DEMOCRACY DIES IN THE DARK
Dear Friends,

This year marks a significant milestone for POGO: our thirtieth anniversary.

In 1981, with only a desk, a phone, and some amazing sources, Dina Rasor founded the Project on Military Procurement—a scrappy offshoot of the National Taxpayers Union. Under the guidance of Pentagon insiders Ernie Fitzgerald, Pierre Sprey, and Colonel John Boyd, Dina used the government’s own documents to expose the wasteful spending and falsified weapons tests that were making defense contractors rich at the direct expense of our troops.

Over the past thirty years, POGO has evolved and grown, changing our name to the Project On Government Oversight and expanding our watchful eye to even more areas of government. Now POGO’s work spans the federal bureaucracies, covering agencies from the Food and Drug Administration to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of the Interior.

Also, as technology has dramatically changed the landscape of how everyone works, we have embraced new ways to communicate our findings. We have moved from simply sending out press releases to also producing our own newsletter, blogging, posting on Facebook, tweeting, podcasting, and uploading YouTube videos.

Finally, POGO has launched programs to strengthen good government structures, such as our Congressional Oversight Training Series and our advocacy to strengthen the independence and accountability of Inspectors General.

But through all the changes, we have stayed true to our core values: using the government’s own information and working with whistleblowers and other insiders, we remain an aggressive, non-partisan watchdog, relentless in our mission to expose waste, fraud, and abuse. We are looking forward to the next thirty years of POGO working to fix the problems we uncover, and pushing for a more open, ethical, accountable, and effective federal government.

All the best,

Danielle Brian, Executive Director
LIBERTY LIVES IN THE LIGHT.
ABOUT POGO

The Project On Government Oversight is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO’s investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.

POGO has earned a solid reputation for uncovering deep-rooted systemic problems which threaten the integrity of the federal government. By working effectively with whistleblowers and expert insiders, and conducting in-depth investigations, POGO is able to provide accurate and reliable information, findings, and recommendations that are trusted by policymakers, the media, and the public. In fact, policymakers frequently adopt and implement our recommendations to fix the systemic problems originally investigated by POGO. We are further able to advance public policy improvements because we have built solid bi-partisan relationships with congressional allies and senior agency officials, and have engaged in an aggressive public education program.

In POGO’s continuous drive to create positive systemic reform, we not only focus on problems in government policies but also on problems with the government’s oversight and accountability infrastructures. If those structures can be made healthy, it is far more likely that the integrity of the government can be ensured.

HOW POGO WORKS

- Identify systemic corruption or other misconduct in federal government
- Launch independent investigations
- Work with whistleblowers, insiders, and other knowledgeable individuals to research and confirm findings
- Recommend common-sense solutions for positive change
- Inform public of findings
- Work with government officials to initiate systemic policy improvements
- Continue to work towards a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government

Activist journalism has a celebrated tradition, going back to the US muckrakers in the early 20th century or the Project on Government Oversight today.

THE DEW LINE, MAY 10, 2010

By demonstrating the fundamental principles that we value most in the military—honesty, integrity and courage—POGO fights the good fight every day.

PAUL RIECKHOFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA
HOW POGO IS HELPING TO MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK

The task of making the government work better takes more than issuing reports, meeting with policymakers, and working with the media. It’s also about building a community of advocates, journalists, partners, and policymakers who care about good government. POGO is helping to build that community through a variety of recent initiatives. On the Hill, POGO works directly with lawmakers of all stripes to put more accountability into legislation, and helps to develop a broader network of congressional allies through briefings and events. In addition, POGO’s Congressional Oversight Training Series (COTS) continues to hone the investigative skills of staffers and to spark discussions about the best way to conduct effective oversight throughout the legislative branch.

Off the Hill, POGO serves with partner organizations on the steering committees for the Make It Safe Coalition and OpenTheGovernment.org, and on the Congressional Transparency Caucus Advisory Committee. Meanwhile, our Muckrakers’ Happy Hours have become a popular gathering spot for good government wonks of all kinds. Drawing everyone from whistleblowers to journalists to NGO do-gooders to Hill staffers, these happy hours have become the perfect forum for swapping tips and strategizing on policy reforms and investigations.

Last but not least, POGO continues to cultivate a burgeoning community of online advocates. Through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a host of other networks, POGO has spread the “provoke accountability” message far and wide, engaging with followers from all over the country. And we’d love for you to get involved. If you haven’t had a chance to yet, be sure to follow us on Twitter, “Like” our page on Facebook, and sign up for email updates by visiting our homepage—that way you can be sure you won’t miss a beat.

