Challenging the New Corporate Campaign to Misuse the Constitution – in Small Meetings with Decision Makers

For use in small meetings with elected officials or regulators regarding pending proposals.

1. **Gather information about any potential challenges that have been made or threatened in advance, and be sure to know who you are meeting with, including key staff. Be respectful and don't assume they have made up their mind.**

   + Ask if anyone has raised concerns about the proposal.

   + Ask whether the elected official/regulator has any concerns about the proposal.

   + If others have raised concerns, ask where the concerns are coming from. Try to identify which companies or lobbyists are making the arguments.

   + If it sounds like the "concerns" may have been framed as constitutional get as much detail as possible.

2. **Discuss the purpose and rationale of the proposal**

   + Explain the harm this proposal seeks to protect the public from. Bring people who have either already been affected or would be directly harmed.

   + Describe specific examples of how this harm has affected you, your community, or other similar communities.

   + Describe the costs that this harm is imposing on the community and estimates of how those costs may grow if left unchecked.

3. **Explain the dangers of the New Corporate Campaign to Misuse the Constitution**

   + Give them a copy of this report.

   + Explain that corporate interests are engaged in a coordinated effort to undermine important health and environmental protections.

   + Explain that this legal strategy is an attempt to distort the democratic process and long-held interpretations of the Constitution.

4. **Ask for a commitment to protect the public**

   + Remind them that they have the authority and the obligation to regulate corporations and protect the public.

   + Ask them if they will commit to protecting the democratic process and the people of the community by taking a stand against attempts to distort the Constitution.

   + Offer to support them in fighting back against this strategy.

Contaminating the Courts: How Corporations Are Misusing the Constitution to Attack the Environment

www.greenpeace.org/usa/reports/contaminating-the-courts/

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