'm sure many will find it as interesting as I do. I finished it and thoroughly enjoyed it. I had no idea all the unique things you did as an activist and your amazing travels. Wow. I loved it and all the pictures. Thank goodness there are people like you in this world!!

BB, New Jersey

Your book arrived today and I started reading it. I love the comments that Matt sent on the salute to the flag. It will be great fun to read the entire story. The photos are wonderful. I have been reading your memoir and enjoying it greatly. Only on about page 70 or so.

I loved the story about your solo novice canoe ride. Also your solo bike ride through the Pine Barrens.

Now I'm reading about your stay on a kibbutz in Israel. I just read a bit every day, kind of a slow reader but enjoy every page.

What a masterpiece — I admire your energy to put this together. TM, Virginia



I started reading your book last night and am enjoying it. Your family history and struggle with weight gain is interesting and keeps me reading. I knew someone in school that gained a lot of weight too after her parents divorced and it became a lifelong challenge. The pictures are great! You and Joanie were so adorable and look very much alike. GDS, Vermont

I've been enjoying your book. So many of your growing up experiences mirror mine! GN, Pennsylvania

Excellent book! Please keep up GBC! Very best, SC, Pennsylvania

Wow Iona, it is wonderful. I started reading it and read for over an hour!

Here is one thing you said about your marriage to Bill — it really hit my heart! "All I wanted was my freedom from the environment which was suffocating me and where I felt no love from my husband."

Wow that surely described my feeling exactly from my marriage! You just got there before me!

Anyway your book is so good I could hardly put it down! And Iona — you are beautiful! The pictures of you in the book — such a beauty in those pictures and you didn't look at all FAT !!!!!!!

I really liked the story of canoeing down the river!!! And the ocean — you had a wonderful out-of-body experience there with being one with the ocean. I can so relate to this all. It is so neat to see pictures and put the people you speak of with faces! Joanie for one. And Cece. I even got up this morning and read a few more pages before work! I am a slow reader.

I am really enjoying your book — I only had a little time for reading last night. I have to say — wow Iona, you have had such an interesting and fun-filled life!!!! I like how you always went on those adventures by yourself — oh my gosh that bike trip through the Pine forest, no Pine Barrens — anyway how interesting and along the way you met many friends. You look so happy at your little apartment making pancakes! The picture of you and John getting married — you look so extremely happy — although I haven't read that part yet. LL, Idaho

I finished the book today: what a Labor of Love! I really enjoyed it.

Now, without any slight whatsoever, because it was a great gift, may I return it so you can share it with someone else — and save the trees we both love?

I did enjoy *How on Earth*. It was a page-turner. I learned a lot about my friend. CB, Pennsylvania

Spiral-bound, 205 pages, 56 color images. \$25 includes shipping or I will email you the PDF for \$10. I have only a few copies left and will need to gather at least 15 additional orders to get my bulk discount. Please make check payable to: The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks! I'm also looking for a "real" publisher. If you have any ideas on that, please let me know at gobackclub@pa.net. Thank you.

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See cover, review and ordering information on page 7. Spiral-bound, 205-page book is \$25 or, if you'd like to receive it in pdf format, \$10. Please make check or money order to The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks very much.



Letters and Emails from our Members

Hello, Iona.

Thank you Iona, for another excellent and inspiring edition. I forwarded it to my network of friends in Nigeria urging them to sign-up. Thank you also for announcing our January 30th Factory Farm Forum at Wilson College.

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania

Thanks Iona,

I'm forwarding it to several friends. I've been trying to write more.

Bill Boteler, Washington, D. C.

Ella McElwee sent this note to her Health By Choice email list with our last newsbooklet:

Enjoy !! Note from Iona below!

Love, Ella

Naturally Yours,

Ella M. McElwee

Health By Choice, Inc.

New Enterprise, Pennsylvania

Hi Iona.

I am blessed to wake up each morning and look at the beauty and color or lack thereof of the sky and ever changing shapes of the clouds.

My Mom used to say that only God could paint a sky differently each day and I feel so very fortunate to observe this God-given art gallery on a daily basis. We have so very much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving—our health, our freedom, our families, our friends, our senses and each of our God-given talents.

It's our obligation to use what we have to further good in this fearsome world in which we live where man's inhumanity to man is so pervasive. We need to heed what the plants, animals and Mother Earth are communicating to us and act accordingly.

You and I know this and the folks with whom we are Facebook Friends also understand but it amazes me the level of naïveté

that seems pervasive!

OK, enough of my ranting. Thanks so much for allowing me to use your description of *Sebastian's Tale*.

"G," Pennsylvania

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

As you know we do not eat turkey any more. And we live a simple life (vegetables only) and the good news is we do not have leftovers. Let us move forward to save Earth. Cattle produce too much gas and we have to feed the animals too much grains which can be used for human consumption.

I gave a lecture to students last week and I asked them to reduce meats and processed meat products. I try to open their minds and I try to pierce their ears (not physically, but mentally). I am an ear cleaner.

Have a beautiful dream.

Pyong Roh, brother in the Universe, Korea

Beautiful Rug From Old T-Shirts

Submitted by Gail Neustadt
(aka Dylan Weiss), Pennsylvania

In this tutorial, you can learn how to make a really cool rug (like the one pictured) from your old T-shirts! This rug costs no money because you can reuse some old T-shirts that you don't use anymore. This project is a great way to put all of those colorful junior-high track/soccer/rugby/quidditch shirts in use if you don't want to donate them.

Here's what you'll need:

- 5-10 old T-shirts, depending on how big you want this rug (I used 5.5 for a small bedside rug.)
- a pair of scissors
- needle and thread
- sewing machine (optional)

The hardest part about this was how long it took to be made but it turned out to be cool enough so that I wouldn't mind making another one. Find the steps to follow at <http://www.instructables.com/id/Make-a-braid>.

