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Spotlight on the oceans

IT'S TIME FOR A TEDDY ROOSEVELT OF THE SEAS. WILL THE WHITE HOUSE DELIVER IN 2005?

Will the oceans survive as healthy ecosystems? A lot depends on people like Rich Young. Coming from a family of fishermen, Young began trawling off the California coast in the 1970s, when an average season yielded 250 tons of rockfish and other groundfish. But gradually, overfishing and pollution took their toll, and by 1990 Young was finding it harder to survive in the fishery.

In 1992, the federal government capped the number of boats and restricted harvests in a futile attempt to halt the declines. This only resulted in more frenzied competition among fishermen. “I missed plenty of birthdays and holidays because of fishing,” recalls Young.

The declines reached a crisis point and, in 2002, the government closed much of the continental shelf off the West Coast to trawling. Finding it impossible to stay in business, Young and his family made the wrenching decision last year to sell his boats.

What went wrong in the Pacific fishery finds echoes along the entire U.S. coastline. Now, a presidential commission has found evidence that the decline is systemic. The oceans have been sadly neglected, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy concludes, but they are resilient, and the commission suggests a road map for recovery.

“The commission’s recommendations are a blueprint for action, a once-in-a-

generation opportunity to reverse an economic and environmental disaster,” says our oceans director David Festa.

Currently, 82 fish species are in trouble in North American waters. One major cause of the decline is overfishing. The commission agrees with steps we have long advocated: (1) Protect critical areas like spawning grounds; (2) make science, not politics, the basis for setting of catch limits; and (3) divide the allowable catch into percentage shares for each fisherman.

POLLUTION CLOSES MANY OCEAN BEACHES

Equally troubling is the deterioration of estuaries and other coastal ecosystems because of agricultural runoff and coastal development. As a result, each summer about 12,000 beaches are closed or under pollution advisory. Compounding these problems is chronic mismanagement by the tangle of federal agencies overseeing the oceans.

This month, the commission’s report
Please see Cover Story, p. 2



Fisheries are crashing as hard as the waves but recovery is possible.

Speak softly and carry a big toolkit



If there is political will, great things are possible. That thought crossed my mind as I stood alongside EPA administrator Mike Leavitt this May to commend

him on new regulations that were hammered out to cut diesel air pollution from construction equipment and other “nonroad” engines. The administration signaled early that it would take strong action against diesel emissions. It worked with industry, but it also listened to health experts and environmental groups until a consensus was built.

Different tasks take different tools. In that same week in May, Environmental Defense filed suit against

the Interior Department to protect clean air in the West (see p. 8), launched an endangered species recovery campaign with private landowners and met individually with 14 Senators to build support for global warming legislation.

Today’s environmental challenges demand that we be agile and ready to

Solutions that engage all sectors are most likely to succeed.

use a variety of methods. We must forge new partnerships and build an environmental majority that is above partisanship and ideology. Solutions that engage all sectors, enlisting the creativity of entrepreneurs, are most likely to succeed.

The consensus reached around the diesel rule was a breath of fresh air. *The New York Times* called it “the most important clean air initiative to originate in and be brought to fruition by the Bush administration.” It closed a loophole that had been responsible for close to half of all diesel particulates from mobile sources. The result is a triumph for human health.

When decision makers signal they will take strong action and involve all stakeholders, as EPA did on diesel, the conversation then turns to how, not whether, to act. The same approach should be deployed on other urgent issues like global warming and overfishing. There’s no time to lose.

COVER STORY: A chorus grows for oceans reform

Continued from page 1

will go to President Bush for much-needed action. As *The New York Times* editorialized: “It’s time for everyone to pay attention [to the plight of the oceans].”

Environmental Defense has enlisted a wide range of allies to help implement many of the commission’s recommendations. But responsibility starts with the president. With all eyes on the presidential race, Environmental Defense will urge the

candidates to issue explicit, meaningful commitments on the oceans. Whoever is elected in November can become the “Teddy Roosevelt of the oceans” by enshrining protections for the seas that parallel Roosevelt’s national park initiatives.

America needs marine protected areas to safeguard crucial habitat and vanishing coral reefs. The president must strengthen conservation law enforcement and encourage the use of market-based tools for fishery management.

In California we are promoting a sweeping Ocean Protection Act that will enact key recommendations of the commission. That’s where Rich Young comes in. Following his experience with disastrous fishery management, Young teamed up with Environmental Defense, testified before Congress and accompanied our scientists to workshops with fishermen along the Pacific coast.

