

PIRGIM



PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP IN MICHIGAN & PIRGIM EDUCATION FUND



Annual Report

2004



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mike Shriberg

Perhaps what's most striking to me—as someone who came to PIRGIM in 2004—is the breadth and quality of our work. This past year was marked by a particularly bitter and divisive presidential election. Maybe more than ever, PIRGIM's state-based, non-partisan, issue-based advocacy is needed to rise above the mud-slinging party politics of the day.

PIRGIM's mission is to make Michigan a great place in which to live. Our focus is on the issues that matter to our members, and our approach is persistent and relentless. We gather our information and our power from grassroots outreach and use media exposés, litigation, investigative research and other time-tested tools to be effective advocates for our members.

The results from the past year are impressive. Highlights include:

- *Passing a PIRGIM-backed clean water law;*
- *Passing one of the nation's strongest identity theft laws;*
- *Registering over 20,000 Michiganders to vote; and*
- *Convincing Gov. Jennifer Granholm to pledge to cut mercury pollution from power plants by 90 percent.*

Clearly, PIRGIM has a strong track record and is well-positioned for the future. Much of the credit for this impressive record goes to our outgoing director, Brian Imus. Brian has left Michigan after eight years at PIRGIM to work with our sister organization in Illinois; he leaves very large shoes to fill. I am excited about this challenge, and will draw on my experiences not only as PIRGIM's Great Lakes advocate, but also as a faculty member and director of environmental studies at Chatham College. My training here in Michigan has also prepared me well for this challenge—I earned my Ph.D. in Resource Policy & Behavior from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment.

As you read about our environmental, consumer and democracy efforts, remember that it is our members and supporters who make this work possible. Your support sustains us—literally and figuratively—and I want to thank you and invite you to become even more engaged in the years to come.



Cover photos: Jason Barbose opposes oil drilling under the Great Lakes (Staff); Mike Shriberg calls for a mercury-free Michigan (Channel 6 News); Kate Madigan at a mercury press conference (Channel 6 News); Lake Michigan beach (Michigan Travel Bureau).

MAKING MICHIGAN MERCURY-FREE

Gov. Jennifer Granholm committed to reduce mercury pollution from power plants

PIRGIM research exposed the negative health effects of mercury and staff led a grassroots effort to educate residents about the risks

This year, PIRGIM worked with residents and public health groups to address the increasingly dangerous situation being caused by toxic mercury pollution in Michigan.

Together, the coalition won a commitment from Gov. Jennifer Granholm to reduce mercury pollution from Michigan's power plants by 90 percent.

PIRGIM launched the Mercury-Free Michigan campaign as the focus of our citizen outreach work. Our staff spoke with more than 50,000 people across the state. At least 8,000 people sent comments to Gov. Granholm. We delivered these comments at a press conference at the Capitol as well as at a public event in Royal Oak.

PIRGIM issued a report, based on EPA data, which found that every fish sampled in Michigan was contaminated with mercury, and most were contaminated with mercury at levels exceeding EPA's "safe" limit for women and children.

In fact, every inland lake in Michigan is under a fish consumption advisory because of mercury contamination.

"One in six women of childbearing age has unsafe levels of mercury in her blood. This means that 630,000 of the 4 million babies that are born each year already have been exposed to enough mercury



PIRGIM's Kate Madigan, in front of the Capitol, speaks to a reporter with Lansing Channel 10 (NBC) about mercury pollution.

to cause serious health problems," said Dr. Mike Harbut, MD, at a PIRGIM press conference.

In response to overwhelming public support, Gov. Granholm sent a letter to PIRGIM members committing to achieving 90 percent mercury reductions from power plants.

PIRGIM will continue to participate in a governor-appointed workgroup to hold her to this promise and ensure a safer future for Michigan families.

Our Mission

When consumers are cheated, or our natural environment is threatened, or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, PIRGIM 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. PIRGIM'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.

In Their Own Words



Congressman John D. Dingell,
U.S. Representative,
District 15

"I've appreciated working with the competent staff of PIRGIM on various public interest issues, including defending the Clean Water Act, fighting for local control of the media, and advocating clean energy."

PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

Polluters were forced to pay for cleanup and the Great Lakes were given center stage

PIRGIM helped convince the governor to make polluters pay and formed a coalition to protect the Great Lakes

Representing the public interest in the Great Lakes state means standing up for Michigan's waterways. PIRGIM's Clean Water Program expanded greatly in 2004 and achieved several significant victories.

Making Polluters Pay

PIRGIM helped broker an agreement between Gov. Jennifer Granholm and state lawmakers that will require Michigan polluters to pay part of the cleanup costs for the damage they inflict on waterways.

The new law established mandatory fees for companies who want permits to discharge water into Michigan waterways. Those permit fees will fund the cleanup of our degraded lakes and rivers.

"As long as industries are dumping their wastes into our waterways, we need environmental cops on the beat to ensure they don't exceed their limits," said PIRGIM's former director, Brian Imus. "Permit fees create a fair way to help fund cleanup by ensuring that taxpayers aren't footing the entire bill for polluters' activities."

While permit fees are a good start, more needs to be done to stop illegal pollution.

A March PIRGIM report entitled "Troubled Waters" found that over 45 percent

of the state's industrial and municipal facilities polluted more than their Clean Water Act permits allowed from January 2002 to June 2003.

Protecting The Great Lakes

In Michigan, we realize how vulnerable the Great Lakes are, despite their immense size.

Yet politicians and government agencies often neglect the lakes, leaving them open to exploitation for private and political profit at the expense of the public good.

Fortunately, citizens in Michigan and across the region are clamoring ever more



PIRGIM is working to restore Michigan's treasured waterways, like Lake Superior, pictured here.

loudly for protection of the Great Lakes. In response, PIRGIM collaborated with other state PIRGs in the region to expand our Great Lakes program.

The PIRGs are unique participants in the battle to save the Great Lakes because we act both at the individual state level and in a coordinated manner across the region.

Most issues affecting the lakes extend beyond state and even national boundaries, yet require solutions at the state or regional level. Successes in Michigan and elsewhere can be transferred across state boundaries.

"Working regionally to leverage our power in Michigan is the best way to ensure that our greatest asset—the Great Lakes—is protected for future generations," said Mike Shriberg, PIRGIM's Director. "Our partners in Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania and beyond are critical to our efforts in Michigan."

With this newly expanded collaborative effort, PIRGIM helped shape critical regional policies, like "Annex 2001." Annex 2001 is an agreement among Great Lakes states' governors about new rules affecting withdrawals and diversions of Great Lakes water.

The state PIRGs' Great Lakes program generated over 3,000 public comments as well as official testimony on this policy. Our continued pressure and results-oriented advocacy helped form a much stronger version of the agreement—one which bans most water diversions.

“We will continue to use our collective power in the Great Lakes to shape state, regional and national decisions to protect the Great Lakes,” concluded Shriberg.

Funding To Restore The Lakes

Restoring the Great Lakes requires a monumental commitment of federal, state and local resources.

PIRGIM strongly supports this long-overdue commitment and has joined forces with like-minded groups in the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition.

Stopping sewage dumping is a high priority for PIRGIM and the plan currently calls for over \$13 billion in funding for sewage infrastructure.

“Now is the time for a serious commitment of resources to restore this vital part of our heritage and ensure that future generations of Michiganders have clean waterways,” said Shriberg.

“We should be able to freely swim at our beaches, boat in our waterways, eat fish from our waters and drink from our taps.



PIRGIM State Director Mike Shriberg appears on Channel 6 News to release “Fishing For Trouble” on Oct. 14, 2004. The report revealed high levels of toxic pollution in the Great Lakes and called on lawmakers to protect and restore the lakes.

PIRGIM Director Mike Shriberg sits on the steering committee of this effort to ensure that the Great Lakes receive the funding they deserve.

“While the Great Lakes have made a comeback, significant issues remain and new threats keep arising,” he said.

Shriberg is helping to draft a government-sponsored plan to restore the lakes—called the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative.

The Great Lakes are too important to our way of life and our economy to be ignored any longer,” he concluded.

PIRGIM will continue to work to make Michigan the leader in Great Lakes restoration.

