**Consumer Protection**

**Defend The Consumer Bureau**

The Great Recession made it clear: We need a watchdog agency on Wall Street, devoted to creating and enforcing fair, clear and transparent rules to protect consumers.

That’s why we helped create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—to be our consumer cop on the financial beat. In just six years, it’s been a huge success, returning nearly $12 billion to more than 29 million people who were ripped off by companies that broke the law.

But with the Trump administration and some in Congress looking to weaken or eliminate the Consumer Bureau, CALPIRG sprang into action. With your support, we’re holding the line to defend the Consumer Bureau.

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a massive package of cuts and rollbacks to financial protections for everyday people. We’re calling it the Wrong CHOICE Act, and if it becomes law, it would put our economy at risk and dismantle the Consumer Bureau as we know it.

**Our Watchdog On Wall St.**

That’s why we’re doing everything we can to stop this bill in the Senate. Already, we’ve generated more than 45,000 messages to senators from members like you asking them to defend the Consumer Bureau.

And thanks to your support, our national federation has been knocking on doors across the country, speaking face to face with tens of thousands of people and asking them to make sure their senators vote against these urgent threats.

We don’t simply need the Consumer Bureau to exist—we need to make it even stronger. Together, let’s defend the Consumer Bureau and keep our watchdog on Wall Street.

**Ban Roundup**

**Calling On Communities To Ban Monsanto’s Roundup**

Mounting scientific evidence has shown that the combination of chemicals in Monsanto’s Roundup can cause cancer and other serious health problems. These chemicals are even starting to show up in our food, air and water.

That’s why CALPIRG launched a campaign to ban Roundup unless and until independent research proves it’s safe. But Monsanto and others are doing everything they can to discourage decision makers from doing a full and honest assessment of the risks of Roundup. Monsanto has even “ghostwritten” studies affirming Roundup’s safety, asking scientists to “just sign their names” to the studies.

In the absence of federal action, cities and states must take the lead to protect our health and well-being. We were glad to see California add glyphosate to the state’s list of cancer-causing chemicals, and other cities across the country are already in the process of eliminating glyphosate from their public spaces. Now, we’re calling on more communities to follow their lead, and ban the use of Roundup.

**Member Resources**

**TH RVING COMMUNITIES GUIDE**

Read our report looking into 10 communities that have taken action to limit glyphosate use. [www.calpirg.org](http://www.calpirg.org)

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**THE CONSUMER BUREAU PROTECTS VETS**—Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other allies to release “Protecting Those Who Serve,” CALPIRG Education Fund’s report into how the Consumer Bureau protects service members and veterans from abuse in the financial marketplace.
Health Care

Reining In High Prescription Drug Prices

CALPIRG Education Fund’s Health Insurance Rate Watch Project has reviewed dozens of health insurance companies’ rate filings at the California Department of Insurance in recent years, and found prescription drug price increases to be a significant driver of premium price hikes. That’s why CALPIRG supports a package of bills introduced this year in the California Legislature to rein in the high cost of prescription drugs.

After CALPIRG helped push Procter & Gamble and Unilever to take steps to improve ingredient transparency, SC Johnson—maker of products like Glade—responded to our call for change. The company agreed to remove galaxolide, a toxic chemical associated with developmental problems, from its products.

Then for Mother’s Day, CALPIRG joined coalition partners to deliver more than 150,000 petitions to L’Oréal, calling on the company to remove chemicals of concern and disclose fragrance ingredients, which can include dangerous chemicals like phthalates and styrene.

Lead-Free Schools

Get The Lead Out Of School Drinking Water

Most schools have at least some lead in their pipes, plumbing or fixtures. A recent analysis by CALPIRG Education Fund gave California an “F” for failing to prevent children’s drinking water at school from becoming laced with lead.

CALPIRG is meeting with school board members from across the state to advocate for prevention measures to protect children’s health.

In July, the San Diego Unified School District consulted with CALPIRG Public Health Advocate Jason Pfeifle on their policy to widely test for lead in school drinking water and replace water sources that have even small amounts of lead.

“Our kids deserve better,” said Pfeifle. “It’s time for California to ensure that every single child in our state has safe, lead-free water to drink at school.”

Toxics

EPA Head ignores Science On Dangerous Insecticide

Crucial decisions that will affect our children’s health should rely on scientific evidence. But Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt’s decision not to ban chlorpyrifos, an insecticide sprayed on the food we eat, ignored the EPA’s own scientists, who warned last year that chlorpyrifos is linked to brain and developmental damage in children.