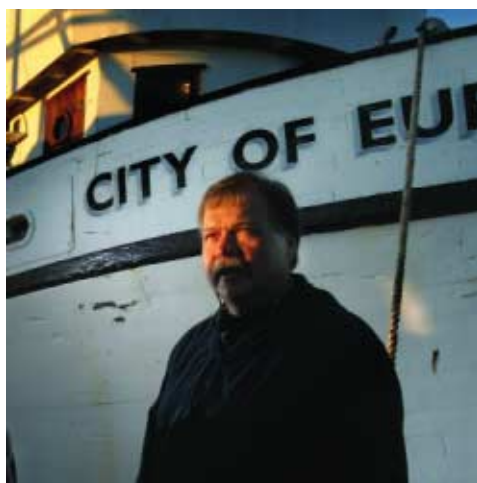
“We’re working to provide fishermen with incentives to fish less wastefully and to coordinate with each other rather than compete,” he says. “Environ-

mental Defense was the first group to recognize the human dimension and find a solution that works not just for the fish but for fishermen as well.”



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send a message to President Bush: Urge him to take a stand as a champion of the oceans and preserve this vital and fragile resource. Go to www.environmentaldefense.org/go/action.



Collapsing fisheries are bringing an end to family traditions for Rich Young and others.

Sacramento Bee/Bryan Patrick

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE
Adding the ways that work

Solutions

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MAILBAG

Dear Environmental Defense:

I am a high school student writing to express my concern for the Bush administration's reaction to the Kyoto accord on global warming. I would like to know what you feel the American public can do to rectify this situation. I am also curious to know what your organization is doing. My generation and I are very concerned.

Maria Zupan, Missoula, MT

Environmental Defense president Fred Krupp responds:

One way citizens can help is by doing precisely what you are doing—making your voice heard. One thing Environmental Defense is doing is working to pass the McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act to reduce global warming pollution.

Let's work together. To persuade Congress to act, we are seeking one million "citizen co-sponsors" of McCain-Lieberman. Please visit www.undoit.org to sign our petition, and encourage your classmates to sign it as well. Public pressure is an invaluable part of the change process.



Dear Environmental Defense:

I took your Clean Car Pledge, and now I have fulfilled it. Like Fred Krupp, I'm the happy owner of a new hybrid car.

Bill Moore, Pisgah Forest, NC

Fred Krupp now has over 47,000 miles on his 2001 Toyota Prius. One by one, people are making a difference for cleaner air, and you can, too. Take the Clean Car Pledge at www.cleancarcampaign.org.

Washington watch



Despite attacks, endangered species win bipartisan support



Conservatives who have sometimes bristled at federal protection of endangered species recently gave an enthusiastic thumbs-up to our new Back from the Brink campaign. We are seeking to bring 15 imperiled species back from the brink of extinction by working cooperatively with landowners. Upon our announcement of the plan, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) said, "This program exemplifies the progressive, results-oriented and respectful approach to conservation."

Speaking for the Bush administration, Interior Secretary Gale Norton said, "We believe your Back from the Brink campaign can successfully join our combined efforts to promote cooperative conservation strategies."

Such alliances are long overdue. Our Back from the Brink campaign recognizes that most endangered species depend on private land for their survival, and that protecting these species means enlisting landowners of all political stripes. In the past, landowners feared that helping species would lead to new restrictions on their land. Now, Safe Harbor, an approach pioneered by Environmental Defense and adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, gives landowners a guarantee that helping species will not engender new restrictions.

Environmental Defense vigorously supports a strong Endangered Species Act. Launching Back from the Brink, we called on President Bush to remove the bald eagle

from the endangered list. The initial response has been favorable. Our national symbol was saved by a ban on DDT that resulted from our efforts, and by its listing as an endangered species. Today 7,678 pairs of eagles roam the skies in the lower 48 states, and the number continues to rise.

THREATS IN CONGRESS

Despite such successes, attacks on the Endangered Species Act continue. Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA) is championing a bill, supported by the administration, to make it harder to designate critical habitat for endangered species, part of a larger trend of trying to weaken the Act by a thousand cuts.

"The Endangered Species Act is undermined by the perception that it is broken and ineffective," says our wildlife specialist Michael Bean. "The bald eagle's recovery shows that the Act is working."



Waiting for better days. The Southwestern willow flycatcher's habitat is vanishing.

Breathing easier NEW CLEAN AIR RULES WILL HELP NATION'S 22 MILLION ASTHMA SUFFERERS

Fred Fuerte always checks the pollution index before venturing outside his Fresno, CA, home. The slightest bump in ozone causes his lungs to spasm and his airways to swell. In 2001, the 52-year-old made 28 trips to the emergency room. Breathing on a smoggy day is like “driving with the parking brake on,” he says.

