



~ Citizen Action: Lobbying for Global Solutions ~ Partners Toolkit for May/June 2007

Call Details:

Saturday, May 12, 2007
1:00pm - 2:00pm EST
1-800-391-2548
Verbal Passcode: VA317855

Tips on accessing the call:

- Participants should dial in 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, wait for an operator, and verbally give your password to the operator.
- Operators will take your City, state and number of people in the room and place you into the Main Conference.

Call Topic: Citizen Lobbying - Asking Congress to support global solutions to problems that nations cannot solve alone.

Hosts:

- Valerie Schrock, Director, Outreach and Advocacy, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Jessica Brown, Manager, Outreach & Advocacy, Citizens for Global Solutions

Guest Speakers:

- Becca Brown, Program Manager, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Don Kraus, Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Citizens for Global Solutions

Agenda for the Call:

1. Welcome, brief updates, and speaker introductions
2. Update on Previous Partners' Project: Participating in our multimedia outreach: The Virtual Poetry Slam, The 2007 Flash Movie Contest, and The End Torture Campaign
3. Legislative Update: Climate change bills, federal peacekeeping funding, status on a United Nations Peacekeeping Service, status on the Law of the Sea Treaty, and a new energy focused congressional initiative to 'End Oil Aid' abroad.
4. May/June Partners' Project: Set up and conduct lobby visits in your local area
5. Time of questions and answers from call participants

Enclosures:

- *How to Plan An Effective Lobby Visit*
- Sample fax used to schedule a lobby visit
- Background information on specific lobby topics
- News from the field
- Monthly Report Form
- Next teleconference

PLEASE NOTE: Lobby visits are most effective when you have a specific ask. We want your ask to be timely and relevant, therefore we will send final lobby materials over email closer to your lobby day. For now, concentrate on setting up your appointments.

How to Plan an Effective Local Lobby Visit

Setting Up Your Lobby Meeting

- To make an appointment, simply look up the number for your local district office in your local phone book. When you call the office, ask for the scheduler and tell him/her that you would like to meet with your Member of Congress.
- Many groups report that it is easier to meet personally with your member when he or she is in the home district. **Politely but persistently strive to have a personal meeting directly with the Representative/Senator.** Sometimes this is easier to do when congress is in 'recess'. According to the congressional calendar, the Memorial Day Recess is May 28 - June 1, the Fourth of July Recess is from July 2 - July 6, and August Recess is from August 6 - September 3.
- If it is impossible to meet directly with your representative/senator, then meet with the staffer who works on international issues.

Before the Meeting

- **Invite one or two people along who have never lobbied before** – this is a great learning opportunity for them and will allow new people to get comfortable with this form of grassroots activism.
- Make a plan for how to handle logistics. Will you carpool to the office? Will everyone meet at the office?
- Send background materials on the issue you will be discussing to the office you will be visiting as soon as you have a confirmed date and time. This way the person you meet with will already know what you intend to ask about and can be prepared with questions for you. This will ensure your meeting is focused and productive. It will also give a professional impression of your group.
- Draft an agenda for your meeting that gives more than one person a chance to speak. If you have a large group – more than five people – let everyone introduce himself or herself but chose a few representatives to speak.
- Be clear and specific about what you are asking for. Make sure your meeting includes a request for a concrete action that you want your Representative or Senator to take.
- Practice together by role playing before your meeting to make sure everyone stays on message. Presenting a united front will make your case more compelling.

During the Meeting

- Be accurate. Tell the truth. If you aren't sure about a specific fact or can't answer a particular question make a note of it and contact the Citizens for Global Solutions office. We will provide clarification so that you can call your Member of Congress back and answer the question. This builds your credibility as a reliable source of information.
- Be brief. Keep your meeting focused. Present your case, answer questions, make your request for action, set a date with the member/staffer for when you can follow up to find out their position on your issue and politely depart. Members of Congress have very long workdays already.
- Be courteous. Treat the staffers in the office well and work to build a positive relationship with them.

