

# A WIN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, A WIN FOR DEMOCRACY: THE CASE FOR COLLABORATION

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*Prepared by Funders' Committee for Civic Participation  
Money in Politics Working Group and the Fund for the Republic*

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# INTRODUCTION

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Funders have asked: How do we broaden the democracy reform movement? In particular, what are the promising initiatives that connect the environmental movement with the money-in-politics work?

This brief survey is a response to those questions, and is meant to further the discussion and provide specific examples of how the environmental movement is intersecting with democracy reform. This bird's-eye-view allows funders to see what partnerships already exist and where there are exciting opportunities to forge new collaborations. Combining these efforts will help build the political power to advance both causes—protecting the environment and changing politics in Washington.

# BACKGROUND

Our new reality is startling: Few *significant* victories on behalf of ordinary Americans are possible within the current political system. It will be difficult to move the needle on the environment, health care, the media—really, any sector—if the landscape remains the same. In fact, in some areas we are losing ground.

How did we get here? In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* that corporations could pump unbridled amounts of money into election campaigns to support or oppose political candidates. This ruling, and several others by the Roberts Court, was like pouring gasoline on an already raging fire. If the problem of unchecked corporate political spending was bad before, it is now out of control.

The rulings are a culmination of nearly thirty years of legal strategy to advance the political power of deep-pocketed interests in America. Together, and with the aid of lobbyists, front groups and politicians, they have effectively overturned 100 years of law that restrained the role of money in the political system for the sake of limiting corruption. Corporations are now free to cherry pick the candidates who will protect their interests and oppose policies for the greater good. The 2012 election, which cost \$7 billion, is just the beginning.

Over the past four decades, democracy reform groups have fought nobly—and typically, alone—to change politics on the state level and in Washington. But securing victories has become increasingly challenging. According to 2012 research by Fund for the Republic, reform organizations report spending a mere \$45 million on money-in-politics reform, as compared to \$3 billion spent by lobbyists. The total staff size of the reform community is similar to a mid-sized law firm: around 280 people. The influence lobby, however, has more than 10,000 registered federal lobbyists and 90,000 unregistered employees connected to lobbyists.

Removing money from politics is imperative for the success of every organization, and every cause. It's also clear that the democracy reform movement needs reinforcements. New partnerships are needed to rally people-power around this common agenda. As this consensus emerges, there is growing momentum from funders to branch out from their traditional support to take on the money-in-politics problem.

In particular, the environmental movement is at a critical juncture, and is ready to infuse democracy reform into its own efforts. Leaders understand that they must fight to reform our democracy if they want to ensure that meaningful environmental protections are passed. In turn, democracy reform groups now better understand the need to stand with issue organizers working for the public good. Funders have an opportunity to bridge these two worlds. By working together and being smart and strategic with field resources and philanthropic dollars, we can move both of these efforts forward: a win for the environment and a win for democracy.

# MOMENTUM WITHIN PHILANTHROPY

For the past several years, the philanthropic community has been considering how to support efforts to broaden the money-in-politics work. This interest is gaining momentum, and has been sparked by several initiatives and reports that are leading the conversation.

In 2010, the Piper Fund spearheaded a new grant-making initiative specifically focused on broadening the money-in-politics movement. They pioneered conversations around this idea and launched a program to fund a set of regional and national networks poised to weave the money-in-politics narrative into their work. Seizing upon opportunities in the economic justice sector, the initial set of grants funded networks in this field, and now the work has expanded first to the women's community and is now turning to environmental justice. In addition, the Piper Fund commissioned Richard Kirsch to author a report that scanned the field for opportunities and challenges for connecting democracy reform with economic justice. The report sparked a robust discussion about building a broader and more diverse movement to address money in politics.

In 2011, Marc Caplan at the Piper and Proteus Funds, Laleh Ispahani at Open Society Foundations, and Deb Ross at the Funders Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP), helped lead the formation of the Working Group on Money in Politics at FCCP. The Working Group has continued to foster and enhance the conversations between the Piper Fund and other affinity groups who are thinking more critically about new partnerships. The Working Group has hosted two conversations at Environmental Grantmakers Association's conferences as well as other discussions with money-in-politics and environmental funders who share an interest in exploring collaborations in their funding.

