



What's Next?

On May 20, activists took to the streets, all over the world, for the sixth annual March Against Monsanto protests. News reports painted a picture of solidarity against what's come to be known as the most evil corporation in the world.

OCA wholeheartedly supported this year's march. We promoted it through our website, newsletter and social media networks. We mailed out about 400 packets of anti-GMO and anti-pesticide banners, bumperstickers and leaflets, to March Against Monsanto organizers. We also recognize that anti-Monsanto protests alone have not forced enough change, fast enough. If we learned anything from our years of work trying to pass GMO labeling laws, it was this: As long as corporations own our politicians, no amount of public support, no amount of protesting a corporation, without also addressing our broken political system, will move us in the direction we want to go. orgcns.org/2qo8W3l



Poison Peddlers

How many of your neighbors will spray their lawns and gardens this summer with Roundup herbicide, thus exposing you and your family and pets—possibly without your knowledge and definitely against your wishes—to Monsanto's cancer-causing chemicals? If the answer is one, it's one too many. On one of its Roundup product labels, Monsanto boasts: "Kills Weeds not the Lawn." What the label doesn't tell you is that Roundup can also kill people—just ask the hundreds of people suing Monsanto for failing to warn them that Roundup is linked to non-Hodgkin lymphoma. It's time for big retail chains to stop peddling poison. Period. orgcns.org/2qSPKYf

Insult to Injury

Mainstream media and medical groups, typically funded or backed by Big Pharma, cast parents who are skeptical about vaccines as conspiracy theorists whose backward beliefs put the public at risk. Vaccine skeptics cast vaccine promoters as paid shills, hired by Big Pharma to cover up documented vaccine-related injuries.

In mainstream and progressive media coverage there's zero tolerance for critical debate about vaccine safety. Progressive news sites that would never defend corporate media coverage of Monsanto or GMOs drink the vaccines-are-safe Kool-Aid. Do these news sites really think Pharma has never steered us wrong, just for the sake of profit? What about all the drugs that had to be pulled from the market, after Pharma insisted they were safe?

The Centers for Disease Control maintains a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System where people can see for themselves the adverse effects and deaths related to a particular vaccine. A search for people who have died from the measles vaccines MEA, MER, MM, MMR or MMRV revealed 416 deaths.

Health writer Martha Rosenberg says it's time to stop insulting our intelligence, and start allowing an informed debate on whether or not every vaccine, in every prescribed dose, is safe for every child. orgcns.org/2qfyHqB

Soul Searching

According to an article published in 2015 in *The Atlantic*, corporations spend about \$2.6 billion a year on reported lobbying expenditures—more than the \$2 billion we spend to fund the House (\$1.18 billion) and Senate (\$860 million). The corporate takeover of our government didn't happen overnight, the article says, but it happened. And it changed everything: "Things are quite different today...business lobbying has built itself up over time, and the self-reinforcing quality of corporate lobbying has increasingly come to overwhelm every other potentially countervailing force. It has also fundamentally changed how corporations interact with government—rather than trying to keep government out of its business (as they did for a long time), companies are now increasingly bringing government in as a partner, looking to see what the country can do for them."

In recent months, the hashtag #resist has dominated the twitter feeds of activists of all stripes. It's mostly used in the context of Trump and his new administration. But what exactly is it about Trump that people are resisting? In large part, it's his loyalty-at-all-costs to corporations.

We've been #resisting corporations, or rather corporate influence on policy (food, farming and otherwise), for decades. No matter if it was a Clinton or Bush or Obama Administration. And if we were living in a Hillary Administration today, we'd be waving the #resist banner just as high, just as often.

It's the unholy alliance between corporations and politicians that have given us a corrupt and unhealthy food and farming system. As the Trump Administration brazenly reinforces and strengthens that alliance, we are more determined than ever to #resist. But we're equally determined to #regenerate, to put forth solutions.

How? By mobilizing consumers in their own communities, against corporate agribusiness and the Big Food lobby who are degrading and degenerating our health, environment and climate, undermining organic standards by selling factory-farmed 'imposter' organic brands like Aurora, and/or using misleading labels like "100% natural" or "all natural" for products including milk, meat and eggs produced on inhumane, unhealthy, environmentally destructive factory farms. By mobilizing consumers to get political, and to throw out those Republicans and Establishment Democrats who serve Monsanto, Walmart, Exxon and McDonald's, instead of the people who elected them.

Since launching the #Resist and #Regenerate Movement a few weeks ago on Meetup.com, 216 chapters have been formed, with over 3300 members. Meetup.com, can play a key role in helping us all bridge the gap between online and on-the-ground activism: Start a #Resist and #Regenerate group on Meetup: orgcns.org/2qD1OVK

One More Reason

When cities or counties spray Roundup—on roadways, parks and playgrounds or other public spaces—they put you, your kids and your pets at risk. And, according to a new study from Michigan State University, they're also contributing to the demise of the monarch butterfly. Studies have also linked neonicotinoid pesticides to the decline in monarch populations, so we need to keep the pressure on communities to stop using them, and on the EPA to ban them.

The study isn't the first to link Roundup to monarch deaths, and the study also cites climate change as a contributing factor. But, the authors said that their study "provides the first empirical evidence of a negative association between glyphosate application and local abundance of adult monarch butterflies during 1994-2003, the initial phase of large-scale herbicide adoption in the Midwest." orgcns.org/2qD6tqP