

From: Randy Hayes [mailto:RHayes@FDNEarth.org]

Sent: Saturday, 1 February 2014 10:51 AM

To: 'Randy Hayes ()'

Subject: Your letter supported rainforests & rivers & pressured World Bank in big way!

Dear Friends, You are receiving this because you signed the March 24, 2013 letter to the World Bank President calling for him to not finance the destruction of rainforests and rivers via giant dams. That letter and the good work of many other groups including International Rivers worked!

***If busy just read the yellow highlight below for the story.** There will be more fight, but this is a good start.*

Onward, Randy Hayes and Brent Blackwelder

The Washington Post reports January 25th: ... In a blow to plans set by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, the United States recently approved an appropriations bill that orders the bank's U.S. board member to vote against any major hydroelectric project... The measure also demands that the organization undertake "independent outside evaluations" of all of its lending... Leahy believes the bank's renewed interest in large hydro projects "is a mistake and wanted to send that message."... The amendments apply to all international financial institutions, including regional ones such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank. But the focus was on the World Bank, and the measure referred specifically to disputes in Cambodia, Ethiopia and Guatemala.

PS: Also below is our letter thanking Senator Leahy, your name on the list of signers to the 1st letter, the entire Washington Post article, and the text from the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

FOUNDATION EARTH

Rethinking society from the ground up!

January 27, 2014

The Hon. Patrick Leahy, Chairman

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign

Operations

Dirksen Senate Office

Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Your Leadership on World Bank Reforms

Dear Mr. Chairman: We are writing to express our enormous appreciation for your successful efforts to include in the Foreign Operations Appropriations extraordinarily important language about the need for oversight of the World Bank's activities, especially

in regard to its attempt to return to mega-hydro dam construction, as well as the activities of other international financial institutions in this regard.

On behalf of the more than 80 signers of our May 24, 2013 letter to you, we thank you and recognize the leadership that you showed, not just on the World Bank but also on the other international financial institutions.

The provisions on safeguarding intact tropical rainforests from industrial logging and extraction have been urgently needed as have the directives on human rights protections and forced relocations.

We will work to see that the Obama Administration vigorously implements these provisions.

Sincerely,

Randy Hayes, Executive Director Brent Blackwelder, President
Emeritus Foundation Earth
Friends of the Earth

Note: Attached is the extensive list of signers of the May 24, 2013 letter calling for World Bank President Kim to not finance giant rainforest & river destroying dams. We have notified these concerned citizens that you took decisive action.

Brent Blackwelder	Vice-Chair, Foundation Earth*
Randy Hayes	Executive Director, Foundation Earth
Robert Goodland	Author of most of the World Bank's Safeguard Policies
Herman Daly	Economist, Author, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland
Professor Oliver Houck	Tulane Law School
Joji Carino	Former Commissioner, World Commission on Dams; Director, Forest Peoples Programme
Professor Zygmunt Plater	Boston College Law School
Mr. S. M. Mohamed Idris	President of the Consumers Association of Penang and Sahabat Alam Malaysia
Bill McKibben	Author
Paul Hawken	Author
John Seed	Founder, Rainforest Information Centre
Barbara Unmüssig	President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, Germany
Cormac Cullinan	Executive member, Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
Chee Yoke Ling	Director of Programmes, Third World Network
Marcus Colchester	Senior Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme
Rex Weyler	Author, Co-founder Greenpeace International
Michael Brune	Executive Director, Sierra Club
Rev. Billy Talen	The Church of Stop Shopping
Rev. Séamus P. Finn OMI	Director, JPIC Ministry Missionary Oblates
Rabbi Michael Lerner	Editor Tikkun www.tikkun.org & Chair, The Network of Spiritual Progressives
Van Jones	President & Co-Founder, Rebuild the Dream
Mike Roselle	Founder, Climate Ground Zero
Daryl Hannah	Actress/Activist
John Densmore	Doors Drummer
Jishi Peter Coyote	Zen Buddhist priest, actor-writer
Bonnie Raitt	Musician/Activist
Summer Rayne Oakes	Model-Activist, Co-founder of Source4Style
Tom Hayden	California State Senator [retired]
Dave Foreman	Executive Director, The Rewilding Institute
Carleen Pickard	Global Exchange
Medea Benjamin	CoDirector, CODEPINK & Cofounder, Global Exchange
Jakob von Uexkull	Founder, Right Livelihood Awards & World Future Council
Bill Twist	President, The Pachamama Alliance