After the Meeting

- Did everything go according to plan? After your meetings are over, talk with your group to discuss the outcomes of your visit. What worked? What didn't? What new information do you have on your members' positions?
- Send a thank you letter. Be appreciative of the Member's time and attention to your issue. Remind him/her of the date and time you set to follow-up on your visit. This will ensure that they have no excuse for missing your call.
- **Follow up until you have a firm response to the request you made during your lobby visit.**

Sample Fax Used to Schedule a Lobby Visit

<Date>

Dear <Scheduler's name>:

I am writing to request a meeting with <Member of Congress> in <his/her local/Washington> office on <Date> at <time or times that would work>. During the meeting, I will be asking that s/he support positive U.S. global engagement. As a member of Citizens for Global Solutions and a voter in <Member of Congress'> district, I believe that making the world a safe, just and equitable place we all want to live in will require teamwork and a common set of rules we can all live by. No one country can solve global problems alone, and the US should be a leader in this collective effort.

I will have the details about a more specific topic for our meeting in a few weeks. When I do, I will contact you again and fax you supporting materials with a specific request for action. In the meantime, please note that the following people will also accompany me on our visit. Like me, they are voting members in his <state/district>.

Name

Title

Background Reading

CLIMATE CHANGE

Achieving a sustainable energy future is one of the greatest challenges facing the United States and the world today. Our current energy system is destroying the environment, hindering development and undermining security. From climate change to conflict in the Middle East, the consequences of the world's fossil fuel dependence are increasingly evident.

In the U.S., skyrocketing oil prices, conflict in the Middle East, and growing concern over global warming have boosted energy to the top of the political agenda. The result is a rare moment of opportunity to shape U.S. energy policy. We must use this moment to build a better energy future.

There is still time to prevent the devastating effects of climate change, but only if we act now and act internationally. Here is one bill (with a house and senate version) that provides a good start:

S.Res.30 & H.Con.Res.104 - A Critical First Step to Solving Climate Change:

The Senate version of this bill was introduced by Senator Biden, on January 16, 2007 and originally co-sponsored by Senators Lugar, Bingaman, Boxer, Feingold, Lieberman and Snowe. The resolution calls for U.S. participation in negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), leading to agreements that will commit all nations – developed and developing – that are major emitters of greenhouse gases to achieve significant long-term reductions in those emissions. The resolution, which also calls for a bipartisan Senate observer group to monitor these negotiations, was reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee without objection on March 29, 2007.

Why We Can't Go It Alone:

Policymakers on both sides of the aisle have been promoting energy independence as the solution to all our energy ills. Global warming, conflict in the Middle East, a crippled foreign policy, and rising oil prices – all will be healed by turning to domestic sources of energy from coal to corn to the untapped oil reserves in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

Unfortunately, it's not that simple. The U.S. is part of a global energy system, in which the energy policies and activities of each nation affect all nations. If the U.S. stopped importing oil tomorrow, we would still face a host of problems as a result of the rest of the world's continued dependence on oil and natural gas:

- Climate change would continue unabated
- A volatile global oil market would still inflict damage on both the U.S. and the global economies
- Competition over energy would play a destructive role in international relations, contributing to global instability and making the world less safe
- Other nations' fossil fuel dependence would undermine the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy

If we are to overcome the shared energy challenges we face, we must work together with other nations.

Linked Challenges, Linked Solutions:

Just as we cannot solve global challenges by isolating ourselves from other nations, we cannot solve the linked challenges to environment, development and security posed by our energy choices without understanding how they are connected. Poverty and underdevelopment undermine lead to instability and environmental degradation. A healthy environment is the key to ending poverty and achieving sustainable development. Climate change threatens both development and security as it wreaks havoc on the world's

environment. Only by working to develop comprehensive solutions that are good for development, good for the environment and good for security will we build a future in which all the world's citizens have access to affordable, clean, and sustainable sources of energy.

ENDING OIL AID ABROAD

What is Oil Aid?

