

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING for
PUBLIC HEARING "DEMOCRACY DAY"
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017**

Mayor Fiala called to order the Special Meeting of Kent City Council for purposes of a Public Hearing for "Democracy Day" at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: MR. JACK AMRHEIN; MR. MICHAEL DeLEONE; MR. GARRET FERRARA; MR. JOHN KUCHAR; MS. MELISSA LONG; MS. HEIDI SHAFFER (Arrived 6:49 p.m.); MR. ROGER SIDOTI; AND MR. ROBIN TURNER.

ALSO PRESENT: MR. JERRY T. FIALA, MAYOR AND PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; MR. JIM SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; AND MS. TARA GRIMM, CMC, CLERK OF COUNCIL.

ABSENT: MS. TRACY WALLACH AND MR. DAVE RULLER, CITY MANAGER.

President *Pro Tem* Amrhein welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the Public Hearing for "Democracy Day" in accordance with the Kent City Charter Article XII, Section 12.05 titled "DEMOCRACY DAY PUBLIC HEARING/POLITICAL INFLUENCE" which reads:

"Beginning in 2016, City Council shall designate one day a "Democracy Day" during the first week of October each year in which a local, state, or national election is held in Kent. On this day, the Mayor and City Council shall sponsor a Public Hearing in a public space within the City. The public hearing shall be held during the evening or weekend time. The City will publicize the public hearing on its website and in area media at least one month in advance. The Public Hearing shall examine the impact on our City, our state and our nation of political influence resulting from campaign contributions by corporate entities. Corporate entities include business corporations, Political Action Committees, PACS, Super PACs, 501(c)(4) groups and unions. Members of the general public in attendance shall be afforded the opportunity to speak on these matters for up to five minutes per person. The City shall record the minutes of the hearing and make them available to the public no later than November 1 of each year in which it is held by posting them on the City's website.

Within one (1) week following the annual Public Hearing, the Clerk of City Council shall send a letter to every elected state-level representative of the citizens of the City, to the leaders of the Ohio House and Senate, to our U.S. Congressional Representative(s), and to both U.S. Senators from Ohio. The letter shall include a brief summary of the Public Hearing and will state that the citizens of Kent in November 2015 voted in support of a Citizens' Initiative calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring the following principles:

- 1. Only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with Constitutional rights, and*
- 2. Money is not equivalent to speech, and therefore, regulating political contributions and spending does not equate to limiting political speech.*

The annual Public Hearings will no longer be required if and when a Constitutional Amendment reflecting the principles set forth in Section 02 is ratified by three-quarters (3/4) of the state legislatures."

Mayor Fiala informed Visitors they have 5 minutes to speak. He then referred to Clerk Grimm to read each name, in turn, of the Visitors who signed-in. There were 12 visitors who wished to speak, 1 of which chose not to speak when called upon.

Clerk Grimm reminded visitors that they must keep the topic to the specifics listed in the Charter. Visitors were encouraged to submit their comments in writing for verbatim inclusion as attachments to the minutes.

Bill Wilen of 867 Stonewater Drive, Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #1.)**

Gwen Fischer 6793 Cheryl Drive, Hiram, OH 44234 read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #2.)**

George Mansour III of 9294 State Route 44, Mantua, OH 44255 read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #3.)**

Kathy Wilen of 867 Stonewater Drive, Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #4.)**

Lis Regula of 1433 Cedar Street, Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #5.)**

Miriam Jackson of 424 E. Summit Street, Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #6.)**

Mary Greer of 8783 Weaver Road, Ravenna, OH 44266 read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #7.)**

Kathy Schumann of 5751 Caramor Road, Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #8.)**

Stacy Yaniglos of 7629 West Lake Blvd., Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #9.)**

Theodore Voneida 401 Oakwood Drive, Kent read from a pre-prepared statement. **(See Attachment #10.)**

Lee Brooker of 814 Hudson Road, Kent spoke about the dollars spent by the NRA, the vicious cycle of gun sales, and private prisons contributions such as the GEO Group who contributed to the Pro-Trump Super PAC's.

Mayor Fiala thanked everyone for coming. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.


Tara Grimm, CMC
Clerk of Council


Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

DD TALK 10/5/2017 #1 – M To A & Climate Change

My two major causes are Move to Amend and human caused climate change. These have involved my wife and me off and on over three years of activity in the private and public spheres.