The number of Americans with asthma has more than doubled in the past 15 years to more than 22 million. “It has reached epidemic proportions,” says our health director Dr. John Balbus. Children are especially vulnerable because their lungs are still developing and because they tend to be active outside during smog season.

Exactly what causes asthma is not known for sure, but once a person has asthma, air pollution can trigger attacks.

In Fresno, the trigger is pulled all too frequently. The valley’s bowl shape and hot, windless climate create a perfect

smog trap. That may explain, in part, why the county’s childhood asthma rate is more than twice times the national average.

“Of the many triggers of asthma attacks, air pollution is one thing we can clearly do something about,” says Balbus. Environmental Defense has set a goal of cutting air pollution from tailpipes and smokestacks by 80% over the next decade. We’re pushing for tougher emissions standards, cleaner power plants and incentive programs to get immediate reductions.

The Environmental Protection Agency adopted stricter smog limits in 1997 but failed to implement them, prompting Environmental Defense, the American Lung Association and allies to take joint legal action. Environmental Defense spearheaded negotiations that resulted in a recent settlement.

Under the agreement, EPA has designated 474 counties in 31 states as out of compliance with the federal smog standard, requiring them to prepare cleanup plans. “This decision brings millions more

Americans under the nation’s smog-protection program, many of whom never before have had the benefits of these health protections,” says our attorney Janea Scott.

VICTORY AGAINST POLLUTING DIESEL ENGINES

One major source of harmful air pollution is diesel exhaust—that unmistakable black plume billowing from buses, bulldozers and barges. Such exhaust contains more than 40 cancer-causing compounds, ranking it among the most dangerous air pollutants.

Three years ago, we helped win stricter federal limits for diesel trucks and buses. Building on that victory, EPA finalized new rules in May that will slash emissions from diesel-powered tractors, construction equipment and other non-road engines.

The new rules require refineries to produce low-sulfur diesel fuel and engine makers to cut diesel emissions by more than 90%, a reduction that could prevent 12,000 premature deaths every year. The clean-fuel requirement also covers locomotives and marine transport, but they were given an additional two years to comply.

We are now pressing EPA to adopt stricter emission standards for commer-



New diesel rules will mean fewer smoggy mornings for 159 million Americans in Los Angeles and other counties.

Rick Gerhart/Lonely Planet

Smogbuster

Having grown up outside Denver, Janea Scott knows a thing or two about smog. She also knows about the mountain majesty of Colorado’s Front Range. Fulfilling her dream of becoming an advocate for environmental justice, Scott, an attorney, joined Environmental Defense in 2000. In her first assignment, she found herself as the lone environmentalist on EPA’s advisory group on non-road diesel. Undaunted, she worked with colleagues to secure strong national rules that will improve air quality for millions of Americans. Now she has set her sights on remaining diesel loopholes: stationary generators, locomotives and commercial shipping. Polluters beware.



cial marine engines, which are the dirtiest of the dirty yet still remain under-regulated. Our new report, *Smog Alert: How commercial shipping is polluting our air*, shines a spotlight on the problem. EPA estimates that by 2030 marine vessels will produce 25% of all smog-forming pollution from mobile sources, if not contained.

Because existing diesel engines can remain in use for

decades, Environmental Defense seeks to accelerate their cleanup through retrofit programs. For example, we helped pass legislation in Texas creating an incentive fund for diesel retrofits (see box) and are now promoting a national program.

Says Balbus: "A child born today should not have to wait until she is an adult before she can breathe healthy air."

Leave a legacy forever

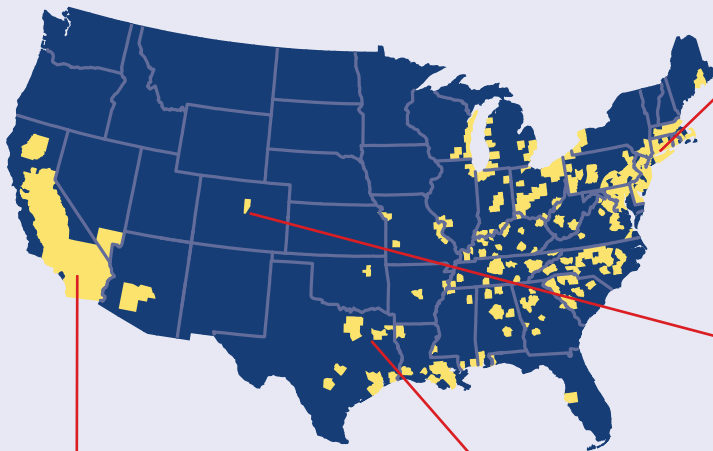
Your retirement plan is a wonderful way to provide for your future—and the health of the planet. All you need to do is name us as the beneficiary of your retirement account. That's all it takes. This simple act on your part helps ensure that America's treasured wilderness areas and clean water will be protected for generations to come.

