CLIMATE CHANGE:
Say Goodbye to Sugar Maples and More...
No one should read this year’s midterm elections as a sign that the public is giving polluters free rein to poison the air we breathe, the water we drink or the land we love. In fact, most of those who won on Election Day did so by claiming to be environmentalists. Several candidates with very bad environmental records even professed to be strongly for environmental protection and were able to get elected.

But the environment suffered a blow on Election Day, when allies in Congress were defeated by candidates who have actually voted against clean water, clean air and natural resource stewardship. In some states, challengers with strong environmental credentials fell just short of defeating anti-environmental incumbents. By the day’s end, we saw the GOP regain control of the Senate and expand their majority in the House.

President Bush has made it clear that he’ll use his newfound control of Congress to push priorities that the Democratic Senate had stymied. We expect quick action on a homeland security bill that provides corporations with sweeping exemptions from public disclosure laws. Congress may also move quickly on a stalled energy bill, and could very well put drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) back on the table.

And that’s only this winter. The 108th Congress could bring new assaults on laws that most Americans take for granted. President Bush has already begun chipping away at the Clean Water Act, and his administration has announced plans to rewrite the law so it no longer protects numerous wetlands, streams and other “isolated” waters. He has begun dismantling the National Environmental Policy Act, the cornerstone of environmental law. With control of Congress, Bush will boldly continue to push these rollbacks.

Paul’s tragic death reminds us all of the importance of fighting for the issues we care about. In honoring his memory, we must strive to do what he did best: stand up and keep fighting. And that’s just what Friends of the Earth will do in the next two years. The political odds we face make that fight more important than ever, and will demand new and creative strategies. We’ll work to stop Congress and the president from rolling back critical laws, but we’ll also continue to pursue a diverse array of actions such as public education, corporate campaigns, legal measures and state-level initiatives.

Despite losses on Election Day, the American public still clearly favors strong measures to protect our air, land and water. Friends of the Earth will work harder than ever to mobilize this public opinion against President Bush’s dirty-energy, anti-environmental agenda, and I hope you’ll join us. Stand up and keep fighting.

Brent Blackwelder
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EarthShare giving campaigns allow you to designate a donation to Friends of the Earth. Federal employees can donate through the Combined Federal Campaign by marking #0908 on their pledge forms.
Concerned residents in Boulder, Colo., foresee water shortages from decreased snowpack and rising temperatures. One of the largest maple syrup producers in Vermont is concerned that their business is jeopardized by maple forests migrating to cooler climates in the north. A marine biologist feels his life’s work is at risk from coral reefs disappearing due to bleaching from rising ocean temperatures and other threats.

All of these people are victims of global climate change, and Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the City of Boulder have filed a groundbreaking federal lawsuit on behalf of their members and citizens, respectively. The suit charges that two U.S. government agencies – the Export Import Bank (Ex-Im) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) – are not complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Lawsuit Details**

“The lawsuit seeks no financial compensation – only compliance with NEPA, which requires all federal agencies to assess how their actions and decisions contribute to global warming,” said attorney Brian Dunkiel. “Of all federal government agencies, these agencies are far and away responsible for the biggest chunk of climate change and carbon emissions.”

To meet NEPA requirements, federal agencies prepare a detailed statement known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or first prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine if an EIS is necessary. However, over the past 10 years OPIC and Ex-Im provided over $32 billion of U.S. taxpayer money in financing and insurance for oil fields, pipelines and coal-fired power plants located overseas without preparing EAs or EISs. The U.S. government is blatantly breaking its very own laws.

“The United States is the largest greenhouse gas emitter and Mr. Bush is now going around the world to get as much oil as he can to bring it back here and burn it,” said Jon Sohn, interna-

Continued on Page 5

**A Bolder City**

In May, Boulder, Colo., officials adopted emission-reduction goals for the city based on the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The protocol is the very same international climate pact President Bush withdrew from during his first two months in office. The mayor and city council are concerned about drinking water shortages and flooding.

