

As consumers and citizens we have the power to change the marketplace and to rebuild our broken political system.



### #consumerrevolution

We must unite around consumer campaigns designed to force corporations toward organic and regenerative production methods. And we must take responsibility for the environmental and social consequences of our own buying decisions.

### #politicalrevolution

We must absolutely resist the destructive elements at work in Washington D.C. But we must also regenerate our democracy by working together to identify and elect politicians at the city, state and federal levels who will advance policies that reflect our common ideals.

## REGENERATION: WHO WILL BENEFIT?

The Regeneration Movement aims to improve the lives of everyone. The vast majority of Americans strive to achieve health, economic security, and a livable environment for ourselves and our offspring. When our basic needs—healthy and nutritious food, shelter, social acceptance, meaning in our lives—are met, we are more productive, feel safer and are more prone to cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

The Regeneration Movement aims to make these goals attainable for all, not just a few, by organizing a critical mass of people dedicated to restoring social, economic, political and climate stability on a global scale.

"Finally, we will need the humility to understand that we need a healthy global ecosystem far more than it needs us, and that we need to invest at least as much of our treasure in husbanding that priceless natural legacy as in pursuing our own material well-being." – Don Wilkin, Human Ecologist



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**RESISTANCE:** THE ACT OF FIGHTING AGAINST SOMETHING THAT IS ATTACKING YOU, OR REFUSING TO ACCEPT SOMETHING - CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY

**REGENERATION:** A: RENEWAL OR RESTORATION OF A BODY, BODILY PART, OR BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM (SUCH AS A FOREST) AFTER INJURY OR AS A NORMAL PROCESS; B: SPIRITUAL RENEWAL OR REVIVAL - MERRIAM-WEBSTER

# #resist and #regenerate

- ▶ Our common planet, and our common governing system, are on parallel tracks toward potentially irreversible decay.
- ▶ Can we reverse course?
- ▶ Can we heal, renew and restore our ailing ecosystem and our failing democracy? Before we're all swept away in the wake of their demise?
- ▶ A growing number of individuals and organizations believe the answer is yes... if we unite to #resist the forces of destruction, and strive to #regenerate the natural, political and social conditions critical to the survival of all life on earth.



# ▶ The Regeneration Revolution • Renewal from the Grassroots

**WHAT IS IT?** The Regeneration Movement is grounded in the basic principle that the many crises we face, at home and on the global front, are interconnected. If we hope to address these crises, we must take a holistic, rather than single-issue approach to resolving them, an approach focused on the healing and renewal of our natural, political, social and economic systems by respecting and working with each other, and with earth's natural systems.



**WHY DO WE NEED IT?** **AN ECOSYSTEM IN CRISIS.** The most basic resources required to feed the world and sustain life—soil, air, water—have reached unprecedented levels of deterioration and pollution. According to the UN, at the current rate of degradation (much of it caused by degenerative industrial agriculture), the world's topsoils could be gone within 60 years.

Degenerative industrial agriculture practices, along with irresponsible fossil fuel extraction, also threaten biodiversity, nature's insurance policy against crop-damaging pests and extreme weather events. The natural "background" rate of extinction is about one-to-five species per year—but scientists estimate we're now losing species at 1,000 to 10,000 times that rate.

The Global Footprint Network says humans now consume 50% more of earth's natural resources than the planet can regenerate on its own. This unsustainable exploitation of our natural resources can be traced to corporate greed and consumer-driven over-consumption. And it has created a global climate crisis. If left unchecked, scientists warn that global warming will precipitate massive food and economic insecurity, and lead to worldwide social and political chaos. We must reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. But we must also, as climate scientist James Hansen suggests, restore the health and natural capacity of our soils and forests so they can do what they are meant to do—draw down the excess CO<sup>2</sup> in our atmosphere and store it in our trees and soils.

**A POLITICAL SYSTEM IN CRISIS.** The U.S. political system, in decline for several decades, is now in full-blown crash mode. The majority of our elected officials no longer work for the majority of people in this country, much less for the future of the common good. The failure of our democracy can be traced to the disproportionate influence of corporations and the uber-wealthy (1%) on policymaking, either through direct lobbying or by leveraging large campaign contributions to buy the loyalty of incumbent and/or future politicians.

**WHO WILL LEAD IT?** The Regeneration Movement is not a partisan left or right, democratic, republican, independent, green party or libertarian political movement. The Regeneration Movement will be led and powered by rebels and dissidents and problem-solvers of all political, ethnic and religious stripes, young and old, north, south, east and west, who recognize the crises we face, and the potential to address these crises from the grassroots up, by embracing the principles of regeneration.

**HOW WILL WE BUILD IT?** We no longer have the luxury of working in isolation, or of directing all our energy and resources toward solving a single issue—no matter how sympathetic we are to one cause or how compelled we are to fix a singular problem. We face systemic failure, of natural, political and social systems. We must connect the dots between all of our movements—natural health, environmental, climate, food and agriculture, faith, social and economic justice—and look at the problems, and solutions, through the lens of regeneration.

How do we regenerate our personal and public health, and a corporate-controlled healthcare system that does more harm than good? How do we regenerate our ecosystem, our soils, air, waterways? How do we regenerate our communities and our economies? Our political system? The failures of these systems originated and are perpetuated from the top down. They will be corrected only by a bottom-up grassroots rejection of the status quo, by a critical mass of citizens who will mobilize around a new, more hopeful vision for a healthier, safer, more equitable future.