For more information, call toll-free 1-877-677-7397, or write Anne Doyle, Environmental Defense, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010.



Smog alert: Regional steps to curb pollution

Over half the U.S. population lives in areas with unhealthy levels of smog (highlighted on map). Now EPA is requiring these areas to clean up their air. Environmental Defense is working with policymakers, businesses and government officials to design innovative solutions.



California

The state recently passed stricter limits on emissions from highly polluting diesel-powered backup generators, which are frequently located near schools. Spurred by an Environmental Defense report, this action may pave the way for nationwide rules.



Texas Transit buses in Dallas and garbage trucks in Houston are being equipped with the latest pollution controls, cutting their smog-causing emissions by 50% or more. This is the result of legislation we helped pass, creating a \$650 million incentive fund for cleaning up diesel engines.



New York

We recently issued a study showing that moving freight by rail can be twice as clean as truck transport and would ease traffic congestion. We also partnered with ferry companies to install pollution controls and helped shape a citywide ordinance to clean up diesel machinery at city-sponsored construction sites.



Colorado

Last year, the Denver area experienced the highest smog levels in more than 15 years. Cleaner summertime gasoline, as EPA now requires in the area in response to our advocacy, will help solve the problem.

Regional update

Rescued from the path of a steamroller

In the decades that he's worked 100 North Carolina acres, Boon Chesson has learned a lot. The loblolly pines he introduced, on U.S. Forest Service advice, have proved a bad idea, no match for upland hurricanes and ice storms. The rare native longleaf pines on Boon's land are another story, however. Hardier and prettier, with furniture-grade wood, their open canopy lets sunlight in, nourishing lush glades and savanna—habitat once common in the Southeast.

Until farming and fire suppression choked them out, Carolina's piedmont prairies were home to elk, bison and grasses taller than a man: Indian grass, purpletop, beggar lice and the endangered Schweinitz's sunflower. "I began to think," says Boon, "I'd like more of these native sons."

Environmental Defense has long worked to secure Farm Bill conservation funds for good stewards of private

"I'd like more of these native sons," says tree farmer Boon Chesson.

land. This spring, our policy analyst David

McNaught and partners persuaded the government to fund landowners willing to do controlled burns and thin forests in order to restore prairie habitat. Boon is now the proud father of 2,000 Schweinitz's sunflowers, rescued from the path of a road-paving machine. The yellow-headed beauties are flourishing on his land—producing seed for other landowners—and rare birds, butterflies and quail have moved in. Says McNaught: "We're trying to revive whole natural communities so that many species now at risk can thrive again."



Native Americans lit fires regularly to sustain the Schweinitz's sunflower and other tall prairie grasses.

Date Suter/USFWS-NC



Mitsuaki Iwago/Miden Pictures

The Northwest Hawaiian Islands reserve is the only mostly intact large coral reef ecosystem left on the planet.

Joining ranks to protect a threatened global treasure

When Uncle Buzzy Agard, a respected elder, first fished the Northwest Hawaiian Islands in the 1940s, he thought "This is nirvana! I could fish this place forever!"

But soon he noticed the fish disappearing. "First the mullets were gone, then the thread fins. I realized I was helping destroy this unique place." So Agard instead began fighting to protect the remote archipelago, home to sacred Native Hawaiian sites, endangered monk seals and thousand-year-old coral forests.

We worked with Agard and other Native Hawaiian fishermen, activists and local environmental groups to develop a conservation plan for this area, which President Theodore Roosevelt had first protected. When President Clinton announced the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve in 2000, Agard proudly joined him on stage. "We would never have won

the reserve without Environmental Defense," Agard says.

Unfortunately the protections are far from secure.

As the Commerce Department finalizes a management plan for the reserve, powerful political interests are seeking to weaken key safeguards. Our scientist Dr. Stephanie Fried traveled to

"I realized I was helping destroy this unique place."

Washington this spring with local partners to argue for science-based protections. Our Action Network members sent federal officials more than 25,000 messages of support for a strong management plan.

"I would like my grandchildren to see the marine life I saw, without having to read about it in a book," says Agard.

Iowa pig farmers join campaign to keep antibiotics working

“WHEREAS, Many of our customers (including McDonald’s) are requesting a decrease in antibiotics in animal feed....

“RESOLVED, The Iowa Pork Producers Association urges all producers to voluntarily discontinue the use of all growth-promotant antibiotics in swine finishing rations.”

