



Boycott, Gandhi-Style

The deed is done. On July 29, President Obama signed a bill that was written by corporations, paid for by corporations and that serves no one in this country—except corporations. s.764, known by its opponents as the DARK (Deny Americans the Right to Know) Act, preempts Vermont's mandatory GMO labeling law and substitutes in its place a federal bill that, no matter how Obama and his Congress try to spin it, is not mandatory and does not require labels—at least not labels that anyone can read. Not to mention that most GMO ingredients will be exempt under this fake “law.” I could, once again, list all the reasons this bill fails consumers. But I and others have already done that countless times, to no avail. The bill is a sham, a slap in the face to the 90% of Americans who support labeling. It's an attack on states' rights. It's another “gift” to Monsanto and Big Food. For anyone who still harbored any doubt, s.764 is proof that our Democracy is broken, that our lawmakers answer to Corporate America, not to us, the people who elect them. It would be easy, after four-and-a-half years of non-stop fighting for labels, to cave in to despair. But let's not give Monsanto the satisfaction. Because the truth is, while we may not always be able to win in a policy arena awash in corporate money, we, as consumers, still have tremendous power to influence the marketplace. It's time to wield that power. It's time to take a page out of Gandhi's playbook.

orgcns.org/2aNNItY

#ConsumerRevolution

We're grateful to everyone in this movement who worked so hard to win the basic right to know, by working within the system for meaningful policy change. The system failed us. Now it's time to take our battle to the marketplace. We think our friends at the Savory Institute are on to something with the launch of their #ConsumerRevolution. It's time to let corporations know in no uncertain terms that they may be able to bribe politicians—but when we stop buying their products, including the organic brands owned by junk food companies that poison and pollute, they'll have to either clean up their acts, or pack up and go home.

We will be rolling out a number of targeted campaigns that will expose some of the worst food companies on the planet, and call on them to start producing healthy food, using farming practices that heal the Earth, not poison it. Download our Buycott App: orgcns.org/2apHUXH
Don't have a smartphone? More info here: orgcns.org/2aBPVOr

Hot Topic

When you factor in everything it takes to run our energy-intensive, polluting industrial agriculture system, that system turns out to be one of the biggest culprits when it comes to global warming. Bring down the industrial agriculture system, a failed model propped up by government subsidies, and we can stabilize the climate by restoring the soil's capacity to draw down and sequester carbon.

How do we undo the corporate stranglehold on our food system? By choosing to eat local, organic, GMO-free foods.

This week, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) released its annual “State of the Climate” report. It was full of bad news. Not only was 2015 the hottest year on record since at least the mid-to-late 19th century, but greenhouse gas concentrations were the highest on record. Farmers have the power to cool the planet. Consumers have the power to push farmers to grow food using planet-cooling, organic, regenerative practices. It's time to power up. orgcns.org/2aBQ23i

Monsanto Doctrine

While the federal government has been busy stomping out consumer and states' rights to labels on GMO foods, federal judges have been mulling over a plea by Monsanto and friends to overturn public safety laws in three Hawaii counties. Investigative journalist Jonathan Greenberg calls it the Monsanto Doctrine of preemption: “Simply put, the Monsanto Doctrine is the right of agrochemical corporations to spray unlimited quantities of industrial poisons regardless of any local law passed to protect human or environmental safety. If it is upheld by the federal Appeals Court, then local governments around the country will be rendered powerless to protect its citizens' basic civil right to health and safety.”

Progressive Source, a public interest communications company run by Greenberg, created a short video to tell the story of how agrochemical companies are running roughshod over the rights of Hawaii citizens: youtu.be/XVedDfP9ozY – and a longer video, which shows testimony from the actual court hearing: orgcns.org/2aYY2i6

Sweet Deal?

Seems Coca-Cola has a cozy relationship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Or at least it did. Thanks to the investigative work of US Right to Know, (USRTK) Coke's sweet deal with the CDC is turning sour. In June, Dr. Barbara Bowman, a high-ranking CDC official, unexpectedly departed the agency, two days after it was revealed that she had been communicating regularly with, and offering guidance to, a leading Coca-Cola advocate seeking to influence world health authorities on sugar and beverage policy matters, according to USRTK. Thanks to emails obtained by US Right to Know, it appears that another veteran CDC official has similarly close ties to the global soft drink giant. Michael Pratt, Senior Advisor for Global Health in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the CDC, has a history of promoting and helping lead research funded by Coca-Cola. Pratt also works closely with the nonprofit corporate interest group set up by Coca-Cola called the International Life Sciences Institute, according to emails USRTK obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. orgcns.org/2aYYBZl

Help us support USRTK: orgcns.org/2aYYTQo

Seeking writers! USRTK needs writers, especially those experienced in reviewing and analyzing Freedom of Information Act documents. Interested? campaigns@organicconsumers.org.

Ready, Set, Travel!

OCA, along with our Regeneration International and Vía Orgánica projects, have scheduled a full slate of eight-day eco tours in the central highlands of Mexico. Deadline to register for the next tour, September 20-27, is August 20. You can also register ahead of time for another of the upcoming tours. Dates here: viaorganica.org/ecotour/

Tours include accommodations at Vía Orgánica's eco ranch and farm school, and trips to San Miguel de Allende and other World Heritage sites, nature walks, horseback riding, organic farming and cooking workshops, and lively discussions with OCA and Vía Orgánica staff and other tour participants. Cost for accommodations and all-organic meals is \$1250 per person. For more info: tour@organicconsumers.org