And, through PIRGIM’s federal advocacy office, we will use our power in Washington, D.C. to put this issue on the radar screens of our federal legislators.

Coalitions

Here is a sample of some of the groups that PIRGIM worked with over the past year:

- AARP
- Alaska Coalition
- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- The Apollo Alliance
- Biodiversity Project
- Clean Water Action
- Consumer Federation of America
- Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Ecology Center
- Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund
- Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters
- National Parks & Conservation Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Sierra Club
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- Western Michigan Environmental Action Council

In Their Own Words



Andy Buchsbaum

Director, National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes Natural Resource Center and former member of PIRGIM staff

“The Great Lakes are facing a pivotal period. I have worked closely with PIRGIM on issues ranging from water diversions to mercury contamination, and am convinced that, now more than ever, we need the unique skills and energy they bring to the policy debates.”

STANDING UP FOR CONSUMERS

PIRGIM-backed identity theft bill and credit scoring proposals advanced

PIRGIM protected Michigan's consumers from fraud and abuse

On Dec. 28, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed into law one of the broadest packages of bills on identity theft in the nation, despite fierce opposition from bankers, credit card companies and other industry lobbyists.

Exposing Identity Theft Problems

In 2004, identity theft became the fastest-growing crime in the nation. Businesses continued to gather, buy and sell extensive records of our personal data, often without our knowledge and almost always without our permission.

Lax security and irresponsible data-selling practices made headlines across the country, as thousands of Americans had their personal information compromised by security breaches. Annual costs to consumers exceed \$51 billion.

To document these incidents in Michigan, PIRGIM released a report entitled "Policing Privacy: Michigan Law Enforcement Officers On The Challenges of Tackling Identity Theft."

PIRGIM found that very few identity theft cases are solved, because of the anonymity of the crime and jurisdictional challenges.

"The financial system is focused only on customer service, and not geared enough toward security," said Dearborn Detective Sargent Craig Lankford. "We need to rein

in the credit card companies—they've got to tighten security if we're ever going to stop identity theft.

Based on our research, PIRGIM developed recommendations for how individuals, companies and policymakers can help deter identity theft.

The suggested policy changes include strengthening privacy laws to prohibit companies from selling customers' personal information and requiring credit card companies and other credit grantors to tighten security before granting credit.



PIRGIM's Federal Consumer Advocate Ed Mierzwinski appeared on ABC to call on Congress to pass meaningful identity theft reform laws.

Identity Theft Bills Signed Into Law

Many recommendations from the report became law when Gov. Granholm signed a set of identity theft bills. PIRGIM worked closely with Sens. Mike Bishop (Rochester) and Nancy Cassis (Novi) and Rep. Bill VanRegenmorter (Georgetown) to develop a strong package of bills.

In addition to helping victims of identity theft recover, the new laws limit ways that companies can use Michiganders personal information, especially Social Security numbers (SSN). Companies are prohibited from publicly displaying SSNs and cannot print SSNs on health care cards, student IDs or other cards, badges or licenses.

"These bills take several critical steps in addressing identity theft, but more remains to be done to further protect Michiganders from this crime," said PIRGIM Consumer Advocate Megan Owens.

Inaccurate Credit Reporting

PIRGIM is also working to give Michiganders more control over their credit reports and to ensure consumers are notified if personal information about them is illegally accessed.

Even though credit reports are extremely important records for qualifying for credit cards, buying a house, leasing a car, renting a new apartment or interviewing for a job, PIRGIM research found that many credit reports contain serious flaws.

In June, PIRGIM released a new report, entitled "Mistakes Do Happen: A Look At Errors In Consumer Credit Reports."

It found that fully 79 percent of credit reports surveyed contained an error and one in every four contained errors serious enough to result in the denial of credit, a mortgage, employment or apartment rental. PIRGIM has been working to require credit bureaus to ensure accuracy.

“Until credit reporting becomes accurate, PIRGIM recommends that you get a copy of your credit report and carefully review it for errors,” said Owens.

New federal legislation gives consumers the right to receive one free copy of each of their credit reports each year. PIRGIM

insurance rates shouldn’t be decided based on our credit reports,” said Owens.