That resolution, passed in January, is the latest demonstration of what happens when one of the world’s largest food companies changes its purchasing policy. Since last summer, when Environmental Defense helped persuade McDonald’s to stop buying poultry and pork that had been fed growth-promoting antibiotics, we’ve gained a legion of partners in the effort to keep these wonder drugs working.

The latest is Health Care without Harm, an international coalition of 450 hospitals and health-care facilities, whose new purchasing policies for meat, poultry, seafood and dairy now require suppliers to forego the routine use of medically important antibiotics.

As suppliers meet this growing demand—already five of the coun-

try’s biggest poultry producers say they have greatly restricted antibiotic use—the benefits to human health should be substantial. Agricultural misuse of antibiotics, along with their overuse in human medicine, has caused many dangerous bacteria to become resistant, leading to untreatable staph infections, fatal food poisonings in children and a sharp increase in deaths from infections among the elderly.

In May, the Government Accounting Office called antibiotic resistance resulting from agricultural uses of antibiotics “an unacceptable risk to the public health.” But the damage can be reversed. A report from the World Health Organization reveals a decline in bacterial resistance in Denmark after most feed uses were banned in 1998.

Our scientist Dr. Rebecca Goldberg explains how antibiotics regain their effectiveness. “When there’s even a slight metabolic cost for bacteria to resist an antibiotic, but no longer a survival advantage, the nonresistant bacteria win.”



Banana Stock/ImageState

Antibiotics anyone? Our campaign would ban routine use of human antibiotics in poultry and livestock.

World Bank urged to drop harmful oil and gas projects

With their mud huts and lack of running water, the villages along the dusty road to Chad’s Doba oil fields show few signs of this African nation’s newfound oil wealth. The World Bank backed the Exxon-Mobil-led oil project, touting its benefits for the poor. But Chad’s dictator-president spent the first oil millions on weapons, and jailed project opponents.

Chad is only the latest of many development casualties. A recent World Bank-commissioned report failed to identify a single oil, gas or mining project funded by the Bank that had achieved its mandate of alleviating poverty. The report, the Extractive Industries Review, urges the Bank to redirect about \$800 million in annual investments to projects that promote renewable energy and protect human rights. The Bank’s board may vote on the report’s recommendations this month.

“This will have ripple effects for

future fossil-fuel investments,” says our international director Bruce Rich. “Oil and mining companies depend on the Bank for credibility. Without it, they have a harder time convincing private investors to fund controversial projects.”

Oil companies protested the report, and Bank management at first rejected its recommendations. But an international coalition we helped build of environmental, indigenous and labor organizations pressured the Bank to reconsider. Our local partners in Africa and Indonesia and six Nobel peace laureates joined our call, and the European parliament passed a resolution backing the recommendations.


“This review validates concerns we



Korinna Horta

Casualties of greed: For these Bagyeli children from Cameroon, the oil pipeline’s wealth has not trickled down.

have raised with the Bank for years,” says Rich. “It would be indefensible if the Bank failed to carry out the recommendations of its own independent report.”

 Send a message to World Bank President James Wolfensohn urging the bank to invest in renewable energy at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/action.

Environmental groups team up with ranchers to fight massive Wyoming gas development

J. Cooney/Animals Animals



The sprawling Powder River Basin development threatens migration routes and habitat of the pronghorn antelope (above), the sage grouse and other wildlife.

Nancy Sorenson's life changed the day the "land men" came knocking on the door of her ranch in the rolling hills of Wyoming's Powder River Basin and surprised her by announcing they would drill for natural gas there.

Soon her 1,200-acre ranch was crawling with wildcat drillers. "We became an industrial zone," says Sorenson. "We got pipelines, power lines, generators, a radio tower, 54 wells and 19 different drilling agreements. The virgin prairie has been ruined. It will never be the same."

Worse yet, Sorenson has no legal right to stop energy companies from drilling. Under a split ownership law, minerals beneath private land are owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). "There is no protection for surface owners or regard for the environment," says Sorenson.

Before the Interior Department opened up the West for development, there were fewer than 1,000 coal-bed methane wells dotting the pristine landscape of the Powder River Basin.



Up for grabs: One million unspoiled acres.

Remote wilderness ecosystems like Upper Frozen Lake are likely to acidify, and pockets of spectacular natural beauty like Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons will be assailed by harmful air pollution.

Building on two decades of work protecting western air, Environmental Defense teamed up with the National Wildlife Federation, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Montana Environmental Information Center and filed suit against the Department of the Interior and BLM in May.

We charge that Interior approved the massive coal-bed methane development without adequately examining or mitigating its serious air pollution impacts. At drill sites, heavy machinery spews out carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, sooty particles and volatile organic compounds.