“What Does Corporate Personhood Have to Do With Climate Change?” As Carl Gibson in his article at the Move to Amend website responds – EVERYTHING. If we really want to get to the root of the problem and have real climate justice, we have to end corporate personhood. We can regulate greenhouse gas emissions all we want, pass a carbon tax, and demand moratoriums on drilling and fracking. But because the Supreme Court has ruled that corporations have no duty to the public good and can be unilaterally focused on making a profit at any cost, and that corporations are legal persons with inalienable constitutional rights, there’s not much “we the real people” can do as long as they have those constitutional rights. However, this can be fixed by pursuing a simply-worded constitutional amendment. It must state that constitutional rights are only intended for human beings, not artificial entities like corporations. And it must also state that money is property, not free speech, and can be regulated in elections and ballot initiatives. We need 300,000 people on the streets in Washington. D.C. to actively protest, but in the mean time we’ll move along with ?? here tonight representing the citizens of Kent who voted in favor of these Move to Amend principles and a city council supporting their vote by holding this public hearing.

I recently read a New York Times review by Alan Ehrenhalt of Dark Money by Jane Mayer published last year. The focus is on Charles and David Koch, the enormously rich proprietors of an oil company based in Kansas, ^{they} decided that they would spend huge amounts of money to elect conservatives at all levels of American government. Essentially they want to buy their way to political power. Mayer reached hundreds of sources who did want to talk: longtime conservative operatives, business associates, political opponents and political finance scholars. Some of these sources spoke on the record and some did not, but all in all Dark Money emerges as an impressively reported and well-documented work. Mayer concluded that the Koch brothers and a small number of allied plutocrats have

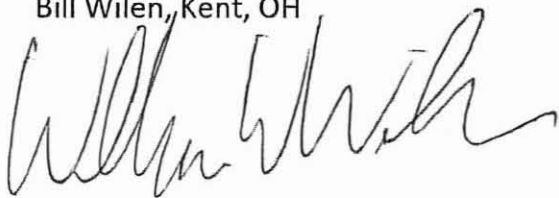
essentially hijacked American democracy, using their money not just to compete with their political adversaries, but to drown them out.

The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010 removed virtually all limits on corporate campaign funding and fostered its anonymity. This gave impetus to one of the most important Koch crusades of recent years: the fight to prevent action against climate change. Mayer argues that the Kochs made their money in the carbon business: they have diversified far beyond it over the years, but a stiff tax on carbon could have a significant impact on their bottom line. Mayer reports that an E.P.A. database identified Koch Industries in 2012 as the single biggest producer of toxic waste in the United States.

Another Move to Amend publication by the national leadership team titled "Why We Need a Democracy Movement" wrote that the essential question of democracy is: who has the power? Of course corporations do because "they have consolidated 42% of the country's wealth in the hands of the wealthiest 1%, the same entity that has the rights of human beings. For anyone who had any doubt remaining, there it was in the starkest terms: if before the Constitution had existed to serve people with property, now property itself had become a person.

Is it enough, then, to amend the Constitution and ignore the other elements of corporate rule? To talk about democracy as if it were something to restore or reform, and be done with it? The answer to both questions is no. Our job as "We the People" is more sweeping. Our job is to build a movement large enough and bold enough to recognize and repair the damage wrought by a small group of people that for centuries have controlled and misused others for profit, and then not to rest, but to continue imagining and creating the world we want to see."

Bill Wilen, Kent, OH



867 Stonewater Dr.

Democracy Day, Kent Ohio, October 5, 2017

This Democracy Day is certainly a celebration of our first amendment right of free speech. However, we must not forget the self-evident rights in our **Declaration of Independence**:

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

So, what kind of government do we have?

- When 84% of Americans believe **money** has too much influence in **political** campaigns, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll released 2015
- When between 55 & 86% of Americans are in favor of stricter background checks for firearms purchases
- When 74% of Americans favor raising the minimum wage to at least \$9/hour & 61% favor tying minimum wage to inflation

And yet this legislation doesn't get passed at the state or federal level. Some say the system is broken. Increasingly many are recognizing that the system is working exactly the way it's designed to work.

Too many citizens have bought into the myth that government is a problem and taxes are always bad. We've forgotten that taxes are the price we pay for civilization. Too often, we've elected people that only want smaller government, rather than making government work---the purpose of government is to secure our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness---to protect our health and welfare. Legislation takes research and writing, but we've privatized our law-writing:

ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council), a 43 year old organization brings together legislators and corporate representatives to write "model" laws. One of the most prevalent kinds of laws put out by ALEC and adopted by dozens of states are preemptive laws---laws that have taken away the rights of local communities to decide about such diverse issues as sick leave policy, minimum wage, gun control, pesticide control, regulation of puppy mills, and municipal broadband, fracking and disposal of toxic frack waste. *that benefit corporations + external risks + costs.*

So, speaking about democracy is all very well, getting money out of politics is good, even getting a fairer redistricting system is good, but as long as we cannot enact laws that protect our health and pursuit of happiness, locally in the community where we live, we don't live in a democracy. We the People must dismantle the fixed system and reconstruct a system that legalizes democracy. If you'd like to join a group of local citizens working to legalize democracy, contact Portage Community Rights Group on our website or the Ohio Community Rights Network.