Boulder depends on melting snowpack – slow-melting, packed snow – for its water needs. Readings taken the week of April 29 showed that snowpack at the lower mountain elevations had completely evaporated, a condition never seen in the many decades of record keeping at the site. The city’s upper snowpack is at 25 percent of the average readings over the past decades. Boulder has spent billions of dollars on a water infrastructure dependent on reservoirs designed to capture this springtime runoff from the mountains.

Now it rains more than snows, and the steep canyons surrounding the city make it prone to severe flooding. Also, winter and nighttime temperatures are becoming warmer. The colder temperatures kept pest species away, but now with warmer temperatures, they are able to extend their ranges. The pests threaten native species and put to waste the hundreds of millions of dollars the city invested in protecting ecosystems.

“All of the work that the city of Boulder does to maintain the quality of life for our residents will be negatively impacted by the detrimental effects of climate change. We believe that this lawsuit is one way to force the federal government to start paying attention to this critical issue,” said Boulder Mayor William Toor. “Global warming will be the defining issue of the next century – our grandchildren will ask, ‘What did you do to prevent this from happening?’”

Continued on Page 5
Sugar Maples: Syrup Going Sour

Arthur and Anne Berndt, members of Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, have owned and operated Maverick Farm in Sharon, Vt., since 1998. Maverick Farm is one of the largest maple syrup producers in Vermont. The Berndts plan to continue operating the farm for at least the next 20 years, and either pass the farm on to their children or conserve the land.

However, as a result of global warming, scientists predict that within a mere 10 or 20 years, maple trees may virtually cease to exist in Vermont, and will instead only survive and spread in cooler, Canadian latitudes. The diminished population of sugar maples will cause a loss of syrup production in Northern New York and New England. The tree population could decrease sooner if the warming is accompanied by outbreaks of pests or disease.

“We all feel nervous about climate change. If we have no maples, we have no farm income and the aesthetic value of the land will be devastated,” said Berndt. “It is not an inalienable right of Americans to consume as much energy as we want without regard for other people in the world.”

The Coral Reef: The Canary in a Coal Mine

Dr. Phillip Dustan is a full-time professor in the Biology Department at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C., and is a member of Friends of the Earth. He began his study of coral reefs in 1969. Then in 1974, he established long-term reef monitoring sites in the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. In 1995, Dr. Dustan was asked to be a principal investigator on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Florida Keys Coral Monitoring Project.

“The climate change impacts on coral reefs are tantamount to visiting Sequoia National Forest and finding every 90 out of 100 trees dead or on the ground,” said Dr. Dustan. “I have to speak up. Coral reefs are the canary in the coal mine. They are the first indication that something is wrong.”

The Coral Reef Monitoring Project documented an overall 38 percent loss of living coral cover in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary between the years 1996 and 2000. In warmer waters, coral lose their ability to harvest sunlight and grow, and they suffer from more acidic, corrosive water. There is an increased concentration of carbon dioxide in warmer waters, which is very acidic and leads to “osteoporosis” in the corals. Storms and boats easily break the coral when it’s in this state.

“I don’t think there’s any doubt in any rational scientists mind that climate change is a reality. The question is, ‘How do we stop it?’ Obviously, we should halt or slow the combustion of fossil fuels,” said Dustan.

More Damaging Projects Head for Approval

As the lawsuit proceeds, more environmentally destructive projects head for approval. The Camisea natural gas project in Peru is under consideration for financing. Corporations have begun preliminary seismic testing and other prep work but full construction is dependent on loans from Ex-Im and other financial institutions. The natural gas and resulting emissions from this project will be greater than those proclaimed by dozens of countries on two continents in the year 2000. Half of this gas is anticipated to be shipped to the United States to supply West Coast energy markets. Yet,
INTERNATIONAL

Frontline Activists Join in High-Level Meetings, Clever Protests of World Bank

By Colleen Freeman

In September Friends of the Earth hosted activists from around the world who are directly affected by oil, gas and mining projects financed by the World Bank.

