

U.S. PIRG

CITIZEN AGENDA

The Report To Members Of The U.S. Public Interest Research Group

■ Energy Solutions

Senate Again Rejects Drilling In Arctic

For the second time in the past year, the U.S. Senate rejected drilling in the untouched coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

On March 19, the Senate voted 52 to 48 to support a bipartisan, U.S. PIRG-backed amendment sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer (Calif.) and Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R.I.) to strip language from a budget resolution that would have allowed oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

"This vote was a tremendous victory," said Athan Manuel, U.S. PIRG's lead advocate on the issue. "We applaud the senators who listened to the American public—in spite of pressure from big oil companies and the Bush administration—and voted to protect the Arctic Refuge."

Because most Americans oppose opening the wildlife refuge to drilling, pro-drilling lawmakers tacked the language on to the 2004 budget resolution, an inside-the-Beltway tactic that allows members of Congress to pass unpopular programs without much public debate.

But U.S. PIRG staff moved quickly to draw attention to the new threat to the refuge. In the days preceding the vote, U.S. PIRG Executive Director Gene Karpinski, Manuel and associate Justin Tatham met with at least 30 senators. U.S. PIRG staff nationwide alerted the public, prompting thousands of calls and

e-mails to the Senate in support of protecting the refuge.

A day before the vote, U.S. PIRG released a new report explaining why drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge does not make economic sense, even for the oil companies themselves.

Continued on page 7



Coby Rudolph

PRESSING FOR A SAFER, CLEANER ENERGY FUTURE—U.S. PIRG Legislative Director Anna Aurilio (second from left) testified on energy issues before a House committee on March 5. She called on lawmakers to drop provisions that would extend and increase taxpayer giveaways for nuclear power and reverse decades of nuclear non-proliferation policy.

■ Cutting Smokestack Pollution

On Clean Air, Senate Falls Short Of Halting Rollback

The EPA's proposed weakening of Clean Air Act protections was nearly blocked in a close, bipartisan January vote.

Sen. John Edwards (N.C.) and Sen. Joe Lieberman (Conn.) offered an amendment to a must-pass budget bill that would have halted the harmful rule changes finalized by the EPA in November. The EPA plan will allow millions more tons of soot and smog to be pumped into the air each year.

Eleven lawmakers broke with their parties' leadership on the measure: six Republicans cast a clean air vote,

while five Democrats sided with polluters.

Unfortunately, the Edwards-Lieberman amendment failed by a vote of 46-50, but four additional, absent lawmakers had previously pledged support for the measure.

"The outcome is disappointing, but the bipartisan support we won is encouraging for our ongoing efforts to defend clean air rules," said U.S. PIRG Staff Attorney Rebecca Stanfield. "We're now working with these clean air allies to build

Continued on page 8



The state PIRGs marked their 30th anniversary in 2002. For a sampling of the PIRGs' accomplishments over the last three decades, see pages 4-5.

Page 1
Spring 2003
Vol. 19, No. 2

U.S. PIRG

■ Letter From The Director

Protecting The Arctic Refuge Is A Hard-Won Success



Jan Pelton

The fact that the Arctic vote was a nail-biter right up until the last minute is a sign of what's to come. We'll face many more close votes in the weeks and months ahead.

Member Resources

✓ SCORECARDS
To find out how your member of Congress voted last year on issues affecting the public interest, visit www.uspirg.org.

✓ E-UPDATES
Members can receive regular e-mail updates about U.S. PIRG's work, and learn about opportunities for online action, by e-mailing us at uspirg@pirg.org. Members and others can also keep up-to-date with U.S. PIRG's research and advocacy by visiting www.uspirg.org.

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If you'd like to contribute monthly, check out Public Interest Partners, U.S. PIRG's monthly giving program. Call 1-800-838-6554 or e-mail partners@uspirg.org for details.

Victory! It's something we love to tout on this page. And this spring, U.S. PIRG's success is particularly sweet, given the anti-environment and anti-consumer political climate we've faced in recent months.