Furthermore, we charge, Interior Secretary Gale Norton failed in her responsibility under the Clean Air Act to

Now BLM plans some 100,000 gas and oil wells on the prairie, more than five per square mile. Sprawling across one million acres of Wyoming and Montana, it will be the biggest energy development in the lower 48 states. More than 23,000 miles of roads and 52,000 miles of pipelines and power lines will be erected.

protect the air of national parks and wilderness areas. Yellowstone National Park, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the Grand Tetons and Wind Cave National Park will suffer, as will U.L. Bend, Fitzpatrick and Bridger wilderness areas.

"Unrestrained development like this will damage the water, landscape, wildlife and air quality over a huge area," says our attorney Vickie Patton. "The impacts on visibility alone are staggering."

In assessing potential damages from air pollution, BLM avoided studying the full impact by splitting the project in two parts and by ignoring pollution from area power plants. BLM also failed to release its analysis on time, thereby thwarting public comment. Interior contends that state regulators can adequately remedy the pollution.



Powder River Basin Resource Council

Gas companies in Wyoming and Montana can drill right out from under ranchers' feet.

Ranchers, Indian tribes and environmentalists have united to oppose the new "gold rush." Our lawsuit complements litigation by allies that focuses on the threat to aquifers.

Says our Rocky Mountain regional director Timothy Sullivan: "Legal action will force the federal government to fulfill its responsibility of preserving the treasures of the West."



WHAT YOU CAN DO Send Interior Secretary Gale Norton an email message urging her to stop the environmental damage associated with coal bed methane projects. Go to www.environmentaldefense.org/go/action.

Government backs off changes to organic food



Following a storm of protest from Environmental Defense and others, the U.S. Agriculture Department has dropped sweeping changes that would have undermined the nation's organic food standards.

The agency had announced new directives in April allowing the use of pesticides and antibiotics in organic crops and dairy cows. The changes also would have allowed farmed and wild fish, personal care products and pet foods to be labeled organic, even though no production standards exist for these items.

Environmental Defense protested the changes, as did the Organic Trade Association, the Keep Antibiotics Working coal-

ition and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), who authored the organic standards law.

In response, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman rescinded the decision and directed her department to consult with the National Organic Standards Board, which originally developed the standards. Our scientist Dr. Becky Goldberg sits on that board. "I'm delighted the Agriculture



Jim West

Department has committed itself to protecting the integrity of the nation's organic food program," said Goldberg. "Consumers need to know they can trust the organic label."

Consumers need to know whether they can trust the organic label.

Update: McDonald's packaging

You might not notice that your McDonald's fry container feels a bit lighter, but the environment will. The company recently reduced the weight of the paper used in its fry cartons and increased the post-consumer recycled content of its napkins. These improvements, among others, helped McDonald's meet a commitment to offset the adverse environmental impacts of packaging changes the company made last fall. Those changes included moving several of its sandwiches from paper wraps to rigid containers and switching to bleached white carryout bags.

After discussions with Environmental Defense, McDonald's agreed to offset the impacts of those changes through packaging improvements elsewhere. We monitored the company's progress and confirmed in May that the company had offset the impacts and then some, achieving additional improvements beyond our targets.

"These actions show that with hard work and a little ingenuity, companies can optimize both their business and their environmental performance," says our program manager Gwen Ruta.



Eberhard Grames/Bilderberg/Peter Arnold

Balancing act: McDonald's has offset the impacts of its switch to bleached bags.

Should DDT's use be expanded? A global perspective



Adrin Snider/AP Photo

Collapsing public health systems are responsible for a surge in malaria cases.

When a *New York Times* story called for the renewed global use of DDT, Environmental Defense health director Dr. John Balbus knew a response was warranted. We were founded, after all, expressly to end the use of DDT. Our scientists brought the original lawsuit in 1967, won a nationwide ban in 1972 and

brought the peregrine falcon and bald eagle back from the brink of extinction.

The new DDT advocates argue that the U.S. ban put out of reach the most effective response to a resurgent malaria that now kills two million people a year. But to attribute the rise in malaria worldwide to the U.S. ban is wrong, says Balbus. The primary causes have been the decline of public health systems, political instability in malaria-ravaged countries and increasing resistance of mosquitoes to pesticides and drugs.

Environmental Defense supports the 2001 Stockholm convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which allows limited, carefully monitored indoor use of DDT for public health purposes until "safer, affordable and effective alternatives are made available."

