

# THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

How it is failing everyone but the rich and powerful

# Why Legislation?

- Politics describes getting elected
- Elections and lawmaking are independent
- Most voters decide on a small number of issues
- Voting doesn't get the laws we need passed

# Why has it failed?

- Legislators (and staff) have no time or money to research
- Bubbles form around centers of power
  - Power seekers gather where power exists.
  - Hard to identify good experts.
  - “Experts” become career “researchers” and stop practicing their fields.

# What It Takes

- Dedicated, full-time presence at site of legislation.
- Organizations with consistent long-term focus and goals.
- Patience and Dedication.
- Careful and close engagement with legislators and their staff

# How Corporations Succeed

- Hire former legislators, administrators and others to lobby
- Draft legislation themselves
- Establish long-term plans not requiring quick results
- Directed and consistent efforts

# How “Big” Government Succeeds

- Agencies and ministries are built for expertise in the respective field.
- Maintains permanent, ongoing relationships with legislative bodies.
- Plan ahead to have proposals ready for events that may arise.
- Are seldom questioned about explicitly seeking power and authority.

# How Public Interest Fails

- Focus on raising money, continuing mission.
- Driven by continually changing public will.
- Responds to events instead of planning.
- Haphazard in choosing what battle to fight.
- Seldom have great relationships with individual legislators

Can We Do Better?