I'm happy to report that, in March, U.S. PIRG and our environmental allies blocked—yet again—an effort to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (see story on page 1).

Fifty-two senators agreed with us and the American public: it makes no sense to ruin one of America's last pristine wilderness areas for six months' worth of oil that won't reach consumers for 10 years.

Of course, the fact that the Arctic vote was a nail-biter right up until the last minute is a sign of what's to come. We'll face many more close votes in Congress in the weeks and months ahead.

For example, Congress is again debating a dirty, dangerous energy proposal that delivers much more to the oil and gas industry than it will ever deliver to American consumers.

Inserting positive provisions into the bill or, if necessary, derailing the misguided plan will take drive and perseverance, but U.S. PIRG energy experts like Anna Aurilio and Katherine Morrison are up to the challenge. We've helped block

harmful energy bills for the last two years while promoting clean energy alternatives.

U.S. PIRG is also keeping close tabs on two dirty air proposals backed by the Bush administration. One plan weakens rules for cleaning up dirty, older power plants and other facilities, and the White House's so-called "Clear Skies" proposal would actually allow more pollution than rigorous enforcement of the existing Clean Air Act.

This spring, we're working with local citizens to voice the public's support for tough clean air protections at hearings on the issue, and will continue to work with allies like Sen. Jim Jeffords (Vt.) to build support for the Clean Power Act—a bill that addresses all four of the major pollutants emitted by power plants.


Meanwhile, U.S. PIRG's Tiernan Sittenfeld and our allies are building support for measures that

counter the Bush administration's efforts to increase logging in our national forests.

And we're working with Sen. Jon Corzine (N.J.) to win legislation to better protect the public from terrorist threats to the nation's chemical facilities. Last year, a similar measure won the unanimous support of a Senate committee only to be scuttled at the eleventh hour by chemical industry lobbying.

On these and many more issues, we'll be counting every last vote in our efforts to ensure a clean and healthy environment, and strong protections for consumers.

Our success is in large part due to the support of members like you. Thank you.


Gene Karpinski
Executive Director



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■ Toxics Right-To-Know

Pollution Trends Shift From Rust Belt To Sun Belt

Through U.S. PIRG Education Fund, the organization's researchers, attorneys and other staff conduct special investigations, craft public policy proposals, and conduct public education and participation drives around emerging public interest issues. Here is a report on one U.S. PIRG Education Fund project, which is supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Beldon Fund and Bauman Foundation.

A significant amount of the toxic pollution reported to the EPA each year is concentrated in just a few areas, according to a new U.S. PIRG Education Fund analysis.

For example, in 2000, 76 percent of air and water releases of chemicals linked to potential reproductive harm occurred in just 10 zip codes in eight states, mainly in Tennessee and Alabama.

U.S. PIRG Education Fund researchers also found an overall geographic shift in toxic pollution. Since 1987, industries reported releasing more pollution in the South than in the traditionally industrial Northeast and Midwest.

The Southeast, in particular, faced a significant relative gain in emissions of pollution known to cause cancer. In 1987, polluters in the Southeast emitted 19 percent of the nation's carcinogens; in 2000, that rate had jumped to 32 percent of the nation's total.

Overall, industries continue to dump high volumes of dangerous substances into the nation's air and water. In 2000 alone, industries released more than 100 million pounds of carcinogens into the air and water. Texas, Pennsylvania and Indiana reported the most carcinogenic pollution.

In that same year, polluters released 138 million pounds of toxic chemicals related to developmental harm, and 50.8 million pounds of chemicals related to reproductive harm. Tennessee ranked worst in both categories.

Texas and Tennessee were also worst and second-worst, respectively, in 2000 for pollution suspected to cause neurological problems.



POLLUTION BURDEN CONCENTRATED IN A FEW AREAS—Environmental Health & Toxics Policy Advocate Jeremiah Baumann appeared on CNN on Jan. 23 to discuss a recent U.S. PIRG Education Fund analysis of toxic pollution data from 1987 to 2000. Researchers found that a significant portion of the pollution reported to the EPA is concentrated in just a few areas.