“Oil Aid“ is the government’s practice of diverting taxpayer money, intended for poverty alleviation, to instead subsidize the international oil industry

Taxpayer support for oil aid is a slap in the face to the world’s poor people. Along with other industrialized countries, we have made a solemn commitment to do our part to fight global poverty. Every year, we set aside money to meet this commitment, but we’re giving oil companies a larger and larger piece of this pie. These accounts should be used as they were intended: to free people around the world from the shackles of poverty – not as a slush fund for oil companies.

In 2005, President Bush proclaimed ‘America is addicted to oil.’ We can’t end this addiction by continuing to feed it. The world’s reliance on oil – a single, dirty source of energy – is causing global warming, keeping millions of people in poverty and making the U.S. and the world less safe. Oil aid merely feeds our oil addiction by giving us a quick fix to ease the pain. That’s not what we need; what we need is the will to change.

More About Oil Aid:

- World Bank Group lending for oil projects increased more than 75 percent over the past year
- Each year, billions and billions of dollars that should be spent on ending poverty around the world and improving the environment are being used to subsidize oil and gas projects in developing countries that lead to debt traps for those countries and an increase in greenhouse gas production
- Instead of alleviating poverty, most oil and gas projects have exacerbated corruption, worsened economic inequality, increased local conflict, and intensified global climate change.
- An oil-based infrastructure in developing countries producing harmful greenhouse gases will certainly continue to have a negative impact on our global environment. Establishing a renewable energy infrastructure that will help make these countries clean energy leaders. It is absolutely critical that we choose the latter and create a renewable energy infrastructure in these developing countries so that we can shift the world away from oil consumption and towards alternative, clean energy solutions.

Ending Oil Aid on the Hill (H.Res.1886):

Oil Aid flows through a number of channels, including both bilateral assistance and multilateral institutions. Now there is a bill that seeks to end bilateral oil aid, and to use the voice, vote and influence of the United States to stem oil aid flowing from multilateral institutions. On April 17, 2007, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, (D-NY), introduced the End Oil Aid Act (House Resolution 1886), which would end subsidies to oil companies as part of U.S. foreign assistance initiatives.

Hinchey's bill would specifically direct the U.S. Treasury Secretary to instruct the U.S. Executive Director of the World Bank to use the United States' voice and vote to prohibit additional spending on international oil development.

PEACEKEEPING FUNDING

Why is paying our share of United Nations peacekeeping important?

Today, the UN oversees a record 18 peacekeeping missions around the world, including in some of the world's most dangerous places, such as Sudan, Lebanon, Congo, and Haiti, all of which are critical to our national and international security, and the U.S. votes to approve.

The UN's lifesaving peace missions are in jeopardy because donor countries are not living up to their commitments to support UN peacekeeping, particularly the U.S. Growing shortfalls in U.S. contributions, policy restrictions, and long-standing unpaid bills threaten to put the United States more than \$1 billion behind in peacekeeping obligations. Shortchanging UN peacekeeping has real impacts, forcing the UN to cobble together the necessary means for deployment and discouraging other countries from contributing their fair share of resources.

Our leaders must fulfill U.S. commitments to UN peacekeeping by increasing funding to the Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account by \$500 million in the fiscal year 2008 appropriation process. The U.S. should also take steps to pay off prior U.S. arrears. Investing in peace serves our country better than paying for the soaring costs of war.

[excerpts from the Better World Campaign's new project entitled 'The Price of Peace',
<http://www.priceofpeace.org/>]

Biden Introduces Bill (S.392) to Remove Peacekeeping Cap:

Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) Chair Joe Biden (D- DE) introduced S. 392 to "ensure payment of assessments for United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 2005 through 2008 time period." The legislation authorizes Congress to pay up to 27.1% of the U.N.'s peacekeeping bill. It is a significant step towards permanently lifting a 25% "cap" imposed on U.S. contributions to U.N. peacekeeping in 1994. The cap currently produces over \$100 million per year in new U.S. arrears to the U.N. Recently, Richard Lugar of Indiana, the ranking Republican on SFRC as well as Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) has cosponsored the legislation. Committee action is expected later this month.

In a statement introducing the legislation Biden noted that at "a time when our government continues to seek important reforms at the United Nations, it is a mistake for us to continue to fall short on our dues. Rather than encourage reform, it may give other countries an excuse to avoid it. How can we, in good faith, fail to pay our bills while at the same time push the U.N. to get its financial house in order?"