The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services Commissioner Linda A. Watters has worked to ban the use of credit scoring in setting automobile and home insurance rates.

“I proposed these rules because I believe that using credit scores to determine insurance rates is unfair and does not conform with the requirements of the Essential Insurance Act,” Watters said. The state estimates that ending credit scoring would reduce insurance rates 10-45 percent.



Rep Kathy Angerer (right) appears with PIRGIM's Megan Owens on Michigan public television to call for identity theft reform. PIRGIM was instrumental in the passage of a new law that helps victims of identity theft recover and limits ways that companies can use Michiganders personal information.

worked to ensure that people across Michigan know about the new right and take advantage of it.

Banning Insurance Credit Scoring

For several years, insurance companies in Michigan have used credit reports as a factor in deciding how much to charge for auto and homeowners insurance. Credit scoring, as the practice is called, hurts consumers, since it bases insurance rates on behavior unrelated to insurance risk.

“Our credit card interest rates aren’t decided by our driving record, so our car in-

PIRGIM testified at several hearings held on banning insurance credit scoring, using the report on credit report errors as an example.

Unfortunately, insurance companies sued to stop the state’s rule, so the rule has not been implemented yet.

PIRGIM had an extremely successful year in protecting Michigan’s consumers, and we look forward to continuing to tackle identity theft, credit scoring, predatory lending and other issues of importance to Michigan’s consumers.

Research

Some of the reports PIRGIM wrote and released this year include:

- “Clean Water Enforcement Report Card: How Nine States’ Regulations Measure Up”
- “Danger In The Air: Unhealthy Levels Of Air Pollution In 2003”
- “Fishing For Trouble: How Toxic Mercury Contaminates Fish In U.S. Waterways”
- “Mistakes Do Happen: A Look At Errors In Consumer Credit Reports”
- “Policing Privacy: Michigan Law Enforcement Officers On The Challenges of Tackling Identity Theft”
- “Pollution On The Rise: Local Trends In Power Plant Pollution”
- “Reel Danger: Power Plant Mercury Emissions and the Fish We Eat”
- “Trouble In Toyland”

In Their Own Words



Sen. Michael Bishop
Michigan state senator, Rochester

“PIRGIM played an important role in helping me pass critical legislation to protect the people of Michigan from identity theft. They offered smart policy solutions, assisted my staff in developing strong legislation, testified on the benefits of this legislation before committees, and worked diligently to make this legislation into law.”

TOWARD A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

The Bush administration reduced diesel pollution, but did not curb power plant pollution

PIRGIM research showed the health risks of air pollution and illustrated how clean energy would benefit Michigan

Michigan's reliance on coal, oil, gas, and nuclear power for electricity has left a legacy of environmental and public health problems and skyrocketing bills for ratepayers.

Investing in clean energy policies will generate new high-paying jobs and save consumers and businesses billions of dollars, while significantly reducing pollution.

At the federal level, PIRGIM fought to establish energy policies that would promote renewable energy production such as wind and solar, cut subsidies to big energy companies, and protect environmentally sensitive areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling.

In Michigan, PIRGIM supported policies that would promote renewable energy production and increase efficiency standards for buildings and appliances.

Clean Energy Good For Economy

On the same day that the U.S. Congress considered an energy bill built on fossil fuels, PIRGIM released a report that outlined the benefits of clean energy to consumers, the economy and the environment.

The report urged lawmakers to derive 20 percent of our power from clean sources by 2020 and shift billions in proposed

coal, oil, gas and nuclear subsidies to support efficiency and renewable energy.

The report showed that clean energy solutions would:

- Create 5,770 jobs in Michigan by 2020;
- Increase wages in Michigan by \$141 million over current projections in 2020;
- Save residential, commercial and industrial consumers \$567 million on electricity bills and \$622 million on natural gas bills in 2020;



PIRGIM Federal Legislative Director Anna Aurillio (at podium) at "State of America's Environment" press conference.

- Reduce global warming carbon dioxide emissions from Michigan's power plants by 30 percent of 2002 levels.

"Investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency is a win for Michigan's economy and a win for Michigan's consumers," said PIRGIM's Field Organizer Jason Barbose. "Politicians are fresh out of excuses for ignoring clean energy solutions."

Energy Efficiency Education

PIRGIM Education Fund teamed up with the Consumer Federation of America and the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR program to educate Michigan residents about how to save energy.

Using energy efficiently means less energy is generated by power plants, which means less air pollution and less global warming pollution.

The average family spends \$1,400 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling.

PIRGIM developed a list of simple things families can do to reduce energy use in their homes. Over 250 PIRGIM members signed a pledge to take these actions in their home.

"One great way consumers can fight back against ever-increasing energy bills is by being smarter about energy use in their homes," said Megan Owens, PIRGIM consumer advocate. "This is yet another example of where the right thing for the environment is also the right thing for saving money."

Air Pollution Linked To Early Death

PIRGIM joined the National Environmental Trust, the American Lung Association of Michigan and the Michigan Environmental Council in releasing a new report on the health impacts of Michigan's air pollution.

The study "Dirty Air, Dirty Power" found that pollution from power plants causes 24,000 asthma attacks, 1,700 non-fatal heart attacks and 980 premature deaths each year in Michigan.

The number of premature deaths from power plant pollution in Michigan exceeds

EPA Cuts Down Diesel Pollution

In May 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a major rule to cut diesel air pollution from construction, farm and industrial equipment by more than 90 percent.

EPA estimated that, once fully implemented, the new diesel rule will prevent 12,000 premature deaths, 15,000 heart attacks, and 6,000 children's asthma-related emergency room visits each year.

"It's remarkable that these strong rules come from the same administration that has otherwise turned back the clock on



Creating more of Michigan's energy with renewable sources, like the wind turbines pictured here, would reduce air pollution, protect public health and boost Michigan's economy.

Michigan's annual death toll from drunk driving (490) and homicides (670).

PIRGIM and the other groups used the report to urge that the nation's aging fleet of power plants use modern pollution controls, preventing the majority of the health effects from power plant pollution.

"The Bush administration could solve this problem," said Barbose. "Just by enforcing current law many lives could be saved. But instead, this administration lets polluters rewrite the rules, weakening current law while passing it off as progress."

30 years of environmental progress," said Barbose. "It's great to see science win out over the special interests for a change," he concluded.

Building off these successes in 2004, PIRGIM is launching a more aggressive federal and state "New Energy Future" campaign.

The campaign will include a groundbreaking study on Michigan's energy deregulation experiment as well as a push for state legislation to mandate renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Outreach

PIRGIM educated residents in Michigan about how to reduce their energy use. Here are the top five ways you can cut home energy costs:

- Change five frequently used light bulbs or light fixtures to compact fluorescents or other ENERGY STAR-labeled products.
- Install a programmable thermostat to efficiently control your home's temperature and avoid unneeded heating and cooling at night and when you're not at home.
- Use sleep-mode on your computer and turn off your computer and other appliances when not using them.
- Look for ENERGY STAR-labeled products when shopping for appliances, home electronics, windows, doors and heating and cooling equipment. Energy Star-qualified products meet strict energy-efficiency criteria set by the U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of Energy.
- Tell family, friends and colleagues about the benefits of energy efficiency.

In Their Own Words



Steven Chester

Director, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

"With the assistance of public interest groups like PIRGIM, we need to educate the public and the Legislature about the importance of funding to do our job protecting the environment."

REVITALIZING DEMOCRACY

PIRGIM registered more than 20,000 youth and minority voters in 2004

PIRGIM led a massive voter registration effort and mobilized thousands of Michigan residents to take action on the issues

The past year was a politically charged one, and PIRGIM's mission of "fostering fair, democratic government" was high on our agenda.

Voter Registration

Perhaps our largest contribution came from our New Voters Project and Community Voters Project.

These projects, which focus on youth voters and minority voters, respectively, generated more than 20,000 voter registrations as well as over 20,000 "Get Out the Vote" contacts in Michigan.

Nationally, the state PIRGs' voter registration efforts brought 616,000 voters to the polls. Participation in the election by those under the age of 25 increased by an astounding 25 percent.