"Unfortunately, we know very little about how all this pollution is affecting public health," said U.S. PIRG Education Fund's Jeremiah Baumann. "We lack even a basic national public health network for tracking diseases that may be related to environmental exposures."

Currently only three states—Massachusetts, California and Iowa—have high-level cancer and birth defect registries as well as systematic tracking of asthma. Virtually no one tracks neurological conditions such as autism, and tracking of environmental exposures linked with these chronic diseases is extremely limited.

Decision-makers recently took a first step toward a nationwide health tracking system.

In the fall of 2002, 20 states and cities received grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin or expand tracking of a variety of chronic diseases, as well as exposures to potentially related environmental pollutants.

"We urgently need to expand this pilot project into a nationwide effort," said U.S. PIRG Education Fund's Meghan Purvis.

She also urged decision-makers to take steps to reduce and eliminate all toxic exposures. Industries report pollution data on less than one percent of the estimated 80,000 chemicals on the market today. ■



Member Resource

✓ EARTH SHARE
U.S. PIRG Education Fund participates in workplace giving programs with Earth Share, a federation of local, state and national environmental groups. Our designation number in the Combined Federal Campaign is #0942.

If your employee-giving program does not currently include environmental organizations, please urge them to include Earth Share in your payroll deduction program.

Page 3
Spring 2003

U.S. PIRG



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■ The State PIRGs

30 Years Of Winning Results For Consumers And The Environment

—by Tony Dutzik, policy analyst for the state PIRGs

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once likened states to laboratories of democracy.

The state PIRGs have always taken this premise to heart: advocating effective state-level policies to protect the public interest, and, in the process, often establishing models for similar action in other states and at the federal level.

To take advantage of the opportunity to “import” good ideas from other states—and to advocate on issues that transcend state lines—state PIRGs have long shared information and ideas.

In the early years, such cooperation was largely informal. But in 1983, the state PIRGs moved toward more formal cooperation through the creation of U.S. PIRG in Washington, D.C.

The close bonds between the PIRGs’ state and federal work have helped to strengthen PIRG advocacy at all levels.

In many cases—from banking reforms to new toxics right-to-know laws, from safeguards against unsafe toys to voter registration reforms—PIRG-won state laws have paved the way for similar, U.S. PIRG-supported reforms at the federal level.

Here is just a small sampling of the state PIRGs’ innovative strategies and concrete results over the last three decades:

Campaign For Safe Energy

Through most of the mid-1970s, the anti-nuclear movement held little sway over American public opinion or government policy. But the near-

meltdown at Three Mile Island in March 1979 convinced millions of Americans that nuclear power plants posed a threat to their health and safety, and that nuclear power had no place in the nation’s energy portfolio.

The state PIRGs played a critical role in turning these concerns into a broader, politically powerful movement.

In May 1979, New York PIRG (NYPIRG) helped organize one of the



CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE ENERGY—Massachusetts PIRG Executive Director Doug Phelps rallies delegates to the 1980 Democratic National Convention behind a safe energy platform.

largest protests of the 1970s: a rally that drew 100,000 people to Washington, D.C. President Jimmy Carter viewed the demonstration from a helicopter and convened a meeting the next day with then-NYPIRG Director Donald Ross and five other activists.

Four months later, Ross led a team of NYPIRG staff and volunteers who staged a second rally in New York City that attracted 250,000 people.

In December 1979, Massachusetts PIRG, led by Doug Phelps, launched the Campaign for Safe Energy

(CSE)—a grassroots effort designed to make nuclear power an issue in the following year’s presidential election.

Setting their sights on the all-important New Hampshire primary, CSE staff and volunteers fanned out to campaign events across the Granite State to question the candidates on their positions on nuclear power.

CSE also pushed to insert safe energy provisions into the platforms of the two major parties, working with convention delegates such as U.S. Rep. Ed Markey (Mass.) and the then-governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton, to garner support. The Democratic Party adopted a weakened version of CSE’s proposal, and the campaign succeeded in raising the profile and legitimacy of the anti-nuclear movement nationwide.

