

# Backbone Campaign 2016 Annual Report

*For 13 years you have made Backbone Campaign's movement building work possible; together, we have amplified progressive voices and accelerated progressive change. Thank you for all your support!*



## ***Solidarity Brigades and Artful Activism***

Backbone Campaign artists and volunteers developed several props for use by community groups across the US to deliver a creative and compelling message. The inflatable orca was deployed at the Free the Snake flotilla, to call for removal of the 4 dams on the lower Snake River, which operate as a death sentence to wild salmon, threatening endangered orcas. The Racism-is-the-Elephant-in-the-Room prop travels across the country; in this photo it is outside the Trump Tower in DC, just after the November election.



## ***Supporting communities with artful activism resources***

We support communities as they fight the commodification of the sacred, including our shared waters. In addition to support at the Paddle in Solidarity with the Quinault Nation, we made three trips to Standing Rock to deliver urgently needed supplies. And when our neighbors in Tacoma were faced with a proposed methanol plant, which would have been the largest in the world, we brought our artful activism tools to the fight, and together, we shut it down. We're all in this together!



## ***Kayaktivism and BreakFree***

The thousands who participated in BreakFree championed the message that our best chance to avert the worst of climate change lies in people with a conscience stepping into their courage to take collective action. For 3 days we forced Tesoro and Shell to suspend all fossil fuel transport by tankers and oil trains. And this was accomplished while grounding our work with sensitivity to workers, indigenous peoples, locals, & the local flora and fauna. To stop the poisoning of our communities and the cooking of our climate, ordinary heroes like you are reaching beyond what is comfortable and familiar to take action, regardless of the odds.





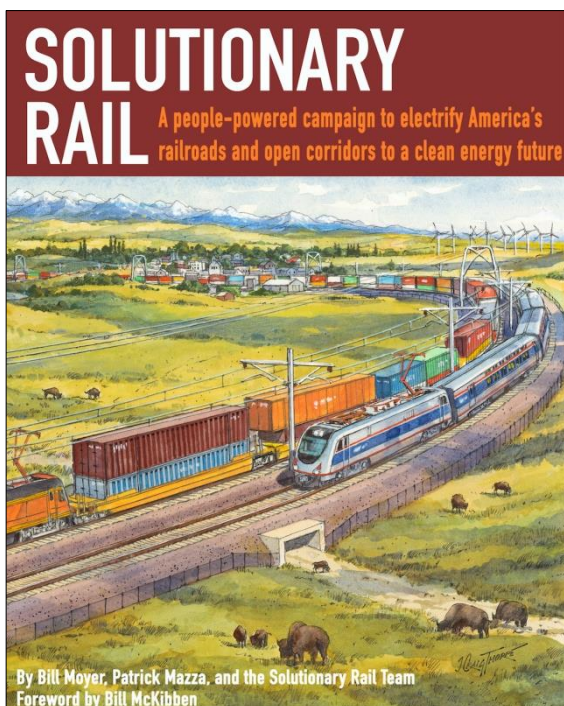


### LocalizeThis! Action Camp

Activists from around the country came to Vashon Island for our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual LocalizeThis! Action Camp. During Camp we mobilized pressure on the Washington State delegation regarding the TPP at a key point and coincided with Obama's visit to Seattle. This banner action was seen by thousands of commuters on I-5 as the freeway was shut down due to the Presidential motorcade. We also co-produced the Cove Point Spring Break Action Camp in Maryland to strengthen the resistance against extreme extraction and transportation of LNG and to spread kayaktivism across the country.

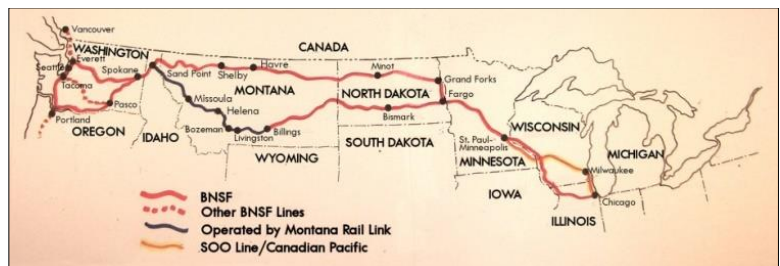
### TPP

Actions on the TPP helped foster awareness of this toxic trade deal which turned it into an election year issue. In November, the TPP was declared "dead." *We the People* were victorious in protecting environmental regulation, jobs, food standards, and the economy.

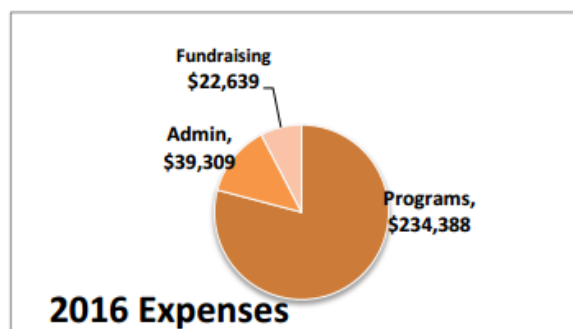
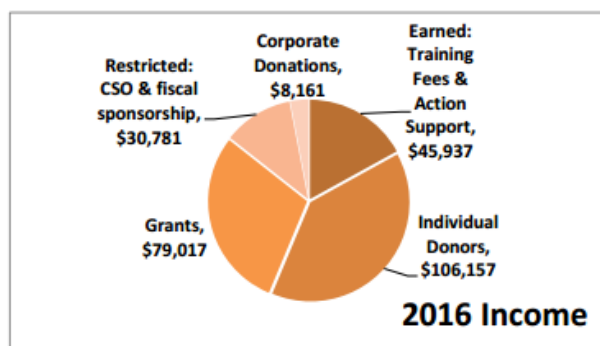


### Solutionary Rail

After three years of work, Solutionary Rail, Backbone's most ambitious project to date, was published. Says climate leader Bill McKibben, "It strikes me as one of the most insightful, powerful ideas in a very long time. It knits together so many of the things we need all at once: the prospect of electrified rail as a challenge to diesel truck power is remarkably enticing; the idea that you could power the trains with renewable energy is both obvious and revolutionary; and the idea that those rail corridors could then become the transmission corridors we need to send electrons from the wind and the sun back and forth across North America – that is a really powerful idea."



### Where does Backbone get its funding – and how is it spent?



*Backbone Campaign's mission: To amplify the aspirations of "We the People" with creative strategies and artful activism to manifest a world where life, community, nature, and our obligations to future generations are honored as sacred.*

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