In September 2012, Fund for the Republic (FFR) was created to catalyze and fund initiatives designed to grow the army fighting for reform. FFR shares a vision of enhancing the field by making more connections, and sees the environmental community as an especially important element of this strategy.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE JOINING THE BATTLE FOR REFORM

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The environmental community is no stranger to corruption in Washington. Increasingly, corporate influence is blocking urgently needed environmental reforms—from tough regulatory measures to keep our water and air clean to policies tackling climate change. The list goes on. Environmental advocates recognize that in order to turn the tide in their favor, they must change the waters. Simultaneously, the democracy reform movement understands the need to win on environmental issues. Both have a vested interest in working together.

This interest marks an important opportunity for collaboration between the environmental movement and the democracy reform movement. Environmental groups have already begun weaving a money-in-politics narrative into their campaigns, organizing against “big oil” and “toxic money, toxic votes.” These efforts have primed their members to be receptive to a wider money-in-politics message.

The environmental community has enormous human and financial resources that can be leveraged in this fight. There are an estimated 13,000–16,000 groups nationwide working on environmental issues. Of that, around 75 groups are well known. According to 2011 estimates from Giving USA, the non-profit environmental sector receives about \$8 billion annually, which is 3% of total charitable giving. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that the environmental sector employs between 80,000–150,000 people.

As the environmental and democracy reform movements forge new partnerships, support from the philanthropic community is essential. Taking back our hijacked political system will take bold thinking, collaborative planning and generous giving.

# EMERGING COLLABORATIONS & CAMPAIGNS

The following list offers short profiles of emerging collaborations and campaigns that connect the environmental and money-in-politics reform movements. Note that each profile was written by the organization or foundation itself, and this language was preserved. This list is not meant to be exhaustive of the evolving efforts of cross-sector collaboration between environmental groups and the reform community, and beyond.

## 350.org

[350.org](#) exists to unite an international grassroots movement that can solve the climate crisis. After the Supreme Court ruling in 2010 in the *Citizens United* case, [350.org](#) decided to take the climate battle directly to the public sphere and expose the fossil fuel industry and the power they have over our government. Their work includes building public opposition to government subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and pushing members of Congress to side with the people instead of polluters.

More recently, [350.org](#) launched a fossil fuel divestment campaign, which involves over 300 college campuses and other institutions such as churches and city governments nationwide. On each campus where they are active, they are supporting students with media-savvy campaigns to pressure their board of trustees to adopt an immediate freeze on new fossil fuel investments and phase out fossil fuel holdings within the next five years. They are also highlighting the need for a re-investment in renewable energy industries that can create jobs and improve the economy while solving the climate crisis. As mentioned, they are also bringing divestment work off campuses to cities and states nationwide, to meet a growing demand from their supporters.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact Executive Director May Boeve at [may@350.org](mailto:may@350.org)

## Democracy Initiative

The Democracy Initiative recognizes that no single organization is strong enough to fix a broken democracy by itself. The Initiative is led by the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, the NAACP, and the Communications Workers of America in collaboration with a range of organizations nationwide. The broad objectives of the Democracy Initiative for 2013 include: (1) developing a multi-year plan to build a broad-based collaborative movement to restore our democracy; (2) educating and activating members and activists within their organizations and across the progressive sector about the interplay between democracy and their unique missions; (3) building state-based coalitions that bridge traditional divides between single-issue movements, and expanding the activism and leadership calling for voter protection and campaign finance reforms (including overturning *Citizens United*); (4) identifying opportunities to move state-level legislation related to voter protection and electoral

reform, including public financing of elections; and (5) hosting regular convenings to harness emerging opportunities and to build a national campaign to advance state-level initiatives.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about the Democracy Initiative, contact Marisa Brown at [mbrown@democracyforus.org](mailto:mbrown@democracyforus.org)