In the 20 years since, U.S. PIRG and the state PIRGs have built on that momentum and become leaders on clean-energy policy.

The Lemon Law

For decades, consumers in Connecticut and elsewhere had little recourse when their new cars turned out to be “lemons.”

Existing law made it almost impossible for consumers to get automakers to take back or provide refunds for cars with serious problems requiring repeated repairs.

In 1982, ConnPIRG lobbied for passage of the nation’s first law that established criteria for labeling a car a “lemon,” and allowed consumers to hold automakers directly responsible.

Policy analyst Tony Dutzik conducts research on a variety of issues for the state PIRGs, including U.S. PIRG Education Fund’s toxic-pollution report featured on page 3.



The state PIRGs marked their 30th anniversary in 2002. On issues ranging from protecting the environment to reforming politics, state PIRGs have won hundreds of victories, while pioneering new strategies for making social change.

Page 4
Spring 2003

U.S. PIRG

The State PIRGs' Public Interest Champions

In honor of the organizations' 30th anniversary, the state PIRGs recognized 30 public interest champions currently in Congress who have been key allies in efforts to protect consumers and the environment. The state PIRGs hosted a Feb. 11 congressional reception in Washington, D.C., for these champions, current and former PIRG staff, and allies in the public interest community.

PUBLIC INTEREST CHAMPIONS (in alphabetical order)

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (Ore.)	Sen. Richard Durbin (Ill.)	Rep. Ed Markey (Mass.)
Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (N.Y.)	Sen. Russell Feingold (Wis.)	Rep. George Miller (Calif.)
Sen. Barbara Boxer (Calif.)	Sen. Tom Harkin (Iowa)	Rep. Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (Wash.)	Rep. Joseph Hoeffel (Pa.)	Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (N.J.)
Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R.I.)	Rep. Jay Inslee (Wash.)	Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.)
Sen. Susan Collins (Maine)	Sen. James Jeffords (Vt.)	Sen. Harry Reid (Nev.)
Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (Mich.)	Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.)	Sen. Paul Sarbanes (Md.)
Rep. Peter DeFazio (Ore.)	Rep. Dennis Kucinich (Ohio)	Rep. Christopher Shays (Conn.)
Rep. Diana DeGette (Colo.)	Sen. Frank Lautenberg (N.J.)	Sen. Olympia Snowe (Maine)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (Texas)	Rep. John Lewis (Ga.)	Rep. Henry Waxman (Calif.)



Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R.I.) and RPIRG's Kate Canada

Peter Cutts

* To avoid any appearance of favoring a particular candidate, the PIRGs deliberately excluded from consideration members of Congress who at that time had announced they were running for president.

ConnPIRG staff, including director Ed Mierzwinski, testified at hearings and reached out to consumers who had filed complaints about their cars with the state. ConnPIRG also staged a media event in which volunteers distributed "Lemon-Aid" and owners of lemon cars shared their experiences with the press.

The event spurred an outpouring of citizen letters to legislators that led to rapid passage of the nation's first Lemon Law. Two years later, ConnPIRG won Lemon Law II, which established a state-regulated arbitration program, allowing consumers to avoid costly litigation.

Since then, the program has returned \$30 million in refunds and car replacements to consumers. More importantly, versions of the Lemon Law have since been replicated in every state. U.S. PIRG as an organization also gained from the Lemon Law success: ConnPIRG's Ed Mierzwinski has

since become U.S. PIRG's consumer program director.

A New Clean Air Act

Throughout the 1980s, state PIRGs documented air pollution problems ranging from acid rain to urban smog that affected millions of Americans.

But while PIRGs urged states to limit their own emissions of dangerous pollutants, there was little they could do to prevent pollution from drifting in from states with more lax standards.

That's why U.S. PIRG's federal advocates decided to make clean air a priority.

Working in coalition with national environmental and health groups—and taking advantage of Earth Day 1990 to enlist the support of hundreds of thousands of citizens—U.S. PIRG helped make the case for new Clean Air Act rules that would improve air quality in the nation's most polluted areas.

