

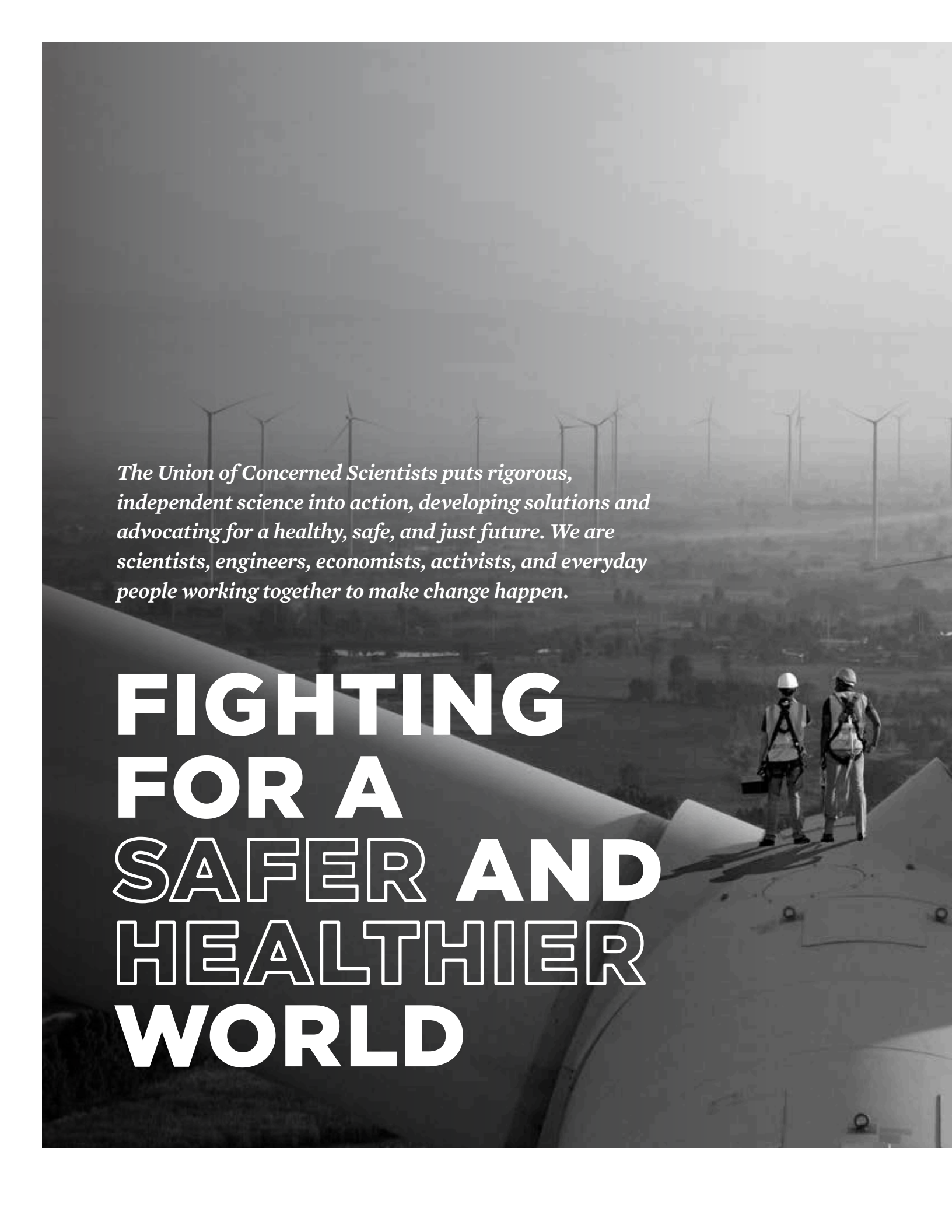


GAINING

GROUND

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

[Union of
Concerned Scientists



The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science into action, developing solutions and advocating for a healthy, safe, and just future. We are scientists, engineers, economists, activists, and everyday people working together to make change happen.

FIGHTING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORLD

Thanks to you, UCS made a difference in the lives of people affected by climate change, truck pollution, and radiation from nuclear weapons.

In fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023) we:



Advanced climate solutions with a plan for new offshore wind power in Maine and secured a 16th state commitment to 100 percent carbon-free energy in Minnesota



Won a federal rule that will reduce diesel truck emissions by 80 percent or more



Expanded compensation for exposure to radiation from nuclear weapons production and testing to people in Colorado, Guam, Idaho, Missouri, and Montana



Provided the basis of a groundbreaking White House plan that protects federal scientists and their research from political interference



Exposed fossil fuel producers' responsibility for forest fires in the western United States and southwestern Canada



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A MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT & CHAIR**

No matter where you live, chances are almost certain you were affected by climate change this year.

Scientists have been warning us for decades to expect more extreme weather as a result of climate change, but even for those of us close to the data it's hard not to feel shocked by the reality. Waves of heavy rain and snow on the West Coast. Hazardous air over the Great Plains and Southeast from northern wildfires. Relentless heat waves in the South and Southwest. Historic flooding in New England and New York. Hurricane Idalia in Florida. The horrific wildfire on Maui.

The intensity of these events, here and around the world, makes it clear that the climate crisis is progressing beyond debate, denial, or delay. **We must stop burning fossil fuels.** As Rachel Cleetus, our policy director for climate and energy, told the *Boston Globe*, "Everything we care about is on the line now."

This report speaks to the progress you made possible in 2023. You'll see examples of our determination to seize every opportunity to drive down heat-trapping emissions and build a healthier planet, a safer world, and a more just society. Your ongoing support enables us to take full advantage of each one.

For example, we seized on public interest in the film *Oppenheimer* to reach across the political aisle and achieve a bipartisan victory for survivors of nuclear weapons testing. We deployed science to make sure the benefits of humanity's largest-ever federal investment in climate justice—the Inflation Reduction Act—reach the most affected communities. And we brought farmers and farmworkers to meet their elected officials in Washington, DC, to call for a food and farm bill that supports their well-being, protects the environment, and feeds the hungry, instead of lining the pockets of Big Agriculture.

These efforts—and many more you'll read about in the pages ahead—represent complex, often multi-year efforts anchored in the rigorous, respected scientific research the Union of Concerned Scientists is known for. This work simply would not be possible without you and your commitment to our mission.

We're gaining ground in driving fair, science-informed solutions that matter. For our children and future generations, we must keep the momentum going as we enter a crucial election year. And in collaboration with steadfast partners like you, we'll succeed.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support.

Thank you.


JOHANNA CHAO KREILICK
PRESIDENT


ANNE R. KAPUSCINSKI
CHAIR

BUILT MOMENTUM TOWARD A CLEANER FUTURE

FY23 SUCCESSES

Thanks to ongoing support from our donors, UCS has made many important contributions to federal and state climate, energy, and transportation legislation over the years. In 2022 our scientific analysis and advocacy directly shaped the Inflation Reduction Act—the most important climate legislation in our nation’s history—and in 2023 UCS scientists, analysts, organizers, lobbyists, and communicators worked in partnership with environmental justice organizations to ensure that this law fulfills its transformational potential by being implemented in an effective and equitable way.

As a result, clean energy and transportation are becoming more affordable and accessible, more people are installing rooftop solar panels, and more people and businesses are making the switch to electric vehicles. This momentum is strengthening our energy security and helping the United States take urgently needed steps toward meeting its climate goals.

ENERGY. Through rigorous, independent research that you made possible, UCS helped accelerate the transition to a modern and equitable electricity grid that can help avoid the worst effects of climate change while delivering benefits to marginalized communities.

- Following several years of coalition work—during which UCS submitted testimony, mobilized supporters, and maintained a drumbeat of blogging and research outlining how Minnesota can meet its electricity needs completely and equitably with clean energy—the state committed to 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2040. This victory marks the 16th state, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, to adopt such a standard.

- UCS contributed language to, and testified on behalf of, a new Maine law requiring the development of new offshore wind power that will provide more than half of the state’s electricity by 2040.
- We secured a regulatory win in Michigan, in which energy company DTE agreed to speed the closure of the state’s largest coal-fired power plant and invest in more clean energy, efficiency, and battery storage.
- UCS weighed in on an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal for the nation’s first federal standards to limit heat-trapping carbon emissions from coal- and gas-fired power plants.