Light busters

The largest group fighting light pollution is the International Dark-Sky Association, with 41 chapters in the U.S. and branches in 17 countries. It publishes a newsletter and offers member discounts on night-friendly lighting and other products. Individual memberships are \$30. 3225 N. 1st Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719 (520-293-3198; www.darksky.org).

A related organization, the Dark Sky Society, can be joined for free at www.darksksociety.org.

An excellent overview of light pollution is found at www.sierraclub.org/longisland/lightpollution.html.

PRODUCT SOURCES

Sea Gull Lighting's Dark Sky Outdoor Wall Lantern is available at 301 West Washington Street, Riverside, NJ 08075 (866-449-2821; www.seagulllighting.com).

Other companies that make sky-friendly consumer lighting include Spring City Electrical Manufacturing Company, P.O. Box 19, Spring City, PA 19475 (610-948-4000; www.springcity.com) and Hadco, P.O. Box 128, 100 Craftway, Littlestown, PA 17340 (717-359-7131; www.hadcolighting.com).

Order the GlareBuster directly for \$79.95 from Affordable Lighting, 727 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT 06437 (800-548-8714; www.theglarebuster.com).

Motion sensor lights in a variety of styles are available at www.darksky.org/fixtures/mot-sensec.html



Alastair Grant/AP Photo

For thousands of years, humans have found wisdom and mystery in the night sky.

Bring back the night

LIGHT POLLUTION BEWILDERS BIRDS, WASTES ENERGY AND ERASES STARS FROM THE SKY

Only eight generations ago, our ancestors were able to see an estimated 11,000 stars in the cloudless night sky. Today, because of “skyglow” caused by misdirected nighttime illumination, two-thirds of all Americans no longer can catch a glimpse of the Milky Way. In many urban areas a combination of air pollution and excessive artificial light has reduced visible stars to less than 100.

“Light pollution” is caused by unnecessary nighttime commercial and domestic illumination that invades our privacy and interferes with nature’s timeless patterns. For instance, birds confused by artificial light now sing at night in many locations.

Such light trespass not only has the power to render 100-inch telescopes useless for serious astronomy, but also has important implications for ordinary human life. Dr. Arcadi Nebolsine, a cultural historian at Drew University, feels “a very important environmental relationship for mankind” is being lost. “Sadly,” he says, “we have children growing up in

cities who have never seen the stars.”

Unnecessary lighting also has practical consequences. Unwanted light trespasses across property lines, wastes energy and money (an estimated \$1 billion annually in the U.S. alone), affects sleep patterns and, because of preventable glare, causes traffic accidents.

But aren’t we safer with ubiquitous night lights? Studies in the U.S. and Great Britain show no significant link between crime rates and extra lighting, and motion detectors and shields can put the light where it’s needed.

Here are some ways you can take a stand against light pollution.

- **There ought to be a law.** Nine states already have strong laws to control light pollution, and bills are pending in ten more. Arizona’s law requires all outdoor light fixtures above 150 watts to be shielded (except airport navigational lights and some streetlights), which means no light can rise above the bottom of the lamp. New Mexico gives residents and businesses

Guest columnist Jim Motavalli is editor of E/The Environmental Magazine (for subscription information: 800-967-6572 or www.emagazine.com). Opinions are the author’s and not those of Environmental Defense staff.

the option of shielding night lights or shutting them down at 11 pm. Other states, like Connecticut, Maine and Texas, regulate state-funded lights only.

- **Shield it.** Although only about 1% of outdoor lighting fixtures are sky-friendly, the market is growing. You can replace unshielded outdoor lights with alternatives like the fully shielded Glare-Buster (\$60 to \$80), which directs all light downward, away from the sky and neighbors. Sea Gull Lighting's Dark Sky Outdoor Wall Lantern (\$210) recesses its bulb in the upper part of the fixture, preventing light leakage. The Parshield (\$20; parshield.com) fits onto existing floodlights, making them night-friendly.



Pedro Labo/Corbis

The unbearable lightness of evening.

- **Use motion detectors.** Your outdoor lights can be fitted with sensors that detect movement by large objects. Off most of the time, these lights turn on conveniently as you enter your yard at night and can play an important part in

any home security system. Installed with exterior flood or spotlights, motion sensors also save energy and money.

- **Reclaim the night sky.** A Virginia high school student and amateur astronomer, Jennifer Barlow, founded National Dark Sky Week (www.ndsw.org) when she realized that the light haze around our planet was cutting us off from the rest of the universe. For this year's week, celebrated April 19-26, Barlow recommended turning off unnecessary lights, spreading the word, going to star parties and observatories, and seeing "the greatest show the universe has to offer."