As bad as things appear in government, I cannot imagine what the situation would be without a watchdog like POGO.

FRANK SERPICO
Inside Carnegie Corporation, POGO is known for being able to create a huge impact with a strategically important but comparatively modest amount of Corporation funds.

CARNEGIE RESULTS, SPRING 2010

> EFFECTIVE
Facilitating Monthly Oversight Training Series on the Hill: POGO’s Congressional Oversight Training Series continues to spark idea exchange, encourage collaboration, and hone the investigative skills of congressional staffers from both sides of the aisle.

Spurring Review of Inspector General Hotlines: Following our 2009 investigation into the Inspector General system, POGO urged the IG community to conduct a review of its whistleblower hotlines, a key avenue for intake of whistleblower tips. In response, the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency released Recommended Practices of Office of Inspector General Hotlines, a report highlighting best practices for hotlines from around the IG community.

> ACCOUNTABLE
Pushing Congress to Add Accountability Measures to Financial Reform: POGO played a pivotal role in strengthening the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act by working with Congress to add whistleblower protections for financial industry employees; rewards and protections for whistleblowers who provide tips to financial regulators; a GAO audit of the Federal Reserve; consumer financial protections; and greater independence for Inspectors General at financial regulatory agencies. These transparency and accountability measures will strengthen the financial regulatory system and help avert another financial meltdown.

Organizing and Presenting Second Annual Whistleblower Film Series: Our second Whistleblower Film Series, a part of the 10th annual DC Labor FilmFest, showcased films that explore the valuable role of whistleblowers at a critical time in the effort to restore and modernize protections for federal government employees. The 2010 Series featured the Washington, D.C., premiere of Fair Game and two screenings of The Informant!

> OPEN
Shedding Light on Contractor Responsibility Information: POGO has been at the forefront of the fight for public access to information in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), the government’s new database containing contractor responsibility information. In July 2010, Congress signed into law a provision requiring information in FAPIIS to be available to the public online. POGO also updated its own database, the Federal Contractor Misconduct Database, upon which FAPIIS is modeled.

Bringing More Openness to Executive Branch Agencies: With the December 2009 release of the Open Government Directive—the Obama Administration effort to bring increased transparency to the executive branch—agencies have been required to undertake a variety of open government initiatives. As part of an effort spearheaded by OpenTheGovernment.org, POGO has been monitoring agency progress on these initiatives, and has worked with
agencies to bring about improved compliance with the Directive as they move forward with their Open Government Plans.

Closing Secrecy Loophole in Financial Regulatory Reform Legislation: POGO led the charge in an effort to strike language from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act that had given the Securities and Exchange Commission sweeping new powers to hide its records from public scrutiny. President Obama signed a bill to repeal this portion of the financial regulatory reform legislation in October 2010.

> ETHICAL

Untangling Conflicts of Interest at a Broken Agency: Following 15 years of POGO raising concerns about conflicts of mission at the Minerals Management Service—the Interior Department’s agency responsible for oversight of offshore drilling—the executive branch adopted reforms championed by POGO to divide MMS into separate bureaus with strengthened ethics rules.

Sparking Other Investigations: POGO’s work also motivated IG offices to open other investigations: the Department of the Interior IG began an investigation into ethics at the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Health and Human Services IG reopened an investigation into allegations of whistleblower retaliation at the Food and Drug Administration.

> TESTIFYING ON CAPITOL HILL

Testimony of POGO’s Scott Amey before the Congressional Oversight Panel on “Treasury’s Use of Emergency Contracting Authority”

Testimony of POGO’s Angela Canterbury before the House Committee on Financial Services on “Legislative Proposals to Address Concerns Over the SEC’s New Confidentiality Provision”

Testimony of POGO’s Danielle Brian before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on “Examination of The Department of the Interior’s Oversight of Offshore Oil Drilling”

Testimony of POGO’s Danielle Brian before the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan on “Are Private Security Contractors Performing Inherently Governmental Functions?”

Testimony of POGO’s Danielle Brian before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on “The Deepwater Horizon Incident: Proposals to Split Up the Minerals Management Service”

I work closely with a group, in addition to Heritage [Foundation], who gives me tremendous access to, not only information, but to thought and to these ideas that make a difference here. I work with a group called POGO.

