



Life and Death

On Tuesday, January 24, Donald Trump signed presidential memorandums to revive the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines—two major dirty oil and fracking pipelines halted by the Obama administration after massive resistance from indigenous, climate and other public interest groups, including food activists. As indigenous leader Winona LaDuke pointed out, Trump's push to revive these climate- and environmentally destructive pipelines amount to nothing less than a "Declaration of War." Within 24 hours of Trump's dirty energy decree, thousands of people across the country took to the streets in protest, while hundreds of thousands more expressed their opposition and anger on social media. Are the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines a clean water issue? A climate issue? A food issue? A social justice or economic justice issue? We suggest "all of the above"—and what's more, we believe that stopping them is a matter of life and death. For all of us.

orgcns.org/2jupdUb



Monsanto's Mind-Meld

In what's shaping up to be the most Monsanto-friendly Congress in history—including a president keen to sign off on the pending Monsanto-Bayer merger—chemical companies are redoubling their efforts to keep consumers in the dark.

According to US Right to Know (USRTK), the American Chemistry Council (Monsanto is a member) just this month formed a new "mind-meld" group called Campaign for Accuracy in Public Health Research (CAPHR). Just like the "Safe and Affordable Food Labeling Act" had nothing to do with safe and affordable food labeling (and everything to do with keeping consumers in the dark) this newcomer to the "deflect and deceive" industry propaganda movement is hell-bent on keeping accurate scientific research away from the public. In fact, the group's primary motive is to discredit the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a unit of the World Health Organization made up of independent scientists. In March 2015, an IARC panel of 17 scientists unanimously concluded that glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen. Ever since, as USRTK's Carey Gillam reports, Monsanto and friends have been harassing IARC through a series of "demands, threats and legal maneuvers," including lobbying the U.S. House to cut funding for IARC.

Gillam reports: "The new campaign takes the assault further. On the group's new twitter account, set up on Jan. 25, CAPHR has posted a string of insults against IARC scientists, accusing the experts from prestigious institutions around the world of 'making sensational claims,' drawing conclusions 'that can't be trusted,' and using 'questionable methodologies.'" orgcns.org/2lnp7N1

Call Us!

Our health, our environment, our basic right to know—everything is under attack. We need everyone on deck. How do we unite the people working in our own communities on food, natural health, social justice and climate issues into a more powerful movement that can put an end to corporate crime and political corruption in the marketplace and in the political realm, while regenerating our health, our economy, our local communities and our democracy? Sign up now to join Ronnie and the Organic Consumers Association for a national call about how to launch both a #ConsumerRevolution and a #PoliticalRevolution. The call will take place on Thursday, February 16 at 5 p.m. PST/8 p.m. EST. We want to hear from you. RSVP: orgcns.org/2kvYB6e You can also call in by dialing 855-756-7520, Ext.34431#

Dump Trump's #MonsantoMan

Former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue is a Monsanto-funded politician who made millions selling fertilizer and gaming the farm subsidy system. He's also a climate denier who couldn't think of anything to help Georgia's drought-stricken farmers other than to pray for rain. But don't take our word for it. Here's what one Georgia resident wrote to us in an email, in response to the article we published last week about Perdue: "'Sonny' is the first 'good ole boy' politician that I came to despise for both non-actions and actions that were detrimental to average Jane and Joe Citizen. He lost all credibility and respect with me in his term as (my) governor with regards to a statewide issue where children's lives were at stake. Do not let the smiley folksy face and rhetoric fool. [Perdue] would not have the best interests of 'the people' in mind, period."

Take Action: orgcns.org/2jRV3ub

Fluorinated Food?

A team looking for fluorine in food packaging found it. The presence of fluorine means that highly fluorinated chemicals (PFAS or PFCs) were likely used to produce the packaging—probably because those chemicals help the packaging resist grease and stains. But as Environmental Health News reports, fluorinated chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, development and immune system problems, low birth weights and decreased fertility, can migrate from the packaging into the food. More from the EHN report: "Researchers tested about 400 pieces of food packaging from 27 fast food chains in 2014 and 2015. The samples included popular spots such as McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Chick-Fil-A. They also tested, and found the compounds at places people might not think of fast food, such as Jimmy John's, Quiznos, Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts. The restaurants were in or around Boston, Seattle, Washington DC, San Francisco, and Grand Rapids.

In total, 33% of the packages contained fluorine. The presence of fluorine doesn't automatically mean the packaging contains the highly fluorinated chemicals of concern. However, it's "the most likely reason," said Laurel Schaidler, a research scientist at the Silent Spring Institute, and lead author of the study published today in *Environmental Science & Technology Letters*. orgcns.org/2ltkl3T

Unlawful Robbery

People whose lives were destroyed by Monsanto stood up to tell their stories. The wife of a farmer who died of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (which scientists say is directly linked to the use of Monsanto's Roundup) called her husband's death an "unlawful robbery." A farmer who is now battling non-Hodgkin lymphoma spoke out about "this torturous journey." The speakers, joined by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. whose law firm represents Monsanto victims, were assembled for a press conference to pressure the courts to require Monsanto, under California's Prop 65 law, to label Roundup as a potential carcinogen. Predictably, Monsanto is suing to keep the label off. On January 28, a judge ruled, tentatively at least, against Monsanto. Let's hope the courts continue to stand up for California's farmers and their families. Watch: youtu.be/etkrj99Iqq4