TRANSPORTATION. With your support, UCS successfully advocated for stricter vehicle emissions and electrification standards at both the state and federal levels.

- We helped persuade five states (Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington) to follow California’s lead by requiring all new passenger vehicles to be electric by 2035.





- We won standards in California requiring truck fleets there to gradually increase their purchases of electric trucks, reaching 100 percent of new sales by 2036. Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, and Vermont also adopted or advanced regulations requiring truck manufacturers to offer electric models in those states.
- We worked with Massachusetts to approve \$400 million in charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) and rebates to help low-income households adopt EVs. This set of programs—one of the largest portfolios in the nation—will result in tens of thousands of new charging ports over the next four years.
- Nine months of campaigning by UCS not only led to a federal rule that will reduce diesel truck emissions by 80 percent or more, but also built strong alignment with environmental justice organizations on policies that prioritize communities' needs.
- We also helped improve environmental justice groups' access to the EPA through our support

of a partner's petition demanding reductions in freight emissions. After receiving the petition, which included 30,000 signatures (more than 10,000 from UCS supporters), the EPA administrator committed to regular meetings with grassroots organizations.

2023 PROGRESS YOU MADE POSSIBLE

- MINNESOTA COMMITTED TO 100 PERCENT CARBON-FREE ENERGY BY 2040
- CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHED ONE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST ZERO-EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR LARGE TRUCK FLEETS
- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACTED TO REDUCE DIESEL TRUCK EMISSIONS BY 80 PERCENT OR MORE

HELD FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE

As the effects of climate change worsen and spread, your support of UCS has enabled us to help the public understand the links between extreme weather, global warming, and the polluters that are ultimately responsible.

MAPPING THE DAMAGE. In 2022 we coined the term “danger season” to describe the cascading climate impacts that increasingly afflict summer months, and the summer of 2023 was the hottest on record—bringing seemingly endless heat waves to the United States and Europe, uncontrollable wildfires to Canada, and unprecedented floods to cities and

towns around the world. Little wonder the media outlet Grist added “danger season” to its list of Words of the Year.

UCS built a widely visited interactive map showing danger season’s localized impacts along with a real-time tally of how many millions of people in the United States were affected. But we did far more than name and chronicle these impacts.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH. In the latest in a series of pathbreaking, peer-reviewed analyses made possible by donors like you, UCS pinpointed the role that the largest



fossil fuel companies have played in contributing to drought and forest fires. We calculated that 19.8 million burned acres—some 37 percent of the total area burned in the western United States and southwestern Canada since 1986—resulted from heat-trapping emissions that trace directly to the world’s 88 largest fossil fuel producers and cement manufacturers. More than 260 media outlets reported our findings, including CNN, the *Washington Post*, and the Weather Channel.

Equally important, this analysis added to the growing body of “attribution science” that UCS has pioneered; our

previous work calculated carbon producers’ contributions to ocean acidification, sea level rise, and higher global temperatures. Our 2017 peer-reviewed paper in *Climatic Change* linking fossil fuel companies to rising temperatures is one of that journal’s most-accessed articles ever.

LEGAL ADVANCES. UCS research is not just spurring interest but action: providing the scientific foundation for a burgeoning number of lawsuits that seek to hold major fossil fuel companies liable—for climate damages and for the companies’ decades of deception about the dangers they knew their products pose to the planet.

This year, in an important win, the US Supreme Court ruled that lawsuits seeking climate-related damages against fossil fuel companies must remain in state courts. The companies had delayed some of these cases for years by trying to move them to federal court, where they hoped for a more favorable outcome. The Supreme Court ruling represents a pivotal moment, allowing dozens of cases to move ahead and ensuring that communities will be able to seek justice according to their own state laws. Already, some 40 US cities, counties, and states from Hawai’i to Massachusetts have filed lawsuits against ExxonMobil and other fossil fuel companies, with the

2023 PROGRESS YOU MADE POSSIBLE

- EXPOSED FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCERS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR 37 PERCENT OF THE LAND BURNED BY FOREST FIRES IN WESTERN NORTH AMERICA SINCE 1986
- CONTRIBUTED SCIENCE THAT BOLSTