

▶ Ford Is Driving U.S. Oil Addiction

According to the EPA, Ford ranks the lowest in fuel economy and highest in greenhouse gas emissions.



RAN and Global Exchange unfurl 2,400 square-foot banner from a 32-story skyscraper at the Los Angeles Auto Show. Photo by Peter Holderness

▶ Take Action Today!

Write to Ford Motor Company and tell them to use proven technology to immediately increase fuel efficiency and completely eliminate tailpipe emissions by 2020.

WRITE TO:

Mr. William Clay Ford, Jr.
 Chairman and CEO
 Ford Motor Company
 The American Road
 Dearborn, MI 48120

Defending Democracy

"All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident." - Arthur Schopenhauer

Rainforest Action Network's first major victory in 1988 that forced Burger King to cancel more than \$35 million in rainforest beef contracts helped preserve thousands of acres of rainforest. Since that time, RAN has often been attacked by environmentally immoral business and governmental leaders, and the front groups they hide behind. In the last six months, we have led the first major logger, Boise Cascade, out of old-growth forests, and have transformed the lending practices of the world's largest bank, Citigroup. With success, comes a backlash. Last month, the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives subpoenaed RAN for all information relating to our demonstrations since 1993. Coupled with last year's unprecedented indictment of our allies at Greenpeace, this is the latest attempt to intimidate RAN's supporters, and is a part of a larger and more disturbing effort by corporate interests to stifle dissent and control free speech.

As an organization that shines the spotlight on archaic and destructive business practices, we're accustomed to fear and smear campaigns that attack our credibility. However, most of these attacks usually come from reactionary logging or oil companies and their supporters, not from our elected leaders in the House. Not content to roll back 30 hard-fought years of environmental protections, Washington anti-environmentalists are now attempting to muzzle their most vocal and visible critics. But we won't be intimidated. From the Boston Tea Party until today, we owe many of our civil liberties and freedoms to those who have acted bravely in response to a call for moral action.

Patriotic acts of non-violent civil disobedience have led our nation out of some of its darkest hours. Courageous individuals speaking truth to power were a vital force in the campaigns to abolish slavery, win women the right to vote, outlaw racial segregation, ban child labor, and champion workers' rights. As I wrote in my letter to Bill Thomas, chairman on Ways and Means, "We firmly believe that citizen activism is a patriotic American tradition and a basis for a healthy democracy, and that it is not only a right, but also a responsibility."

Grassroots mobilization is democracy at work, and we will continue to lead the charge in 2004 with our campaigns to save old-growth forests, transform global finance, and clean up carmakers. Thanks to your support, RAN is changing business-as-usual from Wall Street to Washington. I encourage you to join our new online Action Center, become a sustaining member, and help us build a community of modern patriots who will work together to create a better world for all of us.

Michael Brune

Executive Director

Join the new online RAN Action Center at www.ran.org/action

Make your voice heard.

1 Grassroots mobilization is democracy at work. When RAN members speak up, corporations listen. RAN's new online Action Center gives you the online tools you need to send decision-makers the message to save rainforests and stop climate destabilization. Make it your new home page!

Stay informed.

2 Knowledge is power. When you join the new RAN Action Center, we will keep you updated on breaking news related to our campaigns to save old-growth forests, transform global finance and clean up carmakers. And with our Activist Toolbox, you can brush up on your media, fundraising and direct action skills.

Sustain our campaigns.

3 Dollar for dollar, RAN is one of the most effective and efficient environmental groups campaigning for a sustainable future. You can help us keep our overhead under budget by making your contribution online and inviting your friends to support our global community of environmental patriots. Your support makes the difference.

#162

 also on the web at www.ran.org

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“THE LIQUIDATORS”

After four years of grassroots mobilization, RAN has declared victory in its campaign to transform the environmental policies of the world’s largest financial institution. Citigroup’s comprehensive new initiatives raise the bar for the financial sector in areas related to deforestation and indigenous rights, endangered ecosystems and no-go zones, greenhouse gases and climate destabilization, and clean energy and sustainable development. On the day of the announcement RAN immediately sent letters to ten of the most environmentally destructive U.S. banks challenging them to catch up with modern social values and “meet or beat” Citigroup’s new policies. Among “THE LIQUIDATORS” are the laggards of Wall Street, lenders that are liquidating the Earth’s most valuable natural assets in order to post short-term profits at a long-term cost to the world.

Write and call today and tell these megabanks to “stop funding destruction!”

William B. Harrison, Jr.
 Chairman and CEO
 JP Morgan Chase and Co.
 270 Park Avenue
 New York, NY 10017
 ph: 212-270-4019

Kenneth D. Lewis
 Chairman and CEO
 Bank of America Corp.
 100 North Tryon Street
 Charlotte, NC 28255
 ph: 704-386-5666

Amani Butterfly Project

RAN’s Protect-an-Acre Fund provided a grant to The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group for the Amani Butterfly Project. The grant provided full technical support for the project in the form of a laptop computer to run the website and track sales, an up-to-date color printer for quality marketing of various butterfly genus, and three cell phones to track shipments and maintain proper distribution of sales. This community-based initiative will help ensure the protection of the Eastern Usambara region of the Eastern Arc Mountains in Tanzania, a biologically-diverse hotspot of moist mountain forest that is home to 60 rare butterfly species and other animal species such as the bushbaby. Local butterfly farming groups are sustainably collecting these species to be shared with botanical gardens around the world. This alternative source of income for forest dependent communities helps ensure that this forest will stay intact. Eventually income from the Amani Butterfly Project is expected to raise more than \$100,000 for local communities. Many families currently survive on less than the equivalent of \$1 per day.



This bushbaby is an endemic species of the Eastern Usambara Mountains. Photo by Andy Perkins

We have the right to remain silent. And the responsibility to speak out! Put your money where our mouth is.

Become a sustaining member.

Being a sustainer means that with your regular and continued support, we can spend more time running campaigns and less time fundraising. If we can keep winning victories, we can save the rainforests. Your ongoing support is crucial to our success!

Please charge my credit card.
 Monthly.
 Quarterly with a tax-deductible gift of:
 \$15
 \$25
 \$50
 \$100
 \$ _____

I want to help, but not on a monthly or quarterly basis. Here is my contribution of \$ _____

Name _____ VISA AMEX MC

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Account Number _____

Phone _____ Expiration Date _____

Email _____ Signature _____