Erich Pica	President, Friends of the Earth U.S.
David Suzuki,	Emeritus Professor of Zoology, University of British Columbia
Wade Davis	Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic Society
Dal LaMagna	President and CEO of IceStone USA
Kenneth A. Cook	President, Environmental Working Group
Jack Santa Barbara, PhD	The Sustainable Scale Project
Charlotte Levinson	President Max & Anna Levinson Foundation
Ralph Metzner, PhD	President, Green Earth Foundation
Vinit Allen	Executive Director, Sustainable World Coalition
Henry Lee Morgenstern	Wildlife Attorney
Zoe Helene	Artist/Activist Founder, Cosmic Sister
Todd Steiner	Executive Director, Turtle Island Restoration Network
Dr. Vandana Shiva	Navdanya/Research Foundation for Science Technology & Ecology
Jodie Evans	Co-founder CODEPINK; President of Threshold Foundation
Tim Lang PhD	Professor of Food Policy, City University. England
Tom Weis	President, Climate Crisis Solutions
John Talberth	President, Center for Sustainable Economy
Lauren T. Klein	Marin Community Gardens Network
Kathleen Gildred	Executive Dir., Southern California Council on Environment & Development
Jigar Shah	Founder of SunEdison
Tracy Worcester	Co-director, Farms Not Factories
Philip Fearnside	Professor, National Institute for Research in Amazonia, Manaus
Charles A. Munn, III, PhD	CEO SouthWild ("Jaguars guaranteed")
Tom Athanasiou	Author, Director of EcoEquity
Pratt Rimmel, Jr	Arkansas Environmentalist
Derrick Jensen	Author, Endgame
Thomas Cavanagh	Executive Director of Bandaloop
Tom Butler	Foundation for Deep Ecology
Chris Kilham	Founder, Medicine Hunter, Inc.
Adrian Forsyth	Author
Lori Udall	President, Montpelier Consulting
Charles Secrett	National Coordinator, The ACT! Alliance
Saskia Ozinga	Coordinator FERN
Harvey Wasserman	CEO, Solartopia.org
Barbara Pyle	Filmmaker
William Rees, PhD, FRSC	Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia
Renée G. Soule	Eco-psychologist, Sustainable World Coalition
Brian Staszewski	Director, Global Resource Efficiency Services
Eric Utne	Founder, Utne Reader
Lavinia Currier	Sacharuna Foundation
Madeleine Dunphy	Publisher, Web of Life Children's Books
Miguel Reynal	President of Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina
Catherine Caufield	Author
Lindsey Allen	Executive Director, Rainforest Action Network
Leslie Leslie	International Rivers board member
Marion M. Hunt	Trustee and Program Officer, Environment RA Hunt Foundation
Kay Treakle	Former Executive Director of the Bank Information Center
Jello Biafra	Musician
Bill Shireman	President, Global Futures Foundation
Wes `Scoop' Nisker	Author, Performer, Buddhist Meditation Teacher
Harriet Crosby	Board Member, Friends of the Earth U.S.
Atossa Soltani	Executive Director, Amazon Watch
Kelly Quirke	Former Executive Director, Rainforest Action Network
Colin Hines	Convener UK Green New Deal group
Tricia Schimpp, AICP	Urban and Environmental Planning Consultant
John Sellers	Founder, The Other 98%
John W. Passacantando	President, Our Next Economy, LLC
Norton Smith	Whole Systems Foundation
John Davis	Rewilding Institute Board Member
Osprey Orielle Lake	Founder/President Women's Earth and Climate Caucus
Kimberly Carter Gamble	CEO Clear Compass Media
Vivienne Verdon-Roe, Ph. D	Filmmaker
Winona LaDuke	Honor the Earth

U.S. pushes for outside oversight of World Bank, opposes push toward 'big hydro'

By [Howard Schneider](#), Saturday, January 25, 2014

The United States is demanding stricter oversight of World Bank projects amid concern that the bank has slipped in how closely it guards against violence, forced resettlement and other conflict associated with the works that it funds.

In a [blow to plans set by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim](#), the United States recently approved an appropriations bill that orders the bank's U.S. board member to vote against any major hydroelectric project — a type of development that has been a source of local land conflicts and controversies throughout the bank's history. The measure also demands that the organization undertake "independent outside evaluations" of all of its lending.

The demand coincides with a spate of disputes between the World Bank, civil society groups and the United States over past bank-funded projects that have been linked to killings of villagers and forcing people from their land. The cases include still-unpaid reparations from a Guatemala dam project from the 1970s in which hundreds of villagers were killed, concern about forced relocations in Ethiopia, and funding for a palm oil and food company whose operations in Honduras in recent years were the scenes of deadly fighting between workers and security guards.

The bank has extensive procedures to guard the rights of local residents and a number of ostensibly independent review bodies inside its bureaucracy. But the growing concerns led Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the Senate appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, to make a broad call for stricter oversight by an outside organization.