The fight in Congress over these new protections was one of the decade's fiercest, pitting oil, chemical, automotive and utility interests against public health.

The special interests spent \$28.3 million to stop passage of a strong clean air bill, but U.S. PIRG attorneys helped convince lawmakers to pass tough provisions to cut acid rain emissions by nearly 10 million tons, control 191 air toxics, strengthen anti-smog standards and phase out ozone-depleting chemicals.

In the years since, U.S. PIRG advocates have won new measures to cut tailpipe emissions from cars, minivans and SUVs, and reduce diesel pollution from buses and trucks.

Patients' Rights

The performance of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) had become a national scandal by the late 1990s. But unlike doctors, HMOs faced no legal liability for bad decisions.

With a national Patients' Bill of Rights stalled, PIRGs in New Jersey and North Carolina set out to win tough protections for consumers.

Despite the opposition of health insurers, governors in both states signed PIRG-backed legislation into law in late 2001, giving consumers the power to sue their HMOs under certain circumstances.

U.S. PIRG advocates continue to work to ensure that any federal Patients' Bill of Rights is strong and that it allows tough state laws—like those in New Jersey and North Carolina—to remain in effect.

Looking Ahead

The PIRGs' record of achievement can be read in the laws of every state in the country, and in the laws of the nation itself.

As we enter our fourth decade, the state PIRGs are resolved to replicate and expand upon the successes of the past in the hopes of bringing about a brighter future for us all. ■



Staff Photo

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY—Flanked by PIRG staff, Rep. Henry Waxman (Calif.) presents postcards to his colleagues in Congress in 1989 calling for tough new amendments to the Clean Air Act.



Member Action

✓ HEALTH CARE
Call your senators and representative at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to support a strong federal Patients' Bill of Rights.

News Briefs

Bill Would Reinstate "Polluter Pays" Fees

On Feb. 11, six senators introduced a bipartisan, U.S. PIRG-backed bill to reinstate the polluter-pays fees that fund the federal Superfund toxic waste cleanup program.

U.S. PIRG advocate Julie Wolk said that, at one time, the fees funded

PIRG analysis of EPA data in October found that cleanups were underfunded by 45 percent in 2002, and that cleanups slowed by 50 percent in the last two years.

U.S. PIRG's Wolk and allies are pressing to accelerate, not slow, the pace of cleanups, and win reinstatement of the polluter-pays fees. ■

PIRG Backs Plan To Protect Waterways

U.S. PIRG is building support for new measures to clarify Congress' intent to fully protect wetlands and all other U.S. waters under the Clean Water Act.

On Feb. 27, Sen. Russell Feingold (Wis.) and Sen. Jim Jeffords (Vt.) introduced the PIRG-backed bill in the Senate, and Rep. John Dingell (Mich.) introduced it in the House.

U.S. PIRG Environmental Advocate Richard Caplan said the measure is intended to counter recent actions by the Bush administration to remove at least 20 million acres of wetlands from protection, as well as remove many waters that the administration wants to define as "isolated."

"No waters are truly isolated," said Caplan. "Each river, stream and wetland plays an important part in the overall health of a watershed."

U.S. PIRG is also urging the EPA and Congress to strengthen federal oversight of states' clean water enforcement, which has been sporadic in most areas of the country. ■

Lenders Push Feds To Nullify State Protections

A lender-backed bill introduced by Rep. Bob Ney (Ohio) in January would overturn PIRG-backed state laws in New York, North Carolina, Georgia and California that protect consumers from predatory lending practices.

U.S. PIRG Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski commented, "Congress may have failed to protect the elderly and low-income people from these loan-shark practices, but some states have picked up the slack. Congress shouldn't wipe out those protections."

A wide range of groups joined U.S. PIRG in opposing the bill, including the NAACP, the United Auto Workers (UAW), ACORN, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and the National Consumer Law Center.