## Greenpeace

With more than 2.9 million supporters worldwide and a strategic focus on corporate accountability and direct action, Greenpeace has been a committed defender of the environment since their founding in 1971. Greenpeace believes that their work is vital to the ongoing protection and preservation of our planet, but that it also stands as a foundational element of what it is to live in a democratic society. The onslaught of new legislation and ordinances designed to suppress access to the voting booth, campaign spending by billionaires and corporate-funded Super PACs, and the manipulation of Senate Rules has direct links to environmental obstructionism as well as the erosion of our democracy. Greenpeace is working for a country where individuals are given the power to take a stand—in their communities, on social media and at the ballot box—and speak for what they believe to be true and right. These beliefs propelled Greenpeace to help launch the Democracy Initiative referenced above. Greenpeace’s contribution to the effort comes from its core campaign strengths: opposition research, the willingness to directly speak truth to power, digital innovation, and the ability to deliver high visibility media and creative communication.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact Executive Director Phil Radford at [phil.radford@wdc.greenpeace.org](mailto:phil.radford@wdc.greenpeace.org)

## League of Conservation Voters

According to the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), no industry has done more damage to our political system or planet than Big Oil and Dirty Coal. LCV has launched several sustained campaigns, including communications, media and field efforts, to shine a spotlight on legislators who take money from dirty energy and then repeatedly vote to weaken public health safeguards.

LCV data shows that this strategy has proven to significantly impact the popularity of corporate-influenced legislators. For example, in the fall of 2011, LCV placed a \$1.8 million television ad buy in Massachusetts to highlight Sen. Scott Brown’s strong financial ties to Big Oil and his subsequent anti-environment voting record. Brown’s favorability ratings dropped 13 points as a direct result of the ads plus the earned media and grassroots mobilization activity surrounding the 501c4 effort.

Now, LCV is aiming to reach tens of millions more people with this type of accountability campaign, tying Big Oil and Dirty Coal contributions to key elected officials and their votes. They want members of Congress to know their close relationships with polluters who line their pockets will have a serious consequence

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on LCV’s work, contact President Gene Karpinski at [gene\\_karpinski@lcv.org](mailto:gene_karpinski@lcv.org)

## Oil Change International

Separation of Oil and State, a campaign of [Oil Change International](#), is an effort to expose and weaken the influence of the oil, coal and gas industries and to eliminate their large government subsidies. Their projects like the [Dirty Energy Money database](#) expose the pipeline of money from industry to decision makers.

Oil Change International has successfully [exposed](#) the fossil fuel money behind the Keystone XL pipeline and [industry efforts](#) to defend oil subsidies. Their online campaigns generate hundreds of thousands of emails to elected officials. And their infographics on Facebook linking campaign contributions to fossil fuel subsidies have been “liked” and “shared” by hundreds of thousands of people.

In the coming year, Oil Change International is: (1) expanding their outreach, collaboration and coordination efforts with old and new partners to highlight the influence of the fossil fuel industry on money in politics; (2) upgrading the Dirty Energy Money database to include state-level contributions and automated alerts for new donations; (3) conducting outreach to grassroots groups impacted by fracking in key states; (4) increasing accountability activities by highlighting the relationship between fossil fuel campaign contributions and votes on energy legislation; (5) producing new graphics and social media tools; and (6) expanding outreach to membership and media with an improved communications capacity.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact Executive Director Steve Kretzmann at [steve@priceofoil.org](mailto:steve@priceofoil.org)

## Sierra Club

Through the Democracy Initiative referenced above, the Sierra Club is dedicating staff time at both the national and state levels to engage in the fight for reform. In 2013, the Democracy Initiative identified New York, North Carolina and Minnesota as immediate opportunities to either promote good governance reform or block radical suppression efforts. To support the recently stalled New York Fair Elections effort, Sierra Club staff organized house parties, gathered petition signatures online, and conducted earned media events to connect environmental priorities to the need for public financing. They are connecting leaders fighting abuses in North Carolina to good governance experts in DC, and developing a national narrative highlighting the harms that one campaign donor—Art Pope—can effect at the state level when left unchecked. In Minnesota, they are strategizing with their chapter leadership to support progressive voting rights reforms and working with local partners to host in-state meetings to advance the work. Finally at the federal level, they are working to broaden the Fix the Senate Coalition, highlight filibuster abuse, and present solutions to restore legislative functionality.

Through Sierra Club Independent Action (a 501c4 organization), the Club has also been advancing its Toxic Money, Toxic Votes campaign with the goal of highlighting how Big Oil and Big Coal are pushing their dirty energy agenda by flooding the political system with tens of millions of dollars.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact Executive Director Mike Brune at [Michael.brune@sierraclub.org](mailto:Michael.brune@sierraclub.org)



## Union of Concerned Scientists

Over the next year, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) will undertake two strategies that expose and counter the inappropriate influence of money on our government's ability to achieve progress on environmental goals.