Friends of the Earth International, our network of member groups in 70 countries, brought activists from Cameroon, El Salvador, Georgia, Nigeria, Peru and Romania to Washington during the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). They testified to the human and environmental damage caused by these projects and pressed Bank officials to stop financing them. For over a decade, we have attended these meetings and succeeded in influencing the Bank (See sidebar story).

We arranged meetings with Bank staff on two existing projects: the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline and the Yanacocha gold mine in Peru. We also set up meetings on two proposed projects: a gold mine in Romania and an oil pipeline through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Soon after the meetings, the World Bank pulled out of the gold mine in Romania.

According to a Bank source, World Bank President James Wolfensohn personally pulled the plug on the project after speaking with the two Romanian campaigners. (See Page 8)

Friends of the Earth International also met with officials in charge of the oil, mining and gas department as well as the Bank’s two private sector lending arms – the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. These meetings gave our colleagues the opportunity to provide the World Bank with first-hand, on-the-ground information to challenge the Bank’s assessment that these projects generate economic growth,

Success in Spurring Bank Reforms 1993-2000

- **2000**: Pressured the World Bank to commission a comprehensive review of the dam industry. The World Commission on Dams issued a groundbreaking report in Nov. 2000, with strong recommendations for mitigating future dam projects.
- **2000**: Stopped World Bank funding of the Western China Poverty Reduction project, which would have resettled 60,000 ethnic Chinese into Tibetan lands.
- **1997**: Pushed the World Bank to admit to the failures of its structural adjustment programs, which overhaul a country’s whole economy. It agreed to a World-Bank-government-civil society thorough review of such programs in several countries.
- **1996**: Teamed with the Jubilee Debt Campaign movement to double the Bank’s Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative in 1996. While still insufficient, it is delivering real reductions in debt payments and allowing for greater spending on health care and education.
- **1993**: Worked with members of Congress to push the U.S. Treasury Department to create an Independent Inspection Panel and Ombudsperson to investigate complaints of World Bank policy violations.
alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development.

Last year the Bank launched the Extractive Industries Review (EIR) to help assess its role in oil, gas and mining projects. EIR was established one year after Ricardo Navarro, Chair of Friends of the Earth International, directly challenged Wolfensohn to recognize the negative impacts of extractive industry projects.

“Despite its good intentions, the Bank has used the EIR as a public relations tool to claim it is committed to openly reviewing its activities and consulting with civil society,” said Carol Welch Friends of the Earth’s deputy director of international programs. “In reality, the bank has shown no willingness to change its current approach to oil, gas and mining.”

In addition to raising concerns with Bank staff, Friends of the Earth assisted our colleagues in media outreach and alliance building. We helped Friends of the Earth-Cameroon file an Inspection Panel claim, which cites numerous violations of World Bank safeguard policies during the construction of the Chad-Cameroon pipeline. The Inspection Panel is a three-member body created in 1993 to provide an independent forum for private citizens who allege harm caused by a World Bank-financed project. Cameroonian community members complain of polluted water sources, loss of crops and forest land, failure to compensate affected people for negative impacts, labor rights violations and health impacts – especially the spread of HIV/AIDS – directly related to the influx of workers and job seekers.

Friends of the Earth also co-organized a “clean energy” rally outside the World Bank headquarters. Speakers included Ricardo Navarro and Asume Osouka from Friends of the Earth-Nigeria. Along with Greenpeace USA, Sierra Student Coalition and others, Friends of the Earth delivered a giant “Trojan Horse” that symbolized the World Bank’s continued support for destructive oil, gas and mining projects in developing countries. This peaceful protest received extensive media coverage.

Citizens worldwide have expressed serious concern, and in some cases outrage, over the World Bank’s policy of promoting the privatization of water systems in developing countries. These plans have often placed the provision of basic water services in the hands of multinational companies and, in too many cases, have led to significant increases in water rates for low-income users.

The most notorious case of water privatization under pressure by the World Bank occurred in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The water rates for poor residents rose as high as 25 percent of their incomes when a consortium lead by the U.S.-based Bechtel Corporation privatized the Cochabamba water system in 1999.