U.S. PIRG supports extending strong protections to all consumers by adopting these state reforms at the federal level. ■

More News

Bill Would Address Chemical Security—Sen. Jon Corzine (N.J.) reintroduced U.S. PIRG-backed chemical security legislation on Jan. 14. The bill would require facilities using large amounts of highly hazardous chemicals to take steps to increase security, including adopting safer systems that eliminate the potential for a terrorist attack where possible. Last July, the Senate Environment and Public Works committee unanimously approved an identical bill, but a chemical industry lobbying campaign blocked the proposal from being included in the final homeland security legislation.

PIRG Blocks Tongass Amendment—On Feb. 12, Congress dropped an egregious anti-environmental "rider" or amendment that was tacked on to a must-pass budget bill. U.S. PIRG and state PIRG staff had moved quickly to let the media and the public know that this rider would exempt the Tongass National Forest—the nation's largest—from a conservation rule protecting the last pristine national forests. Because of the public outcry, the amendment was dropped from the budget bill. Unfortunately, other anti-forest riders were approved as law. ■



SENATE REJECTS DRILLING IN REFUGE—After a close Senate vote on March 19, Sen. Barbara Boxer (Calif.) thanks U.S. PIRG's Athan Manuel (2nd from left) and allies from the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club and Alaska Wilderness League for their work to help protect the Arctic Refuge. (See full story on page 1.)

30 percent of all cleanups, and ensured that the EPA could force polluters to pick up the tab for the remaining costs.

Each president since Superfund was created—Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr., and Bill Clinton—has supported the fees. Nevertheless, the Bush administration opposes reauthorization.

Since the original fee mechanism expired in 1995, corporations have enjoyed a \$4 million-a-day tax holiday, totaling at least \$10 billion. Meanwhile, Superfund's trust fund, more than \$3 billion in 1995, will be nearly exhausted by the end of 2003.

President Bush has also increased the amount that taxpayers pay for cleanups to 79 percent in the 2004 budget, and has chronically underfunded the program. A U.S.

Member Action

✓ **SUPERFUND**
Visit www.uspirg.org to send an e-mail to your senators, asking them to reinstate the Superfund toxic waste cleanup program's polluter-pays fees.

Green Century Funds

BP Quits Arctic Lobbying Group

BP, the second largest company operating in Alaska, announced in November that it has dropped out of Arctic Power, a lobbying group that promotes opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling¹. The decision is the culmination of a three-year campaign by a coalition of socially responsible investors that included the Green Century Balanced Fund.

"BP has responded constructively to the concerns of the American people, as well as to many of its own shareholders, regarding its desire to open the Arctic Refuge for drilling," said Amy Perry, senior vice president of Green Century Capital Management, which is the investment adviser to the Green Century Balanced Fund. "The company seems to realize that exploring the refuge would contradict its own carefully cultivated image as an environmentally-friendly oil company," she continued.

BP has been in dialogue with investors on this issue for three years. During that time, resolutions on this issue have twice received double-digit support from BP's shareholders. This significant level of support from the company's own shareholders was crucial to convincing the company that its support for drilling in the refuge did not make sense. In July, investors met with BP representatives and requested that the company consider dropping out of Arctic Power, and in November, BP made its announcement.

The Green Century Balanced Fund has been the lead investor behind a campaign to convince ConocoPhillips to take similar steps to protect the Arctic¹. At Phillips' annual shareholder meeting in April 2002, which took place prior to its merger with Conoco, the Balanced Fund was the primary filer of a resolution

on the Arctic Refuge that received the votes of 5 percent of the company's shares. This result, which was a strong showing for a first-time resolution, allows the Balanced Fund to re-file the resolution for the company's 2003 meeting.

Perry concluded, "BP's decision is an important step forward for efforts to permanently protect the refuge from the threat of activities that would damage its fragile environment, and we hope that other companies will consider taking a similar step to ensure that one of America's last wild places remains protected for future generations."

