

NJPIRG

Standing Up To Powerful Interests

New Jersey Public Interest Research Group & NJPIRG Law & Policy Center



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2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Health Care & Rx Drugs: Standing Up To Drug-Makers

New Law To Promote Drug Safety

Despite fierce resistance from the pharmaceutical industry and their high-paid lobbyists, Congress passed new legislation in 2007 that should make the drugs we put in our medicine cabinets a little safer in the future.

NJPIRG urged New Jersey's congressional delegation to stand behind strong provisions that would require greater transparency in clinical trials of new drugs, fewer conflicts of interest on FDA drug safety panels and greater accountability for drug companies that fail to perform required safety studies—including fines of up to \$10 million.

In our meetings with key congressional leaders, we made the case for mandatory posting of clinical trials, and Rep. Frank Pallone (New Brunswick) ultimately took charge of the legislation by championing the provision.



Paul Brown (left), our chief advocate on the FDA reform bill, meets with Rep. Frank Pallone (New Brunswick), a lead co-sponsor of the bill. The bill was signed into law in September.

Learn more about our work on health care and prescription drugs by visiting www.njpirg.org/health-care.



Energy Efficiency: Sparking Smarter Energy Use

Legislation Saves Money And Cuts Waste

Legislation advanced by NJPIRG in 2007 would make our energy system safer, more reliable, cheaper and cleaner. Two NJPIRG-backed bills were introduced in the Legislature to promote energy efficiency. Combined, the bills would save New Jersey ratepayers \$6 billion.

The two pieces of legislation were championed in the Assembly by Assemblywoman Watson Coleman, Assemblywoman Greenstein and Assemblyman McKeon and in the Senate by Sens. Smith and Kean. They would increase the efficiency of 12 common appliances and require developers to employ building techniques that save substantial amounts of energy.

Though NJPIRG built strong public support through grassroots organizing for these solutions, the Legislature failed to pass both bills in 2007. Our staff will build on our work to advance these policies over the next year.



Staff

By increasing the efficiency of just 12 common appliances, New Jerseyans will be able to save an estimated \$6 billion on their electric bills.

To ask your representatives to act on these energy-efficiency bills, go to www.njpirg.org/action.



Toxic Chemicals: Working For A Toxics-Free Future

Pushing Lawmakers To Address Toxics

Our health is still at risk from toxic chemicals found in the products we buy, our air and water, and waste sites across the state. But thanks to our work over the last year, reducing our exposure to toxics is a priority for many New Jersey legislators, including Assemblywoman Greenstein and Sen. Weinberg, who are joining us in working to pass strong reforms.

In 2007, we launched our Toxics-Free New Jersey campaign. Our first step: research the threat posed by toxics in New Jersey. Our research on airborne toxic pollution (see opposite page) and toxics in children's products highlighted two major risks to the public's health.

Then, in the run up to the 2007 elections, we convinced 30 candidates for office to pledge to enact an ambitious set of reforms in the 2008 legislative session that would take New Jersey into a Toxics-Free Future.



Staff

NJPIRG Legislative Associate Rebekah Scotland speaking at a press conference in support of the Toxic-Free Children's Products Act which was introduced by Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein (left).

See our full Toxics-Free New Jersey campaign platform on our Web site.



Airborne Toxic Pollution and Health: Evaluating Industrial Releases Of Toxins In New Jersey

Released Aug. 7, 2007- Trenton



New Jersey industries pump hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic chemicals, many of which are known to cause cancer and developmental problems, into our air each year. Many of these toxic releases could be avoided if New Jersey industries started using existing, feasible substitutes for these toxins.

The report, which used 2005 data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the most recent data available), found that New Jersey industrial facilities released 398,939 pounds of airborne carcinogens and 432,119 pounds of airborne developmental toxins.

The report found that 13 plants released more than half of the state's airborne carcinogens, and nearly two-thirds of the developmental toxins. In addition, in the counties with the highest levels of releases, a majority of each county's emissions came from three or fewer facilities.

Two of the toxic chemicals most frequently released to our air by New Jersey industry are lead and mercury. These well-known poisons persist in the environment for a long time and accumulate in our bodies. As a result, even small releases of lead and mercury are dangerous.

Nearly half of the 1,211 pounds of mercury emissions statewide came from one mill, Gerdau Ameristeel of Sayerville, Middlesex County. The report also found that the electronics industry has found commercially viable ways to eliminate lead from many products as well.

Read the full report and take action on this campaign by visiting
www.njpirg.org/issues/new-jerseys-toxics-free-future.



Save Our Turnpike: Protecting A Public Asset

Finding Solutions In The Public's Interest

When Gov. Jon Corzine announced that he was exploring plans to “monetize” New Jersey’s toll roads in January 2007, we jumped into action. We knew that other states had recently sold or leased public assets to plug troubled budgets, only to later realize the long-term negative impact of their deals.

NJPIRG immediately began to research what went wrong in other states and met with lawmakers and other stakeholders to express our concerns. In April, we released a set of principles by which to judge the merits of any proposal, and to alert the governor that we’d oppose any move that did not protect the public interest.

We were relieved to receive the governor’s commitment to not privatize the roads. In January 2008, he began to outline a new plan for monetization that avoided privatization, but our work is still not complete, since his plan still poses risks to public control.



Dock Drumming

Whether you're from Haddonfield, Paterson, just off exit 7a, or just about anywhere else in the state, the turnpike is probably a big part of your life. On average, more than 600 million people travel on the turnpike and the parkway every year.

To learn more about our recent progress to keep the turnpike in the hands of the public, visit our Web site.



Money & Politics: Pushing For Lobby Reform

Victory For A More Open Government

Responding to a wave of corruption scandals, in 2007 Congress passed the most sweeping changes to the rules governing lobbying in a generation. The president signed the bill, which we supported, in September.

The new law bans gifts and travel paid for by lobbyists, requires lobbyists to disclose the contributions they raise on behalf of candidates, and makes former lawmakers wait longer before they can return to Capitol Hill as lobbyists.

The House approved the bill in August by a vote of 411 to 8.

Congressional leaders on the issue relied on Gary Kalman, our chief advocate on the issue, for his help in shaping a bill that would produce real reform. His research of best practices at state ethics commissions was used in committee hearings throughout our effort to produce real reform.



In April, Gary Kalman, our lead federal advocate on good government, testified before the Senate Rules Committee on lobbying and ethics reform.

To learn more about our work on the federal level and in cooperation with our sister organizations in other states, visit our Web site.

Higher Education Project: Lowering Student Debt

Aid Increased For Students, Parents

Congress voted in September to reinstate billions of dollars in student aid. NJPIRG Student Chapters called on members of New Jersey's congressional delegation to support the bill, which increased the maximum Pell grant from \$4,310 to \$5,400, limited monthly payments on federally backed loans to 15 percent of the borrower's income, and offered loan forgiveness to graduates in public service professions. To pay for the changes, the bill slashed subsidies to the \$85 billion student loan industry, which opposed the bill.

Student volunteers and interns, working with NJPIRG Student Chapters staff, worked to draw attention to the issue of student debt. They got a great number of Rutgers students to join an online student debt yearbook, released reports by our staff detailing the impact of debt on career choice, and met with their members of Congress to discuss the issue.



Staff

Carol Sumoski, a student intern for NJPIRG Student Chapters at Rutgers Camden, met with Congressman Saxton to detail the issue of student debt and ask for his support on NJPIRG's higher education work.

Read the three reports that helped tip the scales on the student aid funding bill. You can download the reports on our Web site, www.njpirg.org.



New Jersey Water Watch: Cleaning Up Our Communities

Volunteers Really Make The Difference

NJPIRG's Community Water Watch organized "Make A Difference Day" cleanups throughout the state and brought together a total of 500 volunteers to clean up some of New Jersey's threatened waterways.

On the Raritan River, the 14th most polluted river in the nation, a total of 350 Rutgers University students from the Interfraternity Council and other campus groups gathered along its banks in New Brunswick and removed more than three tons of trash.

Through a partnership with the Edison Wetlands Association, Assemblywoman Amy Handlin, Matawan Mayor Mary Aufseeser and Councilwoman Meghan Mullaney joined 50 students and community volunteers to organize a cleanup in Monmouth County along the banks of Lake Matawan and in the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge.



Staff

Local students and community members participate in one of NJPIRG's Water Watch program's river cleanups. In 2007, more than 1,500 people participated in events like this across the state.

To learn more about our affiliation with AmeriCorps' Water Watch program and how you can help keep New Jersey's communities clean and safe, visit our Web site.



NJPIRG Supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of NJPIRG and the NJPIRG Law & Policy Center. Thousands of New Jersey citizens supported NJPIRG by making membership contributions in 2007. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization's research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote our Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.

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NJPIRG Development Committee members supported the organization with contributions of \$1,000 or more.

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NJPIRG Patrons supported the organization with contributions between \$500 and \$999.

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New Jersey Public Interest
Research Group Law & Policy
Center, a 501(c)(3) organization,
conducts research and public
education on emerging public
interest issues. Contributions to
NJPIRG Law & Policy Center
are tax-deductible.

We would like to thank the
following individuals and
foundations for their recent
contributions to NJPIRG Law
& Policy Center:

- AmeriCorps
- Josh and Verna Matthews
- Prentice Foundation
- Victoria Foundation

Financial Information

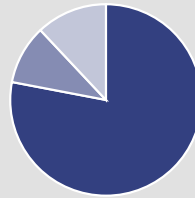
Charts reflect 2007 financial information for
NJPIRG and the NJPIRG Law & Policy Center.

FY07 Income



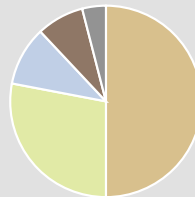
- ◆ Citizen Contributions **75%**
- ◆ Foundation Grants **23%**
- ◆ Other **2%**

FY07 Expenses



- ◆ Program **78%**
- ◆ Fundraising **10%**
- ◆ Administration **12%**

FY07 Program Expenses Breakdown



- ◆ Smart Energy Solutions **50%**
- ◆ Toxic-Free Communities **28%**
- ◆ Health Care & Prescription Drug Safety **10%**
- ◆ Democracy Reform & Consumer Protection **8%**
- ◆ Other **4%**

Planned Giving: *Members who include NJPIRG in their wills leave a legacy of activism that will protect consumers and taxpayers, as well as revitalize participation in the democratic process for decades to come. For more information about including NJPIRG in your estate and major giving plans, call (800) 841-7299 or send an e-mail to plannedgiving@njpirg.org.*



Allison Cairo
Executive
Director

*Dear NJPIRG member,
Here at NJPIRG, we take on important issues with big opposition.
That means that it can take years of dogged advocacy to win.*

For us, 2007 was a year that exemplified the need to put in the effort.

*The pharmaceutical industry has fought hard for years to keep data
from clinical trials out of public hands. We've worked in New Jersey
and in Congress for greater transparency and drug safety, and after
years of persistent advocacy, we passed a bill to make the prescription
drugs in our homes a little bit safer (see page 1).*

*At the same time, we kicked off a new fight to protect public health by
stopping the chemical industry and others from putting dangerous
toxics in our communities and our products (see pages 3 & 4).*

Thank you for making it all possible.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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NJPIRG
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To Powerful Interests

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