PIRGIM's strategy was nonpartisan, cooperative and aimed squarely at the grassroots level.

"Research shows that young people are more effectively persuaded to vote when they're asked by another young person," said PIRGIM Director Mike Shriberg. "I'm proud of what Michigan's youth accomplished in mobilizing their peers during this critical year."

Research And Outreach

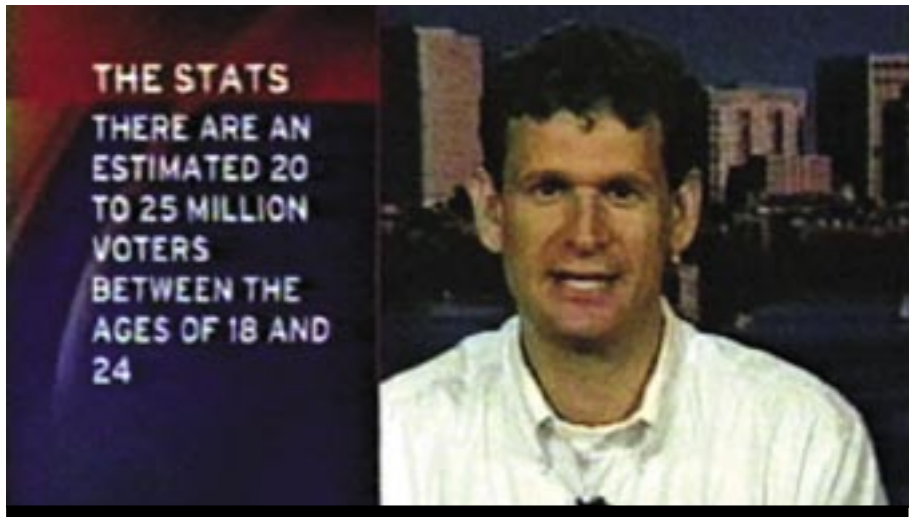
Beyond voter registration, PIRGIM was very active in mobilizing our members and others through our extensive field and community outreach.

We distributed legislative scorecards to thousands of PIRGIM members, so that Michigan residents are aware of how their leaders voted on key public interest issues and can hold elected officials accountable.

Our "Look Who's Not Coming to Washington" report highlighted the influence of money and special interest lobbying on our federal representatives.

Our extensive "e-activist" e-mail network generated tens of thousands of citizen comments on issues ranging from federal energy policy to identity theft to clean water enforcement in Michigan.

"This was a banner year for Michigan in our ongoing quest to bring government back to the people," said Shriberg. "PIRGIM will build on and expand this work so that our members and all Michigan citizens' voices will be heard."

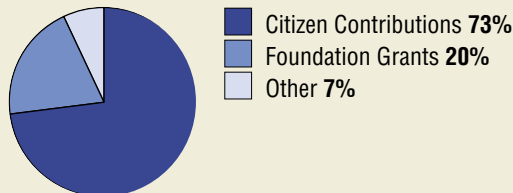


Ivan Frishberg, an advocate in PIRGIM's Washington, D.C., office, is interviewed on CNN about the New Voters Project, PIRG's nationwide voter registration project.

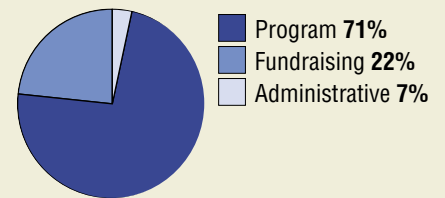
Financial Information

Charts reflect financial information for PIRGIM, PIRGIM Education Fund and PIRGIM's citizen outreach programs.

FY04 Income



FY04 Expenses



PIRGIM SUPPORTERS

PIRGIM and PIRGIM Education Fund

Citizen support is the cornerstone of PIRGIM and PIRGIM Education Fund. Thousands of Michiganders supported PIRGIM by making membership



contributions in Fiscal Year 2004. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization's research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote PIRGIM Public Interest Partners. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.

Development Committee

The following members are part of the Development Committee, who supported PIRGIM with contributions of \$1,000 or more or are Public Interest Partners giving \$80 or more each month.