Green Century Capital Management, Inc. is the investment adviser to the Green Century Balanced Fund and administrator of the Green Century Funds. The Green Century Funds are the first family of no-load, environmentally responsible mutual funds and were founded by a partnership of non-profit environmental advocacy or-

Energy Solutions

—continued from page 1

Manuel explained that some of the groundwork for the Arctic victory was laid in mid-February, when state PIRG staff and volunteers converged in Washington, D.C. to ask lawmakers to reject a dirty, dangerous national energy plan.

In meetings with 70 members of Congress and key advisors to another 250 lawmakers, PIRG advocates asked leaders to reject any national energy bill that doesn't protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other sensitive lands from drilling, improve fuel efficiency for vehicles, promote renew-



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROTECTING THE ARCTIC REFUGE—The landscape shows the annual migration of as many as 130,000 porcupine caribou traveling 800 miles to their spring calving grounds, where an average of 42,000 calves are born in three days. The caribou are one of just many species threatened by drilling and other activities in the Arctic Refuge.

ganization, including the state PIRGs.

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¹ As of March 31, 2003, BP plc and ConocoPhillips comprised .01% and .02%, respectively, of the Fund's portfolio. Portfolio composition will change over time due to ongoing management of the Fund. References to individual securities should not be construed as a recommendation by the Funds, their advisor or distributor.

able energy sources, or protect electricity consumers.

U.S. PIRG Staff Attorney Katherine Morrison explained, "Americans deserve an energy bill that promotes energy efficiency and renewables like wind and solar. For now, unfortunately, we're focusing on blocking misguided energy proposals from becoming law."

Last year, Congress adjourned without agreeing on a final energy measure—a significant victory for consumers and the environment, considering the harmful provisions included in the House and Senate versions of the bill. ■

Member Action

✓ ENERGY
Visit www.uspirg.org to e-mail your senators. Ask them to vote against any energy bill that doesn't protect the Arctic Refuge, improve fuel efficiency, increase renewable energy or protect electricity consumers.

Page 7
Spring 2003

U.S. PIRG

Smokestack Pollution

—continued from page 1
opposition to yet another dirty air proposal being pressed by the Bush administration.”

On March 3, the Bush administration unveiled its “Clear Skies” bill, which is a much broader effort to weaken clean air protections. U.S. PIRG Staff Attorney Zach Corrigan said that the bill would allow for a 36 percent increase in the smog-forming pollution that triggers asthma attacks, and a 50 percent increase in the soot-forming pollution that shortens lives.

It also would allow at least three times more mercury emissions, over a longer time period, and increase the risk of mercury exposure for people living closest to power plants. Furthermore, the plan does nothing about power plant emissions of carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming.

Separately, the Bush administration is also moving forward with a plan to further weaken the Clean Air Act’s New Source Review (NSR) program. The NSR program requires power plants, refineries and other industries to install modern pollution controls when they modify their operations in ways that will increase pollution.

Corrigan and Stanfield are working to build support for a pro-public health alternative: the Clean Power bill.



Sherril Ra

DIRTY DINOSAURS—A Bush administration dirty air proposal would exempt hundreds of old, coal-fired power plants, like Northeast Utilities’ plant in Norwalk, Conn., from the Clean Air Act’s New Source Review program.

Cosponsored by Sen. Jim Jeffords (Vt.) and 16 other senators, the proposal would bring old, dirty power plants into compliance with modern clean air safeguards.

The U.S. PIRG-backed Clean Power bill would dramatically reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, mercury, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide from power plants across the nation. As a result, more than 20,000 premature deaths would be prevented annually.

“We can’t wait any longer to take action to improve the nation’s air quality,” said Corrigan. “We need our lawmakers to keep strong clean air protections on the books, and approve even tougher pollution limits.” ■

U.S. PIRG

About U.S. PIRG—U.S. PIRG is an advocate for the public interest. When consumers are cheated, or our natural environment is threatened, or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, U.S. PIRG speaks up and takes action. We uncover threats to public health and well-being and fight to end them, using the time-tested tools of investigative research, media exposés, grassroots organizing, advocacy and litigation. U.S. PIRG’s mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects our environment, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government.

U.S. PIRG CITIZEN AGENDA

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Executive Director Gene Karpinski

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