Through their Center for Science and Democracy, UCS is helping to counter corporate influence that blocks policies to address climate change and other significant challenges. In partnership with leading scientists and key partner organizations, UCS will: (1) expose how corporate interests use trade associations as front groups to delay progress and limit public access to information about their actions; (2) tackle controversial issues such as hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), bringing leaders together to examine the latest science and technology, and the factors influencing policy; and (3) strengthen and nationally showcase community efforts to stand up to corporate interests that threaten their environmental wellbeing.

Secondly, UCS will provide a sophisticated response to front groups who are spending millions of dollars on misinformation campaigns to weaken or stop renewable energy policies. In order to respond to these threats, UCS will: (1) publicize *Ramping Up Renewables*, a recently released UCS report that demonstrates how state-level RES policies are helping to lead the clean energy transition; (2) counter misinformation about the cost of achieving RESs coming from studies by the Beacon Hill Institute and other fossil fuel interests; and (3) develop and promote a web feature exposing how the individuals and special interest groups behind current clean energy misinformation campaigns are the same bad actors who misled the public on climate change and the health impacts of smoking.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact President Kevin Knobloch at [kknobloch@ucsusa.org](mailto:kknobloch@ucsusa.org)

# SAMPLES OF PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES AND INVESTMENT

## Arkay Foundation

Since its founding in 1996, The Arkay Foundation has supported voter engagement, campaign finance reform and enhancing the U.S. democratic process. The Board later added another priority: reducing human impact on the environment to counteract global climate change. Because Arkay believes that the influence of special interest money in the American political process is a barrier to progress on its environmental goals, it developed an initiative to bring these two streams together. The goal of the initiative is to encourage and support environmental groups to engage in the broader money-in-politics movement to: (1) build and mobilize a bigger base of environmental organizations that can show how corporate and other special interest money in politics is a barrier to achieving environmental progress; (2) significantly increase the leadership, visibility and participation of environmental organizations in the national debate about the role of money in politics; (3) amplify the voice of environmental organizations and their members around the common message of how money in politics negatively impacts the environment; (4) build greater cohesion, cooperation and communication in the environmental movement around a common narrative and develop interrelated strategies to address the impact of money in politics on common goals; and (5) build stronger connections and working coalitions among environmental groups and the economic, social justice, and political-reform movements.

In December 2012, the first round of the Arkay initiative awarded a total of \$300,000 to five organizations: 350.org, Greenpeace Fund, Oil Change International, Sierra Club Foundation, and Union of Concerned Scientists.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please contact Benita Kline at [benita@lkmi.com](mailto:benita@lkmi.com)

## Brico Fund

After the unsuccessful recall election of Governor Scott Walker in 2012, the press reported that big money interests, including the mining industry, funded Walker's campaign. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign reported that special interests that back loosening mining regulations contributed \$15.6 million to the Republican-controlled legislature and Governor Walker. Entering 2013, a more comprehensive mining bill was introduced and passed with little public dialogue, and with no regard to science.

A new synergy is developing now between the Wisconsin Voices organizational members, including the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. From a values-messaging perspective, organizations are now working cross-issue to frame compelling messages

that clearly articulate that the legislature does not represent the voices of the people. Rather, big business is buying its votes.

Money in politics is one significant hurdle in the path to the promise of democracy. Thus, the Brico Fund is supporting organizations that are aligned for impact and poised to reclaim a context in which public policies are enacted that reflect their vision and values. As they work to achieve this vision, they will do so in a manner that reflects the people's shared values of freedom, opportunity, responsibility and cooperation.

Recent and pending Brico Fund grants related to money in politics include Wisconsin Voices, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Communications Group, Bad River Tribe, and the Wisconsin Business Alliance.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about grant making, please contact Anne Summers at [aes@bricofund.org](mailto:aes@bricofund.org)  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about the integrated program strategy, please contact Linda Honold at [lindahonold2@gmail.com](mailto:lindahonold2@gmail.com)

## A sustainable future requires a functioning democracy.

The Compton Foundation

### Compton Foundation

The Compton Foundation has been supporting work in environment, peace and reproductive rights for more than fifty years. In 2012, Compton adopted a new mission statement focused on supporting transformative leadership and courageous storytelling to inspire action that advances all of those fields. Compton also understands that corporate control of our political system undermines our ability to make progress in any of these areas, including climate change, fresh water and rural sustainability. And, Compton has observed that influence of money in politics is not just a tactical problem, it is also potentially a compelling story around which to organize. In addition, a sustainable future requires a functioning democracy. This has led them to fund at the intersection of environment and money in politics.