Gwen B. Fischer
6793 Cheryl Dr.
Hiram OH 44234

The promotion of human health is among the most important single indicators of a just society. The availability and affordability of comprehensive health care to every person, regardless of income or other factors, is defined by many nations as a basic human right.

Recent polls indicate Americans feel health care is one of the nation's biggest problems. The U.S. spends the most per person on health care than any other nation, has the worst health care system among high-income nations, and has overall poor population health. Nearly 28 million Americans remain uninsured, with millions more underinsured..

3 Ways Corporations Have Captured Health Care

9 { **1. Framing health care as a commodity, not as a right.** . It was in the 1980's when health care was seen as a fertile ground for corporate profits. Insurance became for profit and patients became consumers. The business model of so-called "health care" corporations is to minimize coverage and treatment, while maximizing premiums, deductibles and co-pays – all of which maximize profits. Despite the rhetoric, insurance agents, not doctors or patients, increasingly determine basic health care decisions

2. Investments in lobbying and political campaigns to gain political influence. The so-called "health care" sector was #1 in political spending in 2016. More than \$500 million was raised to hire 2,700 lobbyists to influence legislation. Health Care Political Action Committees (PACs) invested \$55.7 million in federal candidate campaigns (60% to Republicans, 40% to Democrats) in 2016. An additional \$53.8 million in "outside" political spending (e.g. largely for advertising) was invested, led by health care-related insurance corporations (\$19 million) and pharmaceuticals/health products (\$15.8 million).

3. Corporate constitutional rights. Corporate constitutional rights have been used to promote corporate interests over human health and safety and/or to deny health coverage. Examples:

- **1st Amendment religious rights.** In *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the Supreme Court prohibited requiring closely held, for-profit secular corporations to provide contraceptive coverage as part of their health insurance plans if it violated the corporation's 1st Amendment "religious rights and beliefs." To extend and pretend that private, *personal* religious rights apply to business corporations is a breach of a constitutional firewall with potential widespread discriminatory implications.
- **4th Amendment search and seizure rights.** Tens of thousands of deaths annually are attributed to occupational disease while several million people report work-related injuries and tens of thousands of work place fatalities. Corporate 4th Amendment search and seizure rights, affirmed in cases like *Marshall v. Barlow*, prevent government inspectors from visiting corporate property to investigate health and safety violations, and threaten worker health and safety.
- **14th Amendment due process rights.** From 1905 until the mid-1930s the Supreme Court invalidated approximately 200 regulations protecting the health and safety of workers, consumers and children in order to affirm corporate "rights" under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment.

During the debate on the ACA back in 2009, the Lancet, a weekly peer reviewed general medical journal, ran the following on the front page: ***The health care reform process exposes how corporate influence renders the US Government incapable of making policy based on evidence and the public interest.***

That continues to be true today as we have seen during the debate on Repeal and Don't Replace. But, there is a solution:

Move to Amend and We the People Amendment

Healthy individuals and a healthy democracy are inextricably connected. Ending corporate constitutional rights is the ultimate cure to our critically ill health care system and democracy.

Move to Amend's We the People Amendment abolishes the constitutional doctrines that give corporations "personhood" rights and that allow the spending of money in elections to be protected as "free speech."

We need to join together to build and sustain a powerful and authentically diverse democracy movement that will guarantee just and peaceful laws – including a universal, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health care system for every person.

We're hopeful about the new "Medicare for All" bill in the Senate, but the reality is that until we address the legal mechanisms corporations are able to use to dominate our government, it is unfortunately unlikely that we will see changes to healthcare policy that benefit We the People instead of the corporate bottom line.

DD – 10/5/2017 #3

My husband and I agreed to say "YES!" to "NO EMMISIONS" when we purchased our 2015 Nissan Leaf. We wanted to be part of the solution to reduce carbon emissions to simply be a part of the growing movement in favor of what science has concluded about the many causes of climate change. We want to support the Paris accord along with other communities in the US, hopefully including Kent. According to a CNN report this past June stated that 10 states and 61 cities had joined the group to uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement. Surely more have done so in the past four months.