History of the "Cap":

In 1994, Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) introduced legislation that prohibited the U.S. from contributing more than 25% of the total funds for any U.N. peacekeeping operation. This legislation was incorporated in the State Department authorization bill (P.L. 103-236), signed later that year by President Clinton. Since the U.S. was assessed at almost 31% for U.N. peacekeeping missions through December 2000, the cap contributed significantly to the amount of U.S. debt to the UN. The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, including the U.S. , pay a premium for the peacekeeping budget because of their special role in creating peacekeeping missions and their ability to veto any mission.

On December 23, 2000, the U.N. General Assembly approved new scales of assessment for both the regular and peacekeeping budgets, reducing the U.S. share for both. The U.S. assessment for the U.N. regular budget went from 25% to 22%, and from nearly 31% to 27% for the U.N. peacekeeping budget. Dues assessments are periodically renegotiated at the United Nations. The current U.S. assessment is 26.1% and is expect to drop below 26% later this year.

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY PEACE SERVICE

In order to address ever-increasing needs for the international community to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging crises, the United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) was proposed as a permanent emergency response service designed to complement, not replace existing peace operations. UNEPS would have first in – first out capabilities, designed to supplement the U.N.'s capacity to provide stability, peace, and relief in deadly emergencies.

United Nations Emergency Peace Service Bill (H.Res.213) Introduced:

On March 5th Representative Albert Wynn of Maryland introduced H.Res.213 in the House of Representatives. This bill, which [Citizens for Global Solutions helped to draft](#), expresses the sense of the House that “a United Nations Emergency Peace Service [UNEPS] capable of intervening in the early stages of a humanitarian crisis could save millions of lives, billions of dollars, and is in the interests of the United States.” Citizens for Global Solutions has been a strong supporter of such a bill from the beginning.

Rep. Wynn introduced a similar bill during the last Congress, but it never left committee. As of March 28th the new bill has seven cosponsors. Original cosponsors include Rep. Earl Blumenauer [OR-3], Rep. John Conyers Jr. [MI-14], Rep. Barney Frank [MA-4], Rep. Donald Payne [NJ-10], and Rep. James Walsh [NY-25]. Since the initial introduction in the House, both Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson [TX-30] and Rep. Michael McNulty [NY-21] have also become cosponsors. In late February Rep. Wynn and Rep. Walsh sent a “Dear Colleague” letter to members of the House stressing the importance of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service and asking other members to join them as cosponsors of this bill. In the “Dear Colleague” letter, Reps. Wynn and Walsh said, “As humanitarian crises erupt in Darfur, Somalia, and around the world, a rapid deployment force has become critical to global stability and security....The U.N. must have a permanent Emergency Peace Service that is capable of providing stability, peace, and relief in emergencies.” The UNEPS bill has now been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Citizens for Global Solutions believes that UNEPS is vitally important right now because of the ongoing crises in Darfur, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other countries. These nations need an immediate response from international institutions in order to save lives and prevent full-scale wars. By deploying up to 15,000 civilian, police, judicial, military, and relief professionals within 48 hours, UNEPS would complement- not replace- existing peace operations and bridge the security gap until a coordinated international response takes place. In addition, it would enhance the security of the United States by ensuring that fragile states do not become failed states. UNEPS is a timely and important step in providing the world community with the international emergency service it desperately needs in order to fulfill its “responsibility to protect.”

Why the Time Has Come for UNEPS:

UNEPS would individually recruit, train and employ 10,000 - 18,000 personnel with a wide range of skills, including civilian police, military, judicial experts and relief professionals. This ensures that missions would not fail due to a lack of skills, equipment, cohesiveness, experience in resolving conflicts, or gender, national or religious imbalance. The Service would have special expertise in conflict resolution, environmental crisis response and emergency medical relief. Its military component would have two complete mission headquarters with military, police and civilian staff, technical reconnaissance units, light armored reconnaissance squadrons, motorized light infantry, armored infantry, a helicopter squadron, an engineer battalion and a logistics battalion.

