

## **Challenge Corporate Power**



**RAN.org**

### **TABLING FAQ'S**

#### **Does RAN work on passing laws?**

RAN focuses almost exclusively on corporate campaigns. We feel that our Congress and Administration are not doing the job they should be doing and that corporations have way too much power. So we skip the middle man and go straight to the source of the problem. We target the biggest corporate offenders to pressure them to change their environmentally and socially destructive practices.

#### **Do you guys get arrested?**

RAN is totally committed to non-violence. We organize and participate in many demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience. RAN staff and activists have been arrested for civil disobedience – protesting unjust laws and corporate policies.

When an injustice becomes so great that people of conscience can no longer tolerate it, nonviolent civil disobedience can be a crucial tactic. Pioneered by American author Henry David Thoreau and made popular by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., non-violent civil disobedience offers a way of taking action without resorting to force.

#### **Wells Fargo/other bank target is my bank! Should I stop banking there?**

That's ok! Asking people to cut up their ATM cards is a last-resort tactic. Hopefully we won't need to go that far with Wells Fargo (though we did with Citibank, and it worked!).

You as a Wells Fargo customer have the real power to sway their policies. Whether it's a checking account, a home mortgage or student loan, they pay much more attention to you as their business relies on you. It's folks like you that we really need on our campaign.

If you bank with Wells Fargo, you should make sure to tell them you are angry about their investments and encourage them to adopt a socially and environmentally responsible investment policy. In fact, you can sign the petition right here to tell them so.

If you do want to change banks, credit unions are generally more socially sound places to invest your money.

#### **Why are you targeting banks?**

We're following the money. Private banks invest in and lend money for projects and companies all over the world that are destructive to the environment and the indigenous people who live there. We have convinced Citibank, JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs to develop socially and environmentally responsible investment policies, and we're currently working on getting (Bank of America and) Wells Fargo to do the same.

#### **How do cars and banks relate to saving the rainforest?**

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Rainforests are home to half of the plant and animal species on the planet. Each day, 214,000 acres of rainforests are destroyed. One major cause of rainforest destruction is the global demand for oil. Road building into forested areas causes ecosystem fragmentation, air pollution, runoff, and erosion. Automakers are driving this demand for oil.

We campaign to stop mega-banks from investing in a myriad of rainforest threats that include mining, deforestation, fossil fuel extraction, indigenous rights abuses and global warming. Why do we go after banks? Looking at a holistic picture of the global economy, we realized that much of the environmental destruction has one common denominator—the finance and capital investment to make it happen.

At RAN, we are also working more broadly to lessen the impact of corporations on the environment and human rights. So, we often work on issues that are not always directly related to the rainforest, but to other threatened ecosystems and people.

### **Where are good places to shop for wood?**

Where to shop for wood is generally less important than the kind of wood you buy. Try to use reclaimed or recycled wood whenever possible. If you must buy virgin wood, look for wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. A list of vendors is available at [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org). Avoid tropical wood—these can generally be replaced by domestic hardwoods like aspen, birch and poplar. Avoid old growth softwood species like pine, fir, spruce and cedar. Old growth wood can generally be distinguished by growth-rings spaced less than one millimeter apart. Always ask about the source of wood that you buy. If a store can't tell you, try another store.

### **How can I get involved?**

The first thing to do is to sign up for our email list, [here](#). If you're interested in starting a local RAN activist group, I'll take down your name and give it to our Grassroots Organizer, Julie (then email Julie the names at [jwolk@ran.org](mailto:jwolk@ran.org)). We have many opportunities for folks to do everything from flyer in front of one of our corporate targets local branches, to hosting movie nights, to organizing demonstrations. We'd love to work with you!

### **If I donate money for a shirt, is my \$20 tax deductible?**

All donations to RAN are tax deductible. And we'll give you a t-shirt as a gift when you become a member. However, you'll need to subtract the value of the gift (\$8) from your tax deduction, thus only deducting \$12, if you donate \$20.