Recent Compton grants at that juncture have gone to the Sierra Club, Greenpeace and the NAACP for their joint work on the Democracy Initiative and to the Piper Fund and Public Campaign for their outreach on campaign finance and money in politics to issue-based movements.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Jennifer Sokolove at [jsokolove@comptonfoundation.org](mailto:jsokolove@comptonfoundation.org)

## Fund for the Republic

The Fund for the Republic (FFR) is a new foundation focused on leveraging substantial investments to reform our political system and resuscitate our democracy. FFR's goal is to create a dynamic community of individual donors interested in reform and to help conceptualize and fund the strategies necessary to generate transformational change. Since FFR was founded in the fall of 2012, they have issued more than \$1 million in grants and they hope to significantly increase their grant making in the coming years. FFR has recently begun providing Urgent Opportunities grants to support groups working to seize unanticipated short-term opportunities to tackle the undue influence of money in democracy. Most grants will be in the \$10,000-15,000 range, but organizations can receive grants of up to \$25,000. In exceptional circumstances, larger grants may also be considered. Special consideration will be given to Urgent Opportunities grant applications that propose collaborative efforts between NGOs and across sectors, so the Fund will be paying special attention to emergent opportunities for collaboration across the money-in-politics reform and environmental space.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please contact Nick Penniman at [npenniman@fundfortherepublic.org](mailto:npenniman@fundfortherepublic.org)

## John Merck Fund

As an environmental funder focused on grant-making in clean energy and environmental health, the John Merck Fund believes it's critical to connect their issues to the fight to get big money out of the political process. As a progressive funder, they believe they must be paying attention to the efforts of the Koch Brothers to influence elections and state and federal policies across a wide range of issues. They also observe that the Kochs have been very smart about building a fully integrated infrastructure of think tanks, academic programs, advocacy groups, faux grassroots operations, philanthropies and other surrogates to advance their corporate interests as well as their personal libertarian ideology—in blue states as well as red states.

Several other partner foundations have joined the John Merck Fund in supporting the KochOut campaign, which is helping local NGOs uncover and publicize the Kochs' attempts in three New England states to manipulate public policy. They believe that success in New England could be replicated in other states and regions. Their grant-making initiative is intended to connect these dots and inspire a grassroots campaign that will advance both the environmental movement as well as those seeking to reclaim our democracy.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please contact Ruth Hennig at [rhennig@jmfund.org](mailto:rhennig@jmfund.org)

## Piper Fund

The Piper Fund believes building a broad, powerful money-and-politics movement is fundamental to reforming democracy. To that end, the Piper Fund launched a new grant-making program in 2010 to widen and strengthen the movement. Since then, the Piper has funded four networks of economic justice organizations to incorporate an analysis of money in politics into all aspects of their work. The four networks are the Center for Community Change; New Bottom Line bank and Wall Street accountability campaign; Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment; and Alliance for a Just Society.

In addition, Piper made an early 2013 planning grant to the National Council for Research on Women to work in partnership with other national women's rights organizations (NOW, *Ms. Magazine* and Feminist Majority Foundation) to explore a money-in-politics narrative around issues of women's economic justice. This grant is the first of its kind to connect money-in-politics and women's rights. Piper is now exploring funding the environmental justice community.

The Piper Fund's Money in Politics and Fair Courts Communications Collaborative Initiative (CCI)—whose mission is to build much greater communications capacity in the money-in-politics and fair courts sectors—is working closely with the Democracy Initiative, and has met with representatives from the Sierra Club and Greenpeace to brief them on the project. Engaging the environmental community is one of the key priorities for the CCI, as it looks to help Americans understand the very real threat to our democracy's ability to address the pressing issues of the day without genuine political reform.