Scientists have found through their research that global warming has influenced the intensity of the severe hurricanes attacking southwestern Texas, the Caribbean islands, southern Florida and Puerto Rico. While they haven't proven that global warming causes these catastrophes they have found that greenhouse gases are trapping evaporating moisture which significantly adds to the quantity of water involved in the storms and flooding. But the president and his E.P.A. chief, Scott Pruitt, with the support of many of the fossil fuel companies including Exxon and the Koch brothers' industries, reject the scientific finding that the major source of global warming is influenced by our CO2 emissions.

How can these fossil fuel corporations say and do this? Here's the connection to Move to Amend. Because these fossil fuel corporations have personhood and can speak with their BIG bucks. Exxon has been lying to the public for years about research on climate change conducted by the company while it funded groups promoting doubt about climate change. And now the Heartland Institute is spreading the lies to science teachers through their book, Why Scientists Disagree About Climate Change. The Heartland Institute is a super conservative think tank that rejects the scientific consensus on climate change. Fortunately science has been presenting a convincing case that we are in real trouble through research on global warming. The New York Times had an excellent full page report two weeks ago, "Your Questions About Climate Change, Answered," - 17 often asked questions with straightforward answers. Hopefully science teachers will be using this as a major source rather than the Heartland Institute's propaganda.

Speaking of Exxon, another shocking article that appeared on the Truthout website is titled, "I Was an Exxon-Funded Climate Scientist," Katharine Hayhoe was paid by Exxon for her research on methane emissions. After realizing how Exxon was purposely distorting the research findings, she concluded, "today many industry groups follow this familiar path: supporting science denial with the left hand, while giving to cutting-edge research and science with the right." Please think about the analogy that "persons" have left and right hands! Thanks to the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court granting personhood to Exxon and all the other fossil fuel industries which allows them to speak with all their big fuel money especially in elections.

Scott Pruitt is an ideal representative of this illegal form of democracy. While Pruitt and our president are the United States worst possible people in positions of powerful influence, "we the people" rationally know better – science matters. It's too bad that our president, EPA chief, Exxon, Heartland Institute, and the Koch brothers represent corporate influence and are trying to brainwash us – "we the people", science teachers, and their students. That's why "we the people" need the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. We need to eliminate corporate personhood and money as speech. The corporate "persons" I am talking about in this case are human caused global warming deniers that are "speaking" with their monied influence. The 28th Amendment will shut them up, so to speak, meaning they won't be able to continue speaking with their BIG MONEY donations to anti-science PACS, for example. The sooner we can pursue a more rational, effective resistance and move toward more responsible and efficient renewable sources, the better off we'll all be.

Kathy Witten

Kent, Ohio Democracy Day 2017

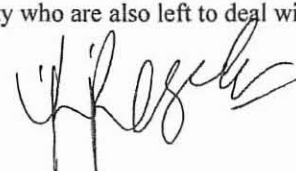
The US has the equal protection of rights as a central tenet to our identity as a nation, right alongside the freedom of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. We have debated how to define rights and how to define citizen throughout our history, and I'll again thank the city of Kent for ^{expanding} extending those protected rights in Kent earlier this year. Today, however, I'm going to be focusing on that definition of citizens instead, or who exactly is entitled to those protected rights, because today's definition of "person" is possibly different than what one might think.

As a biology ^{professor} teacher, I deal with how to define living things all the time. We define life as something that uses energy to grow and reproduce, responds and adapts to its environment, maintains homeostasis, and is made of cells. I think most of us would probably agree that humans fit that description, and that humans in the US have the freedoms set forth in our Bill of Rights. However, today corporations also enjoy those protected freedoms. This has not been an overnight occurrence, and in fact has been a slow, gradual process beginning with the Santa Clara County versus Southern Pacific Railroad ruling of 1886 which granted the 14th amendment and ^{due process} equal protection under the law to corporations. In 1906, the Hale versus Henkel decision extended the 4th amendment preventing unreasonable search and seizure to corporations. This trend continued with the 1976 Buckley versus Valeo ruling which granted 1st amendment protections to corporations, and culminated in the infamous 2010 Citizens United decision that ruled money as a protected speech.

Which brings us to today's Democracy in Kent. Living organisms like humans require a few things in order to stay living, such as clean air to breathe, a source of nutrition for building and repairing our cells, clean water to help maintain our homeostasis. Without access to these things, living organisms are highly likely to weaken, fall ill, and eventually cease to live, or die. Corporations do not suffer this same affliction of dependency on the natural environment. Corporations are legal constructs, which right now have similar rights to humans, and can control vast amounts of wealth. One right that corporations yet lack is the right of the vote, however, since 2010 and the Citizens United decision, corporations have been able to spend unprecedented amounts of money to influence how actual people *do* vote, usually so as to elect representatives and legislation that benefits those corporations.