In Darfur, the Sudanese government has effectively prevented the U.N. from deploying peacekeeping forces, which has contributed to the unraveling of the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement. If the international community had UNEPS in its arsenal during negotiation of the peace accord, the deployment

of a UNEPS mission to Darfur could have been included in the Darfur Peace Agreement. By the time national peacekeepers were ready to replace UNEPS, the situation on the ground would have stabilized or, at minimum, become more manageable.

UNEPS would help prevent early stage crises (caused by violent conflict or natural phenomenon) from escalating into national or regional disasters. It is a timely and important step in providing the world community with the international emergency service it desperately needs in order to fulfill its “responsibility to protect.”

LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

International agreements can be hugely beneficial to local economies. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), for example, would allow American businesses in coastal communities to explore ocean resources that do not belong to any country. Unfortunately, these businesses will not explore or extract gas, oil and minerals from the deep sea because, with UNCLOS un-ratified, they have no common way to regulate their claims to sites. If UNCLOS were to become U.S. law it would not only help safe-guard our economic interests at sea, it would also set a high global standard for protecting the marine environment.

Happenings on the Hill:

Stay tuned on the Partners for Global Change Teleconference call this week for a full update from Don Kraus, who is expecting a presidential statement regarding the Law of the Sea Treaty to be issued this week, most likely clearing the way for congressional approval.

History of Law of the Sea:

The LOS treaty is needed due to the weakness of the older 'freedom of the seas' concept, dating from the 17th century: national rights were limited to a specified belt of water extending from a nation's coastlines, usually three (3) nautical miles, according to the 'cannon shot' rule developed by the Dutch jurist Cornelius Bynkershoek. All water beyond national boundaries was considered international waters - free to all nations, but belonging to none of them.

Into the 20th century many nations expressed a need to extend national claims, in order to include mineral resources, to protect fish stocks, and to have the means to enforce pollution controls. This was recognized by the League of Nations, and a conference was held in 1930 at the Hague, but did not result in any agreements. One nation that reflected the customary international law principle of a nation's right to protect its natural resources was the United States, when in 1945 President Truman extended U.S. control, to cover all the natural resources of the continental shelf. Other nations were quick to emulate the U.S. Between 1946 and 1950, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador all extended their sovereign rights to a 200 nautical miles distance—so as to cover their fishing grounds. Other nations extended their territorial seas to 12 nautical miles.

By 1967 only 25 nations still used the old three nautical miles limit, 66 nations had set a 12 nautical miles territorial limit, and eight had set a 200 nautical miles limit. As of June 30, 2006, only a handful of countries use the old 3 miles limit (Jordan, Palau, and Singapore). It is also used in certain Australian islands, an area of Belize, some Japanese straits, certain areas of Papua New Guinea, and a few UK dependencies, such as Anguilla. [‘History’ excerpted from Wikipedia]

NEWS FROM THE FIELD, March – April, 2007

- **Akron, OH –**
 - Continue to hold monthly dinner meetings. April's event: "Progress in the New Congress" with guest speaker Jerel Klue, District Director for Congresswoman Betty Sutton. Attendees wrote letters to their U.S. reps, urging them to co-sponsor resolution for the creation of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS). March's dinner event: "Iranian/US Conflicts" with guest speaker Dr. William Lyons, Jr., Director of the University of Akron Center for Conflict Management.

- **California –**
 - Sponsored a Global Issues forum in April where Paul Kimmel, chair of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Psychological Effects of Efforts to Prevent Terrorism; and Charles Brown, President & CEO of Citizens for Global Solutions, were guest presenters.
 - Held their annual meeting at the Los Angeles Baha'I Center. Guest speakers were Charlotte Baker, former CEO & President of PAX World Service; and Dr. Tad Daley, Peace and Disarmament Fellow with Physicians for Social Responsibility.
 - **Hollywood:** Following the March Partners' National Teleconference call on this season's Virtual Poetry Slam contest, Doug Stark wrote a poem, "Can Bush Save Face". [Link to poem?]
 - **South Orange:** Tabled at March event – "American Write-In" – to which hundreds of people attended. Karen Stone visited U.S. Rep. John Campbell's office to urge him to oppose U.S. initiatives that would fund nuclear proliferation programs.
 - **Manhattan Beach:** Sponsored an information booth at the Santa Monica Earth Day Celebration in April.

