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OpEd:

SAVING THE WORLD TWO WAYS

*Going after the corporations that threaten our survival*

[PHOTO WITH CAPTION AND CREDIT]

The corporations who sell oil and build nuclear bombs spend millions of dollars lobbying Congress, funding campaigns, sponsoring climate-denying and nuclear-friendly think tanks, and feeding false nuclear “deterrence theory” and climate “greenwashing “to the media. In return, the war profiteers get billions of taxpayer dollars (a return on investment reaching up to 1,000%) and the oil profiteers get petroleum-friendly government policies that guarantee soaring profits.

What to do If citizens’ voices are drowned out by corporate lobbyists? Here’s a strategy that worked In the 1980’s and can work today: activists pressured the companies directly with boycotts, divestment, protests and shaming. Soon General Electric, Morton, Ford, Westinghouse, Dupont and others got out of the nuclear weapons business altogether. To this day, GE’s website notes that it has nothing to do with nuclear weapons!

I’m joining people around the world this month who are targeting some of the biggest oil companies like Exxon/Mobil, BP, Chevron, Shell, Phillips 66, Koch Industries, Energy Transfer, and all the brands they own, and some of the biggest nuclear weapons companies, like Lockheed Martin, Honeywell, Boeing, L3 Harris, RTX/Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Huntington Ingalls.

We demand that these profiteers use their enormous influence over Congress to end our dangerous addictions to fossil fuels and nuclear weapons. The future (and their jobs!) is in green technologies, not in militarily obsolete weapons of mass extinction.

They should also understand that they are under increasing international pressure from half the world’s countries (and counting) who have joined the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This treaty now puts nuclear weapons in the same prohibited category as chemical and biological weapons. A Fossil Fuel Treaty could give similar legal weight to banning the burning of fossil fuels.

In the US, pending federal bill H.R. 2775, the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Conversion Act, calls on the US to join the TPNW and redistribute money from weapons of mass extinction to climate solutions and other pressing human needs. But until we get electoral bribery under control, such a bill faces an uphill battle.

I worry that climate catastrophe could make Earth uninhabitable in just a few decades. As nuclear nations like the US, Russia, China and Israel grow more hostile to one another, I worry about nuclear war that could wipe us all out in an afternoon. I’m not fooled by corporate “greenwashing” and political “peacewashing.” Baby steps are not enough.

So I’m very excited that [ORGANIZATION] is [DID/WILL DO] [THIS ACTION] at [PLACE] on [DATE AND TIME].

It’s part of “NO to Nuclear Weapons and NO to Fossil Fuels: Two Weeks to Pressure the Corporations Putting Profits Ahead of People and Planet.” These global events are coordinated in the US by the Warheads To Windmills Coalition (warheadstowindmills.org). The Nuclear Weapons Abolition Week of Action is September 16-22 and the Climate Week of Action is September 23-29.

If you’re not willing to accept the status quo, in which voters are sidelined while those who profit from weapons and oil dictate the actions of our legislators, let’s pull out all the stops, and survive!

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Contact [YOUR NAME, AFFILIATION, EMAIL, ADDRESS, PHONE, WEBSITE]