REPRESENTATIVE DARRELL ISSA (R-CA)

The efforts of the Project on Government Oversight to shed light on the use — and misuse — of taxpayer money has been invaluable in helping to make government more accountable to the people that it serves. I commend POGO for its continued efforts to promote efficiency and transparency in the federal government.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT (D-NJ)
House Party

POGO is lucky to have so many supporters who care deeply about the issues we work on. A number of those supporters wanted to find a way to introduce POGO and its work to their friends, while at the same time raising money to help POGO continue that work. As a result, the idea of the House Party was born. This is a terrific opportunity for POGO supporters in your area, as well as friends you think should learn more about POGO, to meet our staff and hear the latest on our work. The first was hosted by Harold and Stephanie Bronson in Los Angeles, and the most recent by Micheline Klagsbrun and Ken Grossinger in their lovely Georgetown home.

If you’re interested in hosting a party for POGO, please get in touch with Abby Evans at aevans@pogo.org.

In order to preserve our independence, POGO does not accept contributions from the government, unions, corporations, or anyone with a financial stake in the outcomes of our investigations. POGO accepts limited contributions from law firms, capping each at less than 1% of POGO’s operating budget. POGO also accepts employee-directed contributions and donor-matching funds from companies.
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Amy Ryan Alexander &
Geoffrey H. Fettus
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Patrick & Cheri Baker

Pogo Annual Report 2010 :: 9
POGO STAFF

LEFT TO RIGHT: DANNI DOWNING, JAKE WIENS, PAUL THACKER, PAM RUTTER, ANGELA CANTERBURY, SCOTT AMEY, NEIL GORDON, CHRIS PABON, NICK SCHWELLENBACH, KEITH RUTTER, MANDY SMITHBERGER, BRYAN RAHIJA, ABBY EVANS, DANIELLE BRIAN, AND MICHAEL SMALLBERG. (NOT ALL STAFF COULD MAKE THE PHOTO SHOOT.)

***

You at POGO are in that special group of people who do not seek financial aggrandizement at the expense of others, but gain personal and professional satisfaction by trying to expose wrong-doing and change things for the better and for the common good. You are very special Americans.

A. BRYAN SIEBERT, RETIRED DIRECTOR, THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR AND NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NEW STAFF PROFILES

ANGELA CANTERBURY, Director of Public Policy, is an experienced advocate, policy analyst, and public campaign strategist. She has testified before Congress and has been instrumental in efforts that have improved the financial regulatory system, lobbying and congressional ethics rules, whistleblower protections, the Freedom of Information Act, and other open government initiatives. Prior to joining POGO, Angela served as the Director of Advocacy for Public Citizen’s Congress Watch division, and before that she worked with the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

JOE NEWMAN, Director of Communications, is a veteran journalist and media strategist. He serves as POGO spokesman and oversees the organization’s media strategy, working closely with investigators and policy analysts to publicize their work across print, broadcast, and online media, as well as social networks. Before joining POGO, Joe served as Deputy Director of Communications at Public Citizen, and before that worked for the Orlando Sentinel, St. Petersburg Times, and The Palm Beach Post.

NICK SCHWELLENBACH, Director of Investigations, rejoined POGO in 2010, and oversees POGO’s investigations. In addition, he conducts national security-related investigations into national security-related corruption, incompetence, and waste; transportation safety; government secrecy policies and practices; and the effectiveness of government oversight. Prior to rejoining POGO, Nick was a staff writer at the Center for Public Integrity. Nick’s previous work as a POGO investigator on lavish Air Force accommodations for generals was one of three investigations cited by the Society of Professional Journalists when they awarded POGO its prestigious national Sunshine Award.

PAUL THACKER, Investigator, joined POGO after three years as an investigator on the Senate Finance Committee for Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa. Paul focused most of his energies on health care oversight. Paul’s investigations resulted in many universities tightening their policies on physician interactions with industry, caused the NIH to introduce new conflict-of-interest policies, and were critical in helping to pass Senator Grassley’s Physicians Payments Sunshine Act. Prior to working on the Hill, Paul spent several years as a journalist writing about science, medicine, and the environment.

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PETER STOCKTON, Senior Investigator
PAUL THACKER, Investigator
JAKE WIENS, Investigator
ADAM ZAGORIN, Journalist-in-Residence

THANK YOU!
FORMER STAFF MEMBERS MARTHENA COWART
AND INGRID DRAKE; FELLOW JANET SU; AND
INTERNS ALEX BLAND, JAMES BUDNICK, RICK D’AMATO,
RACHEL FEUER, LAUREN PERRY, TOM SEEGER, AND
REBECCA ROTENBERG.
Most people who know the Project On Government Oversight know Beth Daley. In 2010, she lost a hard-fought seven-year battle with breast cancer.