- **Chicago, IL,**
 - Organizing and sponsoring an event coming up on May 9, 2007 at DePaul University. The event will host nationally known speaker, author, and expert on civil liberties, David Cole (from the Georgetown University Law Center). Organizers will host the event, introduce the audience to Citizens for Global Solutions, and gather signatures for the endtorture.net petition.

- **Greater Portland Area, OR –**
 - Members continue to gather more and more signatures for the End Torture campaign petition to create an Independent Bipartisan Commission on Torture.

- **Greater St. Louis, MO -**
 - Sponsored an event: "A Pragmatic Approach Toward Unity Among Nations" with guest speaker Dr. James A. Yunker, professor and author.
 - Participated in an adult Model UN program.
 - In early March, several members met with U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill's Regional Director to discuss international matters Senator McCaskill may be voting on or should be considering.

- **Maine –**
 - Continue to gather many signatures for the End Torture campaign petition to create an Independent Bipartisan Commission on Torture.

- **Minnesota –**

- Continue to hold their “Third Thursday Global Issues Forum”. Topic for last month was: “What Now in Iraq?” The presenter was Sami Rasouli, an Iraqi-American who has spent the last few years traveling back and forth to Iraq, helping in rebuilding efforts. March’s topic: “The UN Millennium Development Goals”. The presenter was Dr. Bharat Parekh, whose work has involved technology transfer and trade in the environmental and rural development sectors. Dr. Parekh is a Board member of the UNA of MN.

- **Oberlin, OH –**
 - Marjorie Ramp, Chair, Citizens for Global Solutions Board, and Chapter Leader, was named Oberlinian of the Year in her city for her life-long activism and contribution in helping create a better community and world.

- **Several Chapters –**
 - Send out periodical newsletters where members submit writings, make announcements, report on activities, etc.

- **Whitewater, WI –**
 - James Miller had a letter to the editor on national policies published in the Janesville Gazette.
 - New chapter membership brochures were created and continue to be distributed.
 - As a “next step” following the Chapter’s successful effort to get the City Council to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, Rollin Cooper & Tony Pavlick have joined “The Natural Step for Communities”. This group studies what communities can do to achieve sustainability.
 - Members continue to gather signatures for the End Torture campaign petition to create an Independent Bipartisan Commission on Torture.
 - Tony Pavlick led a successful discussion on the ICC at a Great Discussions event in early March.

Monthly Report of Your Accomplishments

Chapter _____ Leader _____

What is your chapter working on? How are your events and meetings going?

Did you carry out the November/December project?

Have you worked on any other past Partner's Projects in the last two months?

If so, what did you like about the projects and what didn't you like?

Do you feel this project made a difference?

Is there anything the national office can help you with?

Have you written any LTEs? Were they printed?

*****Please remember that you don't have to do ALL of the projects, but please do let me know about which ones you have chosen to work on.***

...continue to next page

Letters to the editor and op-eds (*Please note them here even if you are enclosing copies*)

Total Submitted	Total Printed	Type: LTE, op-ed	Topic	Written By	Paper	Date It Ran

Other Political or Media Activities Your Chapter Engaged In

Use another sheet if necessary to continue your report. Please detach and return to Erica Tafoya by February 16th so your accomplishments can be published in the next mailing.

Mail: Partners Monthly Report
418 7th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003-2796
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E-mail: outreach@globalsolutions.org

END OF REPORT

EVERY DAY YOU'RE CHANGING THE WORLD!

NEXT PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL CHANGE TELECONFERENCE CALL:

Saturday, July 14, 2007

1:00pm - 2:00pm EST

1-800-391-2548

Verbal Passcode: VA317855

***If you have ideas for call topics or requests for special projects, please send your ideas to:**

outreach@globalsolutions.org