This is dangerous because corporations do not have those limiting requirements that humans do. As legal constructs they continue to exist, participate in the economy, and influence our political process without regard to the availability of those things necessary for living organisms. They may choose to act responsibly, or they may not, but they cannot be jailed and cannot die because of a degraded environment in the way that a living thing can. Corporations may not have the vote, but they have the money to influence the votes that matter.

At the same time, voter purges, gerrymandering, and restrictive voter ID laws across the country restrict the right of the vote for more and more humans, especially humans from historically oppressed classes. Those same groups of people are the people who have had to deal the most with environmental injustice, thanks to Not in My Backyard or NIMBY, attitudes. We have a system today in which essentially immortal corporations, that do not require any amount of environmental sustainability, have more ability to influence decision making within our government than humans, and especially people who have the least power in society who are also left to deal with the messes made by those corporations. Is that the democracy that we want?



Democracy Day presentation on Standing Rock and the power of money, October 5, 2017

(Mim Jackson)
by Mim Jackson, Kent, Ohio

This is an updated version of an article which appeared in "The Guardian" newspaper on October 26, 2016, a week and a half before the fateful US presidential contest between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. It was titled "Dakota Access pipeline company and Donald Trump have close financial ties: Trump's financial disclosure forms [showed] that he invested in Energy Transfer Partners, operators of the controversial pipeline, and its CEO donated to his campaign."

Although now President Trump [says] that he divested his interests, a year ago his "close financial ties to Energy Transfer Partners, operators of the controversial Dakota Access oil pipeline," were laid bare, with Trump on record as having "invested in the company and receiving more than \$100,000 in campaign contributions from its chief executive."

"Trump's financial disclosure forms show[ed]" that he had "between \$500,000 and \$1 m invested...with a further \$500,000 to \$1 m holding in Phillips 66, which [now has] a 25 percent stake in the project. The information was disclosed in Trump's monthly filings to the Federal Election Commission, which requires candidates to disclose their campaign finance information on a regular basis."

"The financial relationship [ran] both ways. Kelcy Warren, chief executive of Energy Transfer Partners, [gave] \$103,000 to elect Trump and handed over a further \$66,800 to the Republican national Committee since the property developer secured the GOP's presidential nomination.

On June 29, Warren made \$3,000 in donations to Trump's...campaign. The...contribution...limit is \$2,700 per election and it's unclear whether Trump returned the money to Warren. ..." Warren made a further \$100,000 donation to the Trump Victory Fund, a joint fundraising committee among Trump's campaign, the RNC and 11 state parties, also on June 29. [On the 28th, Warren] had doled out \$66,800 in two separate donations to the RNC."

Trump [was] therefore indirectly linked to Dakota Access, a \$3.8 bn pipeline development that [is funneling] oil from North Dakota to Illinois. The 1,170-mile pipeline...caused uproar among Native American tribes as it runs close to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota. A protest camp, set up over fears that the pipeline [would] poison water and destroy cultural heritage [was] the scene of repeated clashes between protesters (ultimately from all over the world), [corporate] security staff" and finally (as usual in American history, troops – even sent from other states run by Republican governors, including our own!).

Near the end of his final term in office, President Obama yielded to pressure and requested a halt to the project while an environmental impact statement was prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers. This was rightly hailed as a victory for the tribe and its allies. (Originally, the pipeline had been planned to go under the Missouri River at Bismarck, but its white citizens objected so the dangerous project got

dumped on the tribe down the river in one of many acts of environmental racism.) Meanwhile, candidate Trump "signaled his opposition to any restrictions on the development of oil, coal or gas, telling a crowd in Gettysburg, PA...that he could 'lift the Obama-Clinton roadblocks to allow these vital infrastructure projects to go ahead.'"

"Jesse Coleman, a researcher at Greenpeace, said Trump seems to know 'very little' about energy policies other than to side with wealthy fossil fuel interests." However, Trump had no hesitation about ending Obama's halt on the Dakota project as soon as he got in office. Security and state troops came in, the protest camp was emptied (fortunately without murderous violence on the part of the attackers, though they came close) and the pipeline was completed. So much for the environmental impact study, which was blocked from completion. Shortly thereafter, Trump withdrew the US from the Paris Climate Accords, although Kent may join other cities in upholding them.

The story of Dakota Access and the succession of policy from Obama (weak enough on the environment, with his "all energy options" support) to Trump, illustrates in terms of raw cash on the public record the corruption of public policy by money/corporate interests. It is for this reason, and many other Dakota Access stories, that our nation needs to amend the Constitution and end the labelling of corporations as persons in our political process. Money does not equal freedom of speech, which has been in short supply among Native Americans anyway since 1492. That's the year terrorism began for them.