To draw attention to these issues, Friends of the Earth delivered large quantities of “World Bank Springs” tap water bottles to the front door of the World Bank, along with a water bill for $318 million. The bill represents 25 percent of the World Bank’s annual administrative budget, which is a rate comparable to the water rates Bechtel charged to poor Cochabamba residents.

A representative of the World Bank’s External Relations department received the water bottle, and engaged in an impromptu debate before CNN’s cameras with Friends of the Earth Trade Policy Analyst David Waskow.

We put this label, picturing World Bank President James Wolfensohn, on the bottles of water we delivered to the World Bank.
The World Bank’s decision not to consider a loan for a controversial project came only two weeks after Friends of the Earth International brought two Romanian activists to directly challenge World Bank President James Wolfensohn at a town hall meeting in Washington, D.C. The activists presented Wolfensohn with drawings by Romanian children who would be impacted by the gold mine.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a private sector lending arm of the World Bank, would have made the loan to a Canadian gold-mining corporation for the controversial Rosia Montana project in Romania. “The $400 million Rosia Montana project would displace more than 2,000 people and tear down nearly 900 homes where the mine is planned. Environmentalists also opposed plans to build a 1,000-acre reservoir to collect cyanide tailings left over from the mining process,” reported the Wall Street Journal.

The project would be Europe’s largest gold mine. The four open-pit mines would generate roughly 196 million tons of cyanide-laced waste and only employ approximately 300-500 people over the mine’s 15-year lifespan.

Romania has a bad history with gold mines. In 2000, at Baia Mare gold mine, a cyanide spill polluted the Tisza and Danube Rivers, contaminating the drinking water supplies of 2.5 million people and killing 1,200 tons of fish.

Furthermore, the sponsor of Rosia Montana, Gabriel Resources, has no mining experience and already started the expropriation of 900 houses in the Romanian valley. Workers started to construct a reservoir lake to capture cyanide, which is used to extract gold from the rock, potentially destroying 4000-year-old archaeological discoveries. However, without World Bank funding it will be more difficult for other public agencies to justify financing this problem project.

In its official statement, the IFC claimed that it was in the mutual interest of the IFC and the sponsor not to continue discussions, due to the availability of alternative financing and the potential that IFC involvement would delay the project. According to a Bank source, however, Wolfensohn personally pulled the plug on the project after speaking with the two Romanian campaigners and reviewing the project.

Ex-Im has indicated that NEPA is not applicable to this project.

It doesn’t matter to the U.S. government that the project is located in one of the world’s most ecologically prized rainforests in the Peruvian Amazon. The region is described by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature scientists as “the last place on earth” to drill for fossil fuels. The region also has land that has been set aside as a reserve for several voluntarily isolated and uncontacted indigenous peoples. However, that is being ignored and abused by the companies, banks and governments involved.

“This first-of-its-kind legal action is urgently called for because we need to compel the Bush administration to take some action against global warming,” said Friends of the Earth President Brent Blackwelder.

The Bush administration admits there is global climate change, yet won’t do anything about it. If OPIC and Ex-Im were complying with NEPA, current projects may not have been approved. At a minimum, the projects’ adverse impacts would be mitigated, and alternatives considered, instead of carrying on with business as usual.

For more information visit http://www.climatelawsuit.org. Listen to Attorney Brian Dunkiel on National Public Radio.
ON THE HILL

The Disappointing 107th Congress

By Sara Zdeb

The 107th Congress is drawing to a close, leaving behind a questionable environmental legacy. On issues from energy to trade to clean water, the Republican House has teamed with the Bush administration to push anti-environmental initiatives. And while the Democratic Senate has proved adept at blocking the worst proposals, they have failed to accomplish any forward progress on the environment.

When the 107th Congress was sworn in nearly two years ago, environmentalists worried that Republican control of both chambers would lead to quick passage of the president’s anti-environmental agenda. Early steps by Congress confirmed our fears. The Senate approved the president’s nominees to key administration positions, confirming industry officials and academics who were hostile to environmental regulations. They include Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who argued against several environmental laws that Americans hold dear; Attorney General John Ashcroft, whose anti-environmental Senate record led many to doubt his willingness to enforce environmental laws; and Office of Management and Budget Administrator for Regulatory Affairs John Graham, who believes in controversial “cost-benefit analysis” techniques that devalue human health and environmental quality.