"Senator Leahy does not believe the evaluation process — the internal process — is what the institution needs to provide independent evaluation of the effectiveness of their lending," said David Carle, Leahy's spokesman. "It is time to make clear that [Kim] needs to look outside the institution."

It is not uncommon for Congress to use the appropriations bill to attach strings or recommendations about the operations of international organizations such as the World Bank, where the United States is the largest shareholder and an influential voice on policy.

The recently approved bill included \$1.55 billion for the World Bank's concessional lending arm — what a spokesman for the bank called "strong support." But the list of amendments reflects skepticism about some of the central ideas that Kim has laid out since he was nominated to the bank's top job by President Obama two years ago.

Kim has said he wants to steer the bank toward larger "transformational" infrastructure projects and has specifically mentioned the building of large-scale hydroelectric dams in energy-starved parts of Africa and elsewhere to advance development and tackle climate change.

Carle said that [Leahy believes the bank's renewed interest in large hydro projects "is a mistake and wanted to send that message."](#)

Kim also has said the bank should focus more of its work in the world's conflict zones, where close oversight of which companies and projects get funded is even more critical.

In the Honduran case, funding for the Dinant Corp. flowed both directly from the bank's International Finance Corp. and — less transparently — through a Honduran bank that the IFC supported. The IFC was criticized by its internal ombudsman in a recent report for overlooking the risk of violence in the area.

A World Bank spokesman said that the U.S. demand was still being analyzed and that “we will work with the U.S. to understand their views.”

The U.S. vote alone would not be enough to block hydroelectric or other projects from moving forward. But the Leahy amendments recommend withholding U.S. funding for the bank unless an outside evaluation process is established.

They also require U.S. Treasury officials and the American member of the World Bank board to pressure the organization to more quickly resolve disputes where “individuals and communities . . . suffer violations of human rights, including forced displacement, resulting from any loan, grant, strategy or policy.”

The amendments apply to all international financial institutions, including regional ones such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank. But the focus was on the World Bank, and the measure referred specifically to disputes in Cambodia, Ethiopia and Guatemala.

The Guatemalan case in particular stands out for its level of violence at the time and for the long-standing demand for reparations for the community involved. [Construction of the Chixoy Dam in the 1970s](#) was funded by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. It coincided with a bloody civil conflict, and several hundred villagers were killed and thousands displaced in clashes as the army tried to clear the way for the project.

The uprooted community has struggled since. In 2010, a reparations plan was agreed to by the Guatemalan government, but the money has not been paid. Under the Leahy amendment, U.S. Treasury officials are expected to begin pressuring the World Bank and the IADB to push for payment. There is a separate threat to withhold military training funds from the Guatemalan army unless the reparations are paid.

The bank has suggested using money from existing projects to benefit the affected families, and a spokesperson said the bank would “look for opportunities” to do more.

Text from the Consolidated Appropriations Act

The US and IFIs: Excerpts from 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act Signed Into Law, January 2014: Provisions on the World Bank & Int'l Financial Institutions (IFIs)

http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20140113/CPRT-113-HPRT-RU00-h3547-hamdt2samdt_xml.pdf

Independent evaluations

“None of the funds appropriated under title V of this Act should be made as payment to any international financial institution unless the Secretary of the Treasury certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that such institution has a policy and practice of requiring independent, outside evaluations of each project and program loan or grant and significant analytical, non-lending activity, and the impact of such loan, grant, or activity on achieving the institution's goals, including reducing poverty and promoting equitable economic growth, consistent with effective safeguards.” (p. 1238)

Compensation for human rights violations

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution to seek to ensure that each such institution responds to the findings and recommendations of its accountability mechanisms by providing just compensation or other appropriate redress to individuals and communities that suffer violations of human rights, including forced displacement, resulting from any loan, grant, strategy or policy of such institution.” (p. 1240)

Reparations for survivors of Chixoy Dam massacres

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the United States executive directors of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2014, on the steps being taken by such institutions to support implementation of the April 2010 Reparations Plan for Damages Suffered by the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam in Guatemala.” (p. 1240)

No support for logging in tropical forests

“The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution and the United States representatives to all forest-related multilateral financing mechanisms and processes that it is the policy of the United States to vote against any financing to support or promote the expansion of industrial scale logging or any other industrial scale extractive activity into areas that were primary/intact tropical forest as of December 30, 2013.” (p. 1361)

No support for large dams

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution that it is the policy of the United States to oppose any loan, grant, strategy or policy of such institution to support the construction of any large hydroelectric dam (as defined in “Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making,” World Commission on Dams (November 2000)).” (pp.1361f.)

Randy Hayes, Executive Director
Foundation Earth www.fdnearth.org



I am a warrior and I fight for my forests. – Paiakan, A Kayapo Chief from the Amazon