By Jim Motavalli

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE ACTION CENTER

Too slick: Stop ExxonMobil's global warming disinformation campaign

ExxonMobil continues its cynical effort to spread doubt about the science of global warming and derail government action on greenhouse gas emissions. Its strategy was made clear six years ago in a confidential oil industry memo, saying that "victory will be achieved when uncertainties in climate science become part of the conventional wisdom."

ExxonMobil has since provided millions of dollars to organizations that energetically voice skepticism about global warming, often using misleading statistics. Who are these "experts" and why do you so rarely hear where their money comes from? Follow the money trail at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/exxonmobil.

Other energy companies including BP, Entergy, Ontario Power Generation, Shell International and Suncor Energy have joined with Environmental Defense in recognizing the overwhelming scientific evidence that human activities are contributing to global warming and have taken action to rein in their own emissions.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Send ExxonMobil CEO Lee R. Raymond an email message urging that he halt the misinformation campaign and join the market leaders working to slow global warming. Go to <http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/exxonmobil>.

Support better transportation solutions

A House-Senate panel will spend the smoggy months of summer reconciling their pending bills governing the nation's highway and mass-transit construction programs. When complete, the Transportation Equity Act will deter-



John K. Humble/Stone

There's still time to choose parks, transit and clean air.

mine the allocation of hundreds of billions of your tax dollars to projects around the country over the next six years.

Both current versions contain provisions that will weaken the Clean Air Act and increase pollution that contributes to asthma, heart disease and cancer. Both will increase traffic and urban sprawl; damage communities, parks, wildlife refuges and historic sites; and reduce opportunities for the public and local officials to shape transportation priorities.

The House's version, says our transportation director Michael Replogle, is "a less toxic brew." And there's still time to seize this opportunity to improve transportation choices, air quality and the use of public money and land.



Let Congress know that you want a transportation bill that protects public health and the environment. Take action at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter.

The Day After Tomorrow: A preview of coming attractions?

Giant hailstones kill dozens in China! Seventy-five tornadoes in the United States kill 36 in one day! Scenes from this summer's much ballyhooed global warming movie *The Day After Tomorrow*? No, these are real-life weather events that occurred during the making of the film.

Life seemed to imitate art in eerie ways as the movie took shape. In 2002, a Rhode Island-sized ice shelf in Antarctica disintegrated, weeks after the movie's creators wrote the opening scene depicting its collapse. "We joked that we'd better start shooting soon or we'd be making a documentary," said director Roland Emmerich.

With its flash-freezing superstorms that wreak havoc on Manhattan, the movie is far from realistic. Nonetheless, the script is based partly on fact.

"The theory of abrupt climate change is real, but even gradual change can have serious consequences," says our climate scientist Dr. James Wang. "The characters in the movie fail to connect the dots and they don't act fast enough to prevent disaster. That's a Hollywood ending I hope we can avoid."

What they're saying about Environmental Defense

"The emissions trading project has been tremendously successful so far. This experiment needs to be expanded now."

—China's minister of the environment Xie Zhenhua, commenting on the program we helped design to cut sulfur dioxide pollution across heavily industrial regions of China.

How to tell fact from fiction? You can learn the true story on the hazards of global warming from *The Heat Is On*, our new, comprehensive survey of the issue at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/theheatison.



Takashi Seida/Twentieth Century Fox

Time to do something about global warming?

Partners spread the word on warming



If you've been enjoying Stonyfield Farm yogurt lately, or Clif bars, Odwalla juice, Silk soy milk, Trinity spring water or Organic Valley butter and eggs, you may be seeing our Global Warming: Undo It logo in your sleep. Our Undo It campaign aims to win passage of the McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act to cut global warming pollution nationwide. Now these six brands—through their packaging, web sites and events across the country—are urging their customers to help us reach our goal of one million "citizen co-sponsor" petition signatures and a Senate majority on this critical bill.

At sports events and green festivals throughout the summer, from Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, MN, to the Hotter-n-Hell cycling race in Wichita Falls, TX, Clif Bar will gather petition signatures. On the Stonyfield Farm web site, Gurt the Cow puts a big hoof print on our petition and urges everyone else to do the same. Trinity will hang a tag

on water bottles, reminding people to help keep the earth a cool place. Silk will hand out Undo It postcards at Race for the Cure events they sponsor all summer. Organic Valley, a farmer-owned cooperative, will hand out postcards at farmers' markets in states that are critical to the vote on McCain-Lieberman.

"Global warming is a huge issue that can seem paralyzing," says Stonyfield Farm CEO Gary Erickson. "We want to educate people about the ways every one of us can contribute to solving the problem."



David Samuel Robbins/Corbis

Our message on global warming will be delivered at farmers' markets nationwide.



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New York, NY 10010

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