In May 2001, the balance of power in Congress shifted dramatically when Sen. James Jeffords (I-Vt.) announced that he would leave the Republican Party and throw control of the chamber to the Democrats. Environmentalists hoped this would spur the Senate to pass proactive environmental legislation. Over the remainder of the 107th Congress, however, the Democrats’ razor-thin majority at best served as a backstop for the administration’s anti-environmental agenda.

Assaults on environmental protection took many forms throughout the 107th Congress. When the Bush administration released an energy plan in April 2001, the Republican House quickly followed suit by crafting a massive bill full of regulatory rollbacks and taxpayer handouts for polluters. In fact, the House energy bill doled out nearly $40 billion in tax breaks to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries. A paltry 17 cents of every dollar in tax breaks in the bill would promote clean energy; the other 83 cents went to polluters.

The Senate bill failed to promote any increase in automobile fuel efficiency and even weakened current standards for pickup trucks. And it extended the Price-Anderson Act, a dangerous subsidy for nuclear energy that forces taxpayers, not industry, to foot the bill in the case of deadly accidents.

Congress also put up little resistance to the Bush administration’s international trade bill, which gave polluters expansive new rights. The bill, known as “fast track,” expanded a provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement that allows corporations to sue governments if an environmental standard has impaired their profit margin. The bill passed the Senate after an amendment to fix this provision failed, and squeaked through the House with a one-vote margin.

While initial signs were promising for a bill reforming agricultural subsidies, Congress ultimately passed its biggest farm bill ever. Environmentalists have long been concerned with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) system of farm subsidies, which encourage environmentally harmful overproduction. Worse, the few USDA programs that encourage farm conservation remain perpetually underfunded. The House

Continued on Page 10
President Bush and his corporate friendly cabinet members appear to be ready and willing to dish-out as many subsidies to polluters as their lobbyists can carry out of the White House. At the same time the administration is funding anti-environmental actions, the federal budget has plunged into deficit once again. After more than four years of surplus, the White House Budget Office estimates that the deficit will be nearly $160 billion in 2002.

The Green Scissors Campaign, which has cut more than $26 billion in environmentally wasteful spending over the last nine years, is watching the administration closely. Hard-fought Green Scissors victories reduced spending on fossil fuels projects, forced mining companies to pay adequate bonds to clean up toxic mine sites and kicked the nuclear power industry off the public dole. Yet the White House and Congress are still creating new ways to aid polluters.

Secretary of Treasury Paul O’Neill is heading a process in the Department of Treasury to re-write portions of the tax code. Although early in the process, any revisions of the tax code could open a Pandora’s box of corporate glut.

Supposedly arcane tax provisions have provided billions of dollars to polluting industries. Once passed into law, reviews of tax provisions take place when they expire (usually five to 10 years after passage), or when Congress wants to change or modify a provision, which is rarely done.

Revisiting or re-writing the tax code is not inherently bad. In fact, Friends of the Earth strongly believes the current tax code is one of the root causes of environmental destruction. The tax code creates huge economic hurdles for recycling and renewable energy production by continuing to lavish billions of dollars on extractive industries such as mining, logging and oil and gas development.

Unfortunately, given the president’s energy plan and other environmental debacles, hopes are not high that the environment will benefit from an administration-revision of the tax code. Reworking the tax code must not turn into another excuse for the administration to give more of your tax dollars to polluting industries. Friends of the Earth and the Green Scissors Campaign will continue to fight existing tax breaks that are corrupting the tax code as well as additional efforts to create new ones.

Boondoggle in Your Backyard?

Friends of the Earth is now accepting nominations for new issues to be considered in the Green Scissors 2003 report. If you have a program that you think needs consideration, please send an e-mail to Erich Pica, epica@foe.org, or 202-783-7400.
The Interior Department – Devastating Our Public Lands

By Kristen Sykes

he Interior Department is supposed to be the nation’s principal conservation agency. However, as Friends of the Earth continues to watchdog the actions of Interior Department officials, we are finding they are more concerned about conserving corporate profit rather than the environment.

Using the Freedom of Information Act this past September, Friends of the Earth and the Citizens Coal Council obtained calendars showing that Department of Interior Deputy Secretary J. Steven Griles met with his former energy company clients, after agreeing not to, and worked on particular issues that benefit them.

Griles was a lobbyist for over 40 coal, oil, gas and electric companies and trade associations before President Bush named him to the Interior post. He sold his lobbying firm and signed a recusal agreement pledging that while at Interior he would not be involved in “any particular matter involving specific parties in which any of my former clients is or represents a party.”

Back in May, Friends of the Earth caught Griles violating his recusal agreement after he attempted to pressure the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to change its analysis criticizing a coal bed methane project in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. Before his appointment to the Interior Department, Griles worked as a lobbyist on behalf of several coal bed methane companies involved in drilling gas wells on public lands in the basin.

“Our once again we’ve caught Griles lobbying and meeting with his corporate polluter buddies and violating his ethics agreement,” said Friends of the Earth. “President Bush should clean up the dirty corporate influence at the Interior Department by firing Griles immediately.”

Meanwhile, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced the appointment of Allan K. Fitzsimmons, who apparently knows little to nothing about forestry, as the Department of the Interior’s Wildlands Fuel Coordinator. In this newly created position Fitzsimmons will carry out the Bush administrations’ so called “Healthy Forests Initiative,” to combat the catastrophic wildfires that have burned nearly 6 million acres of western lands.

Environmental groups urged the administration to focus on a strategy that reduces forest fire threats in the areas closest to communities. Yet as written, the Bush plan would lead to wholesale logging of national forests by waiving environmental review.

To make things worse, Fitzsimmons appears to have never worked in the forestry field and lacks experience with forest ecology and fire management. In a number of articles in academic journals, Fitzsimmons states that he does not believe in the concept of an ecosystem and that he considers them to be simply “mental constructs.” In addition, he believes efforts to manage ecosystems to be just an opportunity for new federal controls to infringe on economic activity and property rights. Philosophically he will fit in very well with President Bush’s other appointees at the Department of the Interior.

For more information about Griles and Fitzsimmons visit www.foe.org/camps/leg/current/
Earth Summit’s Agonies

By Leslie Fields

In large part due to the obstructionist role of the Unite States, negotiations at the U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa were protracted and difficult and lacked the ambitious outcomes of the previous Summit.

Only two documents were negotiated and adopted: the Plan of Implementation (the Plan) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (the Declaration). The Plan was designed as a framework to implement the commitments from the 1992 Rio Summit.

The Plan contained a shift in focus to a social and development agenda, which included poverty eradication, sanitation and health. Modest targets were reiterated from the Millennium Development Goals and other agreements.

The Declaration describes the road from the Rio Summit and WSSD, emphasizes the challenges and illustrates a commitment to sustainable development. With the United States objecting vociferously to time-bound targets and timetables, major areas of disagreement included: sanitation, renewable energy, energy subsidies, chemicals and health, biodiversity loss and fish stocks, natural resource degradation, the Rio Principles 7 and 15, governance, trade, finance, globalization, the Kyoto Protocol and health (including reproductive health) and human rights.

Determination Despite Our Location

Johannesburg is the largest city in the Republic of South Africa, with the sprawl of Los Angeles and Atlanta combined with the bustle of New York City. The U.N. meetings were held in the Sandton Convention Center, Sandton. Sandton is the richest suburb, in the richest province, in the richest country on the continent of Africa. The contrast between the gilded, yet locked down convention center and the poverty of the outlying townships such as Soweto and Alexandria was surreal. South Africa is only eight years out of apartheid and much remains to be done for the 85 million black people still mired in vestiges of that racist regime.

The settings of the WSSD proved to be logistically very difficult for non-government organizations (NGOs) and community activists interested in attending sessions. The NGO site was some 37 miles away in a tired old theme park called Nasrec. Events such as workshops, (on human rights, environmental justice and gender – just to name a few) commissions and a great

We unveiled an art installation, “Hear our Voices,” outside the main entrance of the Earth Summit with 6,000 biodegradable statues representing the diverse voices of people struggling to defend their lives, their communities and their environment from giant multinationals.
deal of networking commenced every
day, but few if any press made the
journey past downtown and the aban-
doned gold mines to get to Nasrec.
Needless to say, no governmental offi-
cials ventured out either.

The South African Civil Society
Secretariat implemented an unreliable
bus system by way of zones. Thus, it
took hours to get from one venue to
another in a day. The security was very
tight, especially toward the end when
the heads of state came into town. The
South Africans resurrected a pass sys-
tem with much efficiency: We needed
different passes for almost every event.

The Troublesome Role of
the United States

The Bush administration never wanted
WSSD to succeed. A letter dated
Aug. 2 from right wing foundations
praised President Bush’s decision not
to go to WSSD. This letter also
claimed that global climate change
was the least important issue for
WSSD. During all the prepatory meet-
ings, the Bush administration tried to
roll back from key Rio Earth Summit
principles – major international agree-
ments on climate change and
biodiversity established 10 years ago,
while trying to roll in the Doha agenda
for global free trade – an agenda that
promotes global free trade over the
environment and human welfare.

U.S. officials were not above back
room deals either. In the last waning
hours, the Bush administration offi-
cials tried to undermine the corporate
accountability negotiations. They tried
to push their own interpretation of the
corporate accountability text on
un’exhausted and unsuspecting delegates,
by submitting a binding “Letter of
Implementation.” This would have
made the agreement on corporate
accountability only to do with “exist-
ing” agreements –and scuttle the
language regarding developing new
binding international rules on environ-

mentally irresponsible behavior by cor-
porations. Fortunately, due to some
hard last-minute sleuthing by us and
lobbying by our Friends of the Earth
international network activists, the dele-

gates of Ethiopia and Norway
launched a successful procedural
objection to the U.S. move.

Timetables? “No”
Partnerships? “Yes”

Although U.S. officials opposed tar-
gets and timetables, WSSD promoted
partnerships to support the Plan of
Implementation commitment of halv-
ing the proportion of people without
access to sanitation by 2015 and the
Millennium Declaration Goal of halv-
ing the proportion without safe
drinking water also by 2015. During
WSSD, U.S. officials announced $970
million in investments on water and
sanitation projects (of which only $20
million is new money); the European
Union announced its “Water for Life”
initiative; and the U.N. announced
about $20 million worth of additional
water and sanitation-related initiatives.
U.S. officials led the fight to oppose
firm targets on renewable energy, and
instead announced 32 fossil-fuel
related “partnerships” with industry.

Next Steps

In many respects, WSSD is not over.
Friends of the Earth will be vigilant in
monitoring important partnerships
(and their funding). We are also plan-
ing for the Fifth World Trade
Organization Ministerial meeting
Sept. 2003, in Cancun, Mexico.
Human rights and international envi-
ronmental justice issues will be
elevated within reorienting global eco-
nomic policies towards a sustainable
development framework, as opposed to
acquiescing to the U.S.-led trade
regime. The movement toward the cre-
ation of a binding international
framework for corporate accountability
is gaining steam.

We will also be in the forefront of
the domestic lobbying for an
International Right to Know Act
(IRTK) in Congress. IRTK will require
companies based in the United States
or traded on U.S. stock exchanges to
disclose information on overseas oper-
ations along the lines of domestic
disclosure standards.

For more information on
IRTK, visit: www.irtk.org. For
more information about the
WSSD, visit: http://www.foe.org/WSSD
In a story that made headlines all over the country this fall, more than 200 grocers, famous chefs and restaurants and seafood distributors pledged not to purchase or sell genetically engineered fish. Friends of the Earth, along with the Center for Food Safety and Clean Water Action, coordinated the pledge campaign. The support illustrates the growing concern about the environmental and human health impacts of genetically engineered fish.

We are helping spearhead the campaign to stop the domestic marketing and importation of genetically engineered fish – including a ban on their use or release into open net pens and ponds.

“Scientists and corporations are playing with genetics without knowing the consequences. As a restaurant owner and chef, I chose to act responsibly by refusing to serve any genetically engineered fish,” said Eric Ripert, executive chef of New York’s internationally acclaimed and award-winning seafood restaurant, Le Bernadin.

The concern about the potential introduction of genetically engineered fish arose after an application was filed with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for market approval of an experimental salmon developed by Aqua Bounty Farms. Friends of the Earth and over 70 other organizations filed a legal action with the federal government in May 2001 seeking a moratorium on the approval of genetically engineered fish until the ecological and human health consequences are fully examined.

Over 40,000 individuals joined the effort and submitted comments to the FDA opposing approval of genetically engineered fish. The FDA could approve the application at any time, putting the first engineered fish on dinner plates, grocery shelves and in restaurants across the country.

Of particular ecological concern, are dozens of salmon populations on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts already listed under the Endangered Species Act. The release of fast-growing genetically engineered salmon would likely impose yet another significant burden on these wild fish species struggling to survive.

“I am concerned about the impact genetically engineered fish could have on wild fish populations. My restaurant depends on the ability to provide customers with the best quality product,” said Jack Amon, owner of Alaska’s Marx Bro’s Café, and Member of the Board of Directors of the National Restaurant Association and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. “Genetically engineered fish escaping from open net pens could be a major ecological disaster.”

Scientists from Purdue University found that if just 60 genetically engineered salmon escaped from their breeding pens and joined a population of wild salmon, the wild population could become extinct in 40 generations of fish. A new study by the National Academy of Sciences also recognized the immediate and serious human health, environmental and ethical concerns associated with introducing genetically engineered animals, including fish, into the food supply.

Even if developers of genetically engineered salmon are able to sterilize every fish egg they sell (a highly unlikely prospect), genetically engineered salmon that escape into the wild would still compete with wild fish for food and habitat. Hundreds of thousands of conventionally-bred salmon escape every year from the fish farms in the United States, Canada, Europe and South America. These are the same fish farms where genetically engineered salmon would likely be raised.

For more information on Friends of the Earth’s Campaign to Stop Genetically Engineered Fish, contact Shawn Cantrell by e-mail at scantrell@foe.org or by phone at (206) 297-9460. Visit our website, http://www.foe.org/camps/reg/nw/salmon/.
### Elemental T-Shirt

$15 members, $18 non-members

This vibrant four-colored cotton tee boldly represents the four elements—fire, wind, earth and water. Available in size Large.

### Bumper Stickers

$2 each, $5 for all three

Show the world how you feel about high-polluting Sport Utility Vehicles. The slogans came from a contest held at [www.suv.org](http://www.suv.org).

### Reuse Envelope Labels

$5 members, $7 non-members

Save trees! Reuse your envelopes with Friends of the Earth’s labels. Just stick the 3” x 5” label over the old address and you can reuse old envelopes, reducing the amount of waste that you produce.

### Large Tote Bags

$10 members, $15 non-members

The perfect alternative to paper and plastic shopping bags. Our popular tote bag features organic cotton and brighter shades of blue and green.

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“Off the Books: How Corporations Hide Environmental and Human Rights Liabilities” is a 30-minute film by Attorney Sanford Lewis that describes the potential and limits of an enforceable, disclosure-based strategy for corporate accountability.

Picking up on current public attention around corporate scandal, this film provokes discussion of broad issues regarding corporate disclosure of public health, social and environmental issues. It calls for better enforcement and clearer reporting standards from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Read more about the video and order at www.offthebooks.org. Or fill out the order form on the back of this page. Cost is $18.

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Estate planning experts suggest reviewing your will annually. As a service to our members, Friends of the Earth is offering a free and concise booklet on tips to consider in preparing or updating your will.

As you think about your will, please consider remembering Friends of the Earth in your plans. Help to leave this world an even better place for our children and our children’s children.

☐ Please send me a free copy of How to Make a Will That Works.
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