For over ten years, Beth was a vital part of POGO. Her passion for POGO’s mission was fueled by her outrage at corruption, deep empathy for those who suffered retaliation for simply telling the truth, and gleeful enthusiasm for mentoring young people learning to conduct investigations. She helped to build our small non-profit into the institution it is today, and everything that went out the door had her imprint.

Shortly after her passing, a remarkable thing happened: Beth’s family, friends, and fellow do-gooders opened their wallets to honor her by establishing a fellowship in her name — the Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund.

Beth was POGO’s first Director of Communications, and so the first Daley Fellow will work specifically in Communications. Beth’s legacy will live on through POGO’s continued ability to mentor the young people she so valued as they work to fulfill the mission that she so cared about.

Beth mentored many young people at POGO. These are memories of just two: Amelia Kegan, Summer and Fall Intern, 2003. “I cannot think about POGO or my internship there without thinking of Beth. Her character exemplified the best qualities of POGO—she was always full of energy and humor. One would think in an organization where you focus on the problems within government—corruption, waste, mismanagement—it would be too easy to become disillusioned. Yet Beth did the opposite, and I left my POGO internship more optimistic about the role of government. Beth’s work combined with her character was instrumental in shaping POGO into the organization it is.”

Christopher Potter, Summer Intern, 2001, “Beth was a terrific mentor. When I was a 20-year-old intern, in over my head attempting to write a comprehensive report on wasteful spending at the Pentagon, not only did Beth put up with my ambition, but she always had time when I needed thoughtful help, advice, and direction, which she offered with an enthusiasm that wouldn’t quit. But what I appreciated the most was what she taught me through our periodic off-topic conversations about how things really work in Washington and the world at large. She knew her stuff.”

If you would like to honor Beth’s legacy through the Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund, please contact Chris Pabon at cpabon@pogo.org.
FROM TYPEWRITERS TO TWITTER
A GLIMPSE AT POGO THROUGH THE YEARS.
Learn the names behind the faces here:
http://www.pogo.org/about/30/30.html
MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO’s investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.

POGO

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FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/POGO.ORG
30 YEARS OF POGO: EXPOSING CORRUPTION, EXPLORING SOLUTIONS.

PROJECT ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT

POGO exposed first operational test failures of the M-1 tank and challenges the effectiveness of several weapons, including Air Force AWACS and terrain-guided cruise missiles.

C-5B AIRCRAFT $500 MILLION OVERRUN EXPOSED

The Project’s exposure of the C-58 overrun results in a market selling frenzy and the closing of the trading board for Lockheed stock.

PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS

The Project helps defend Air Force whistleblower A. Ernest Fitzgerald’s assertion of his First Amendment rights when he refuses to sign a government-wide “gag order.”

POGO was instrumental in getting a law passed that cancelled up to that point.

FEDERAL CONTRACTOR MISCONDUCT DATABASE

POGO creates a database of government contractor performance.

Agents at the Door

Secretary of Energy Hazel O’Leary dispatches Inspector General agents to POGO’s offices in an attempt to uncover its sources of Super collider document leaks.

Federal Election Commission agrees with POGO that election data is inaccurate and unreliable.

Congressional Oversight Training Series Launched

A monthly training series aimed at teaching a new generation of congressional staff the art and science of government oversight.

FRAUD, SECURITY BREACHES & CORRUPTION

Los Alamos National Laboratory forced to reorganize; director and 16 top officials leave jobs after sources working with POGO expose fraud, security breaches, and corruption.

PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS

Whistleblower defense Air Force generals in Kabul, including a demoralized and overworked guard force.

WHISTLEBLOWERS EXPOSE DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN KABUL

POGO worked with whistle-blowers to expose the Lord of the Flies -like security environment at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, including a demoralized and overworked guard force.

PRODUCE OF F-22 FINALLY HALTED

POGO worked with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Carl Levin (D-MI) to halt production of the F-22, a longtime POGO target and symbol of Pentagon excess.

STRENGTHENED ETHICS RULES AT MMS

After 15 years of POGO raising concerns about conflicts of mission at the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the Obama administration divided the MMS into separate bureaus with strengthened ethics rules.

FALSE CLAIMS ACT

The Project champions Senator Charles Grassley’s (R-IA) legislation that makes the False Claims Act the most effective tool to fight fraud against the government.