#7

Democracy Day
Oct. 5, 2017
Location: Kent City Council
Kent, Ohio 44240

Statement by Mary Z. Greer
8783 Weaver Road
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Maryzgreer@gmail.com

Have elected officials been influenced to ease regulations on behalf of the chemical industry because of corporate donations and chemical industry lobbying?

Do they vote to allow tens of thousands of dangerous chemicals to impact our safety, health, and the very world with live and breathe in—every day—from birth to death?

A bit of background: In 1976, the Toxic Substances Control Act attempted to regulate the 62,000 chemicals and chemical compounds already in American food, furniture, flooring, clothes, paints, toys, cars, petro products, mattresses—I need not go on. Since that act 41 years ago, only 9 chemicals have been restricted, and 22,000 have been added, bringing the number of chemicals IN USE today to about 84,000. (Asbestos was banned, but the ban was overturned in 1981, because it was not cost effective.)

In 2016, a reform was attempted and passed, the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act.

To make sure that “cost effectiveness” would trump “health impacts” for chemical safety, the American Chemical Council consisting of the major and minor chemical corporations in the U.S., sent a cohort of lobbyists from 12 outside firms and dozens of revolving door lobbyists (among them two members of Congress) to speak against regulation and for easier production, transportation, distribution, and use.

In fact, the American Chemical Council (think Dow, Dupont, Monsanto, BASF, etc.) is now considered a major author of the bill that passed, and it even insisted on the recent rules that refine that bill even further. For example, the EPA doesn’t have to include possible uses of a chemical in determining risk (for example, is a given chemical safe in manufacturing but risky in baby clothes?) No longer necessary are assessments of “minimal exposure,” “exposure in closed environments,” “some vulnerable populations.” And although chemists state that almost all chemicals should be considered “high priority” in terms of their potential risk, the ACC insisted that the EPA develop a “low priority” designation to be included in the law for even less assessment. . . which it did.

Why did so many in Congress vote for this law? The American Chemical Council gave over half a million dollars to candidates in 2014, and \$11.4 million was spent in lobbying. In 2015, 64 lobbyists from 12 firms were hired to lobby Congress for nearly \$11 million dollars. The Federal Election Commission reports that senators receiving campaign donations from the industry in 2015 were as follows: Mitch McConnell, \$123,000; Mary Landrieu, \$119,700; our own Rob Portman, \$52,000, and 11 others with a minimum of \$37,000.

These contributions were not made to these senators so they could vote to make chemical testing, production, distribution, and use more stringent. They were given to make production, distribution and use even easier.

Our EPA is now gutted and understaffed. The new chief of Chemicals and Pesticides is Michael Dourson. He headed his own consulting chemical firm, and since 1995, he has been paid by chemical corporations to defend them from the EPA's health and safety challenges). The Lautenberg Act now establishes easier production going forward.

As a result, the 700 new chemicals we add each year should flourish.

Consumers, however, may not, as they suffer such side effects as neurological disorders, respiratory disease, headache, blood and other cancers, reproductive anomalies, and death.

Have elected officials been influenced by corporate money to ease the path for yet more chemicals in the U.S.? I would venture to say yes.

May 30, 2017
10/5/17

Works Consulted/ Cited

Benesh, Melanie. "New Chemical Safety Rules Show Industry Influence Inside EPA." *Enviroblog*. 24 July, 2017, www.ewg.org. Accessed 2 Oct 2017.

Drouin, Roger. "Studies Raise Red Flags About Hazardous Compounds in Fracking Fluid." 03 Dec. 2014, www.Truthout.org.

Erickson, Britt. "Getting Real About Chemical Risks." 14 Oct. 2013, Vol. 91 Issue 41. pp. 12-14. *Chemical and Engineering News*.

Hopkins, Jamie Smith. "High Levels of Dangerous Chemicals Found in Air Near Oil and Gas Sites. A five-state study raises new questions about health impacts of the U.S. energy boom." 30 Oct. 2014, www.publicintegrity.org.

Heath, David. Morris, Jim. "Internal Documents reveal industry 'pattern of behavior' on toxic chemicals." 4 Dec. 2014, www.publicintegrity.org.

Igrejas, Andy. Hitchcock, Liz. "The Chemicals in Commerce Act: Undermining Public Health and Safety in the Name of Reform." Safer Chemicals Healthy Families. www.SaferChemicals.org.

Mindock, Clark. "Plenty of Cash to Sponsors of Bill from Industry Alleged to Have Written It." OpenSecrets Blog. 20 March 2015. OpenSecrets Center for Responsive Politics. www.OpenSecrets.org.

Mindock, Clark. Novak, Viveca. "Toxic Chemicals." OpenSecrets Center for Responsive Politics. May, 2015, www.OpenSecrets.org.

American Chemistry Council. "Lobbyists representing American Chemistry Council, 2015." Year: 2015. OpenSecrets.org. Accessed 2 Oct. 2017.

Scialla, Mark. "It could take centuries for EPA to test all the unregulated chemicals under a new landmark bill." *PBSNewshour*. 22 June, 2016, www.pbs.org. Accessed 2 Oct. 2017.

Shephard, Kate. "Congress Is Finally Overhauling A Decades-Old Chemical Safety Law." 26 May 2016. *Huffpost/Politics*. www.huffingtonpost.com. Accessed 2 October 2017.



Kathy Schumann <palmyraohio@gmail.com>

Democracy Day/ Monsanto/RoundUp

3 messages

Kathy Schumann <palmyraohio@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 5, 2017 at 12:14 AM

To: Kathy Schumann <palmyraohio@gmail.com>

I talked to a farmer in Deerfield last month who told me he saw wheat crops being sprayed with (glyphosate) ROUNDUP in July. Instead of letting the wheat naturally dry in the field they sprayed it to kill and dry it. He found this very upsetting as do I since I found out that the WHO, World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans". This farmer believes that people who think they are gluten intolerant are probably just feeling the effects of this Roundup in their gut.

Although Monsanto has long claimed that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the weed killer ROUNDUP, is safe and does not cause cancer, unsealed court documents tell a potentially different story. Emails and memos from Monsanto reveal a coordinated strategy to manipulate the debate about the safety of glyphosate-to the company's advantage.

Monsanto strategy #1: Start with a conclusion and then twist the science to defend it.

Monsanto strategy #2: Ghostwrite papers and pay "independent" scientists to sign them.

In 2015, after the WHO's, International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans", Monsanto used it's own hired scientists to debunk this claim. They paid their own scientist Kier Kirkland about \$2,200 a day to defend the safety of its products. Monsanto knows which scientists to pay to come up with the results it's looking for-and sometimes Monsanto staff ghost write these papers themselves.

Monsanto Strategy #3: Avoid Scientists who don't tow the line.

Not all scientists who consult for Monsanto produce favorable results. As one Monsanto employee bemoaned: "Data generated by academics has always been a major concern for us in the defense of our products."

Monsanto faced this challenge in 1999 after enlisting James Parry, an expert in genotoxicity. Genotoxicity is the ability to damage cell DNA which leads to mutations, including cancer. Parry was to conduct an assessment on the available literature.

Parry found some evidence of glyphosate's genotoxicity and gave suggestions for additional tests that could cover gaps in knowledge. This is not the answer Monsanto was looking for. One Monsanto employee vented in an email "Has he ever worked with industry before?"

Relying on industry-funded data to assess the safety of pesticides puts public health at risk. Unfortunately, EPA's 2016 cancer assessment for glyphosate overwhelmingly relied on published industry studies. This resulted in an EPA assessment that proposed the lowest possible cancer rating for glyphosate: "Not likely to be carcinogenic to humans."

Notably the agency's Scientific Advisory Panel review of the EPA assessment shows disagreement over this conclusion. Some panel members support a classification of "suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential." And overall the panel agreed that EPA did not follow it's own guidelines for undertaking cancer assessments.

Given the Scientific Advisory Panels evaluations-and the new evidence of Monsanto's manipulation of Science and the collaboration with the EPA official overseeing the assessment-the EPA must reject its finding that glyphosate does not cause cancer. The agency must suspend glyphosate use until it completes an unbiased assessment using independent, publicly available studies.

Barley, sugarcane, rice, seeds, dried beans and peas, sweet potatoes and sugar beets are also sprayed with Roundup as a pre-harvest desiccant, (drying agent.)

[Quoted text hidden]

Info for Democracy Day taken from article in Food & Water Watch web-site. "Monsanto Manipulates Science to Make Roundup Appear Safe. Unsealed court documents demonstrate Monsanto's Strategy for twisting the Science Surrounding Roundup.

Democracy Day, October 5, 2017

Kent, Ohio Council Chambers

Statement by Stacia Yaniglos on Behalf of The League of Women Voters of Kent

Good evening. I am pleased to be here to speak as a representative of the League of Women Voters of Kent about Money in Politics. As members of the LWV Kent, we are also members of the LWVOhio and LWVUS, allowing us to work from a grass roots perspective at all levels of government. Many of you know The League as an organization that supports voting rights and voter access and education, as well as efficient and economical government. We are also an organization which works on selected issues, carefully studying pros and cons, educating our membership, engaging in dialog on those issues, and coming to consensus to develop a "position" which forms the basis for our lobbying and advocacy on that issue. Since our League of Women Voters US Convention in 1972 we have had a position on campaign finance reform; we have acted strongly and frequently to apply our League Principles of supporting an open and representative government to our political campaigns.