John Morris
Douglas H. Phelps
Jeanne Raisler

Patrons

The following members are Patrons, who supported PIRGIM with contributions of \$500-\$999 or are Public Interest Partners giving \$40-\$79 each month.

Ann Alpern
Jeanne Berkowitz
Stephen Brown
Susan Carron
St. Michael Catholic Community
Barbara & Lyle Danuloff
Jacque Eccles
Manju Garg
Kathy Giancarlo
Douglas B. Jester, Jr.
Jim Oakley
Ravi Soni
Gwen Tarbox

Sponsors

The following members supported PIRGIM with contributions of \$250-\$499 or are Public Interest Partners giving \$20-\$39 per month.

Katherine E. Ankenbrandt • *Sara Epple Baitch* • *Steven C. Bassett* • *Dan Boe* • Gregoire Bolduc • *Donna Bookholder* • Gregory Bower • Luigi Bruni • *Janet Burke* • *Mary Jo Byrnes* • *Josephine D. Casgrain* • Xi Chen • *Nadine Davis* • Dirk Dragt • Georganne Ehlert • Pamela Flick • Julia Freije • *Barton Grimm* • Lynn Hartung • Daniel Hollander • Amanda Huyck • Peter & Beth Janick • *Linda Johnson* • *Arlene Kalis* • *Kathryn Kendall* • Tom Kladzyk • *Regina Kroliskowski* • *Shirley Lewis* • Jennifer Masek • Mary C. Mazure • *Pat McCormick* • *Betsy Mehr* • *Pamela Murray* • John Nelson • *Coco Newton* • Amy Nicholas • *Marcia Parven* • *Nhan Pham* • *James Pisik* • *Elaine Pomeranz* • *Don Quinn* • *Kurt Riegel* • *Bill Rohlfing* • Louis Rosenfeld • Thomas Ryan • *Matt Schonfield* • *John Schramm* • *Marilyn Shalibo* • *Wayne Shook* • *Peter Smereka* • Michael E. Smerza • *Pattie Stoner* • *Mary Taylor* • Robert Taylor • Nancy Twiss • Steve Van Nocker • *Jane S. Voorhorst* • *Kwame Waters* • Richard Wilhelm • *Barbara Wilson* • *Todd Wolf* • *William Worth* • *Shirley Zempel* • Mark Zykin

Foundations

Public Interest Research Group In Michigan Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, conducts research and public education on emerging public interest issues. Contributions to the PIRGIM Education Fund are tax-deductible. The following foundations and organizations have given their support to the PIRGIM Education Fund:

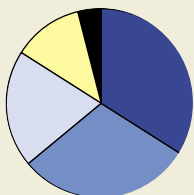
- Consumer Federation of America Foundation
- Educational Foundation of America
- Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network & Fund
- Jackson County Community Foundation
- JANA Foundation
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Utility Consumer Representation Fund
- Patagonia, Inc.
- The Beldon Fund

Planned Giving

Members who include PIRGIM in their wills leave a legacy of activism that will preserve our environment, protect public health, and defend the rights of consumers for decades to come.

For more information about including PIRGIM in your estate and major giving plans, call (800) 841-7299 or e-mail plannedgiving@pirgim.org.

FY04 Program Expenses Breakdown



Mercury-Free Michigan	34%
Open Space Protection	29%
Forests and Preservation	20%
Consumer and Government	12%
Clean Water	4%

Photo Credits

Staff photos: Jan Pelton. All other photos taken by PIRG staff except as noted: p. 3: National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration; p. 4: Channel 6 News; p. 5: Michigan Public Television; p. 6: ABC News; p. 8: Photostogo.com; p. 9 CNN
Design by Public Interest GREX (215) 985-1113;
Editing and layout by The Principled Pen (267) 514-8846. Printed by Foxfire Printing. Printed on recycled paper.

2004 Annual Report

Public Interest Research Group In Michigan

Contact us:

PIRGIM

103 E. Liberty Street, Suite 202
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-6597

119 Pere Marquette, Suite 3B
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 664-2600

www.pirgim.org
info@pirgim.org

PIRGIM

103 E. Liberty Street, Suite 202
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Address service requested

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430