Finally, the Proteus Fund, and its sister c4 organization the Proteus Action League (PAL), are hosting the Democracy Initiative described above. Proteus will provide oversight and due diligence and will monitor the progress of the Democracy Initiative on behalf of its partner funders. Grant-making will include rapid response grants, enabling the Initiative to take advantage of new opportunities and unexpected challenges. The Proteus Action League will make lobbying grants through able partnerships with donors and institutions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Marc Caplan at [mcaplan@proteusfund.org](mailto:mcaplan@proteusfund.org)

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Solidago Foundation

### Solidago Foundation

The Powering Change project of the Solidago Foundation is exploring a collaborative space for pooled funding as a mechanism for collective learning and investment. It starts with the premise that a century of dirty energy money in politics has prevented our leaders from aligning with the public and moving policies and investment at the scale and ambition necessary. Powering Change believes that this democratic gap between people and politics is the Achilles heel of the climate movement, and that philanthropy must face this gap honestly and embrace a new way of thinking about how and

where we invest to create the enabling conditions fundamental to the success across climate grant-making strategies.

Solidago is investing in four initial pilot states with anchor organizations: California via the Asian Pacific Environmental Network; Virginia via the Virginia New Majority Education Fund; Massachusetts via Neighbor to Neighbor; and New Mexico via the Center for Civic Policy & South West Organizing Project.

The leaders in these states and their base see climate as the issue of our time and see building political power linking people to politics as the strategic imperative of our era. Anchored in values of democracy and equity, they seek to reclaim core values and ideas on how we define our economy and community with a radically positive vision. They are experimenting with different forms of voter engagement, models of electoral leadership and alliances, smart use of data, and testing of how issues are framed and debated to unify constituencies across race and class.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact, Sarah Christiansen at [SarahC@solidago.org](mailto:SarahC@solidago.org)

## Wallace Global Fund

The mission of the Wallace Global Fund is to promote an informed and engaged citizenry, to fight injustice, and to protect the diversity of nature and the natural systems upon which all life depends. The Fund's priorities include fighting environmental resource depletion and challenging the concentration of corporate power. The Fund also believes strongly in expanding democratic participation and in supporting bold progressive ideas and leadership.

Thus, Wallace Global Fund is proud to fund organizations such as 350.org and the Brennan Center for Justice. They are excited about the intersection of the environment and democracy reform communities as seen through the new Democracy Initiative, which the Wallace Global Fund helped launch. They also seek to leverage grant-making resources by using their fund's own investments to support asset activism on issues of concern, particularly around climate change.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Tina Kroll-Guerch at [tkroll@wgf.org](mailto:tkroll@wgf.org)

# CONCLUSION AND LOOKING AHEAD

The environmental community is exploring new partnerships with the democracy reform movement. Indeed, many exciting partnerships have already been formed. This interest must be matched with increased investment by philanthropy. Now is *the* moment to help broaden the democracy reform movement by investing in powerful leading environmental organizations and other social justice and issue-based groups who want to marry their work with money-and-politics.

Supporting smart strategy is smart philanthropy. Funders should consider this approach because:

- A pro-environment agenda is hamstrung as long as corporations and special interests can drastically influence elections and policy making;
- People take action around campaigns focused on holding corporations accountable for blocking environmental reforms. This message resonates with environmental constituents and advocates for other issues/causes;
- This cross-sector collaboration expands and deepens political power, creating a formidable force that can tackle other campaigns together in the future;
- Groups will be able to reach new and more diverse audiences by reaching across the “political-issue aisle;”
- It’s time to do something different, to think big, and to employ **bold** strategy.

With sufficient funding, we can change the political system and begin to win again, on all fronts—from stopping corporate hijackers to securing a healthy environment to crafting economic policies that benefit the common good.

# CONTACT US

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For more ways to get involved, share your grant-making strategies in this area, suggest additional projects not listed here, or connect personally with a funder colleague, please contact us:

- Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, Money in Politics Working Group, Director Alexandra Russell at [arussell@funderscommittee.org](mailto:arussell@funderscommittee.org)
- Fund for the Republic, Executive Director Nick Penniman at [npenniman@fundfortherepublic.org](mailto:npenniman@fundfortherepublic.org)
- Piper Fund, Senior Program Officer, Marc Caplan at [mcaplan@proteusfund.org](mailto:mcaplan@proteusfund.org)