In the late 2000's the LWVUS was involved as a friend of the court in the U.S. Supreme Court Case Citizens United v. FEC. The League argued that corporate spending in elections should not be equated with the First Amendment rights of Individual Citizens. We reacted swiftly and strongly against the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United. Our League of Women Voters US president testified before the relevant House committee on the key steps that could be taken to respond, focusing on the importance of including tighter disclosure requirements before the 2010 elections.

At the 2012 convention, the LWVUS reaffirmed the League's commitment to campaign finance reform by passing a resolution that called for advocating strongly for campaign finance measures including but not limited to constitutional amendments.

In the 2012 elections, the League took on the huge amounts of spending, often secret, coming from so-called independent groups, arguing that much of the "independent spending" was coordinated with candidate campaigns, and therefore illegal. The League highlighted the use of secret "dark money" and pushed for enhanced disclosure.

Our most recent study in 2016 resulted in a revised position as summarized below:

Money in Politics -Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing Super PAC's and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Based on our new position statement as well as our history of action on campaign finance reform, the League's Money in Politics plan focuses on: disclosure; stopping Super PAC's and "dark money"; public financing for congressional and presidential elections; and reform of the FEC.

While our League positions address money in politics from a broader perspective, I can say with confidence that the League shares the concerns of this forum on the devastating impact of political influence resulting from campaign contributions by corporate entities, and stands solidly behind you in your efforts to counter the impact of the Citizens United decision .

Good evening, members of Kent City Council and guests,

401 Oakwood Dr., Kent, and
ATTACHMENT #10

(1) #10

I am Dr. Theodore J. Voneida, Professor Emeritus and founder of the Department of Neurobiology at Northeast Ohio Medical University. In my teaching and research, I have had a long term interest in water pollution and its effect on health. I quote this evening from my friend and colleague, Dr. Robert T. Heath, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at Kent State University. He is an ecosystem ecologist and biogeochemist, who has conducted research on Lake Erie and its tributaries for over 40 years. He is well acquainted with the legislative and regulatory process, having served on advisory panels both at state and national levels. He recently presented the following statement at a Press Conference in Akron on Senator Portman's proposed legislation, the Regulatory Reform bill.

Dr. Heath stated the following:

"Most recently I have served on the Lake Erie Phosphorus Objectives Review Panel, LEPOP, a committee of scientists appointed by and acting on behalf of the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. EPA. The purpose of that panel is to assure that the regulations and procedures for managing nutrient inputs to the lake are based on the best sound science currently available. The objective of those regulations is to control the development of hazardous algal blooms in the western basin of Lake Erie, which put toxins in the water. Those toxins pose a direct threat to human health because millions of people on both sides of the border use Lake Erie as a source of drinking water. Cities that depend on Lake Erie as a drinking water source include Toledo and Cleveland. You may recall that those toxins caused a shutdown of drinking water in Toledo in August 2014.

There are two points I want to make regarding the regulatory process:

2

ATTACHMENT #10

1. It is a long, tedious process, necessarily involving input from numerous stakeholders, including scientific review and public comments. The LEPOR Panel was first convened in October 2014, shortly after the shutdown of the Toledo public water supply. The goal at that time was to have the regulations in place by 2018. It is now certain that the process will take even longer than originally intended. In the meanwhile hazardous algal blooms continue to recur each year after year.

2. Regulations are put in place to protect human health and welfare. It is true that often regulations result in costly upgrades to existing infrastructures, but end up providing greater economic benefits to Americans at large. For example, consider the Toledo water crisis. The necessary upgrade to the Toledo drinking water facilities cost over \$1M, yet the cost of effectively shutting down the major city in northwestern Ohio for 4 days far exceeded that cost in lost revenue, jobs and human effort to find sufficient drinking water.

ATTACHMENT #10

My concerns with the legislation proposed by Sen. Portman are:

a. that it will greatly lengthen the duration of the regulatory process, conceivably bringing it to a standstill in an endlessly litigious process

b. that it is unnecessary because the regulatory process already has sufficient opportunity for input by all stakeholders, including commercial interests, and

c. that it identifies "high impact rule" and major rule" solely in economic terms,

rather than focusing on the impact on human health or economic

opportunity. By focusing solely on the economic impact of potential

regulations it is clear to me that it is intended to support and aggrandize

economic interests of the relative few, while leaving the health and welfare of

the general American public in jeopardy."

Thank you very much.