For years, science has shown that chlorpyrifos is dangerous. In fact, the EPA banned the indoor use of the insecticide more than a decade ago. But it’s still used on food crops, and the EPA estimates that 90 percent of American women have unsafe levels of chlorpyrifos in their bloodstream. Alongside our members, CALPIRG is calling on the EPA to revisit its decision, and on California and other states to ban chlorpyrifos.
VW Settlement Could
Spark Electric Revolution

After members like you helped hold
Volkswagen (VW) accountable for
their diesel emissions fraud, the
German automaker reached a $22
billion settlement that will largely
go toward compensating affected
consumers. But money is also set
aside for states to use themselves,
in order to mitigate the pollution
cased by the “clean diesel” en-
gines.

In July, CALPIRG Education Fund
released “From Deceit to Trans-
formation,” a report outlining our
recommendations for how states
can use the settlement money to
help accelerate an all-electric trans-
portation revolution.

You Made VW Pay

In 2015, the Environmental Protec-
tion Agency found that Volkswagen
had designed more than 560,000
“clean diesel” cars with software
built to cheat emissions tests.

In response, CALPIRG delivered
more than 20,000 petitions from our
members to VW headquarters, and
called on the Department of Justice
to reach a settlement that did right
by consumers and the environment.

States To Split $2.9 Billion

As a result of VW’s settlement over
the Dieselgate scandal, $2.9 billion
is being distributed to states to help
clean up the country’s transporta-
tion system. And with the transporta-
tion sector now the largest source
of greenhouse gas emissions in the
country, it’s critical that states invest
these funds wisely.

CALPIRG Education Fund recom-
mends that states use the maxi-
mum 15 percent of the settlement
funds to purchase electric vehicle
fast charging stations for high-
ways. Right now, only about 2,000
of the 15,000 publicly available
charging stations in the country are
fast charging stations, which can
fully charge a vehicle in fewer than
30 minutes. The report finds that
using these funds could double or
even quadruple the amount of fast
charging stations, easing fears of
running out of power while on the
road, and encouraging widespread
adoption of electric vehicles.

With the remaining 85 percent
of funds, states should purchase
all-electric transit buses. This in-
vestment would reduce inhala-
tion of toxic fumes for the greatest
number of people over the broadest
possible area, relative to investment
in other modes, and pave the way
for a complete transformation of
today’s public transportation sys-
tem to a clean, all-electric system.

Thanks To You

Dear CALPIRG member,

In the current moment, looking at the American scene
feels like using a big cracked mirror. The events of the
day emphasize the differences between Americans—
between the people living on our coasts and the residents
of the great center of our country, between different
ethnic groups, between economic strata, between red and
blue. But the problems we’re working on here at CALPIRG—the problems
that your support helps us address—don’t respect those lines. They affect
all of us. And the solutions we strive for would make all of our lives better.

We all need to know that antibiotics are going to be available for us if
we’re facing a deadly infection. We all need to be assured that the world’s
enormous financial institutions, with their seemingly endless power in the
age of digital information, will be held to account for their actions when
they endeavor to place profitability ahead of fair practices. We need to make
our transportation system make sense, economically and environmentally.
We need to evolve from a throwaway society to a reduce/reuse society,
cutting way back on the stuff we “need” to begin with.

And we need to be able to look ahead with anticipation, not fear, to the
potential for better lives in a safer, healthier world that makes wise use of
its unparalleled resources—natural, intellectual and human.

Thanks for being a part of our community.

Emily Rusch, Executive Director
info@calpirg.org
More States & Restaurants Act On Antibiotics

Thanks to the support of our members, CALPIRG has been able to change the marketplace, shifting some of the country’s biggest restaurants—like McDonald’s, Subway and KFC—away from selling meat raised with the routine use of medically important antibiotics.

Now, other chains are responding to keep up with their competitors. We celebrated in June when we learned that Burger King, the fourth-largest restaurant chain in the United States, committed to no longer serve chicken raised on antibiotics important to human medicine by the end of 2018.

Action on this public health threat isn’t limited to the marketplace. Thanks in part to the hard work and leadership of our colleagues at Maryland PIRG, Maryland became the second state in the country (after California) to ban the routine use of antibiotics on livestock and poultry.

This is a huge victory that was only possible thanks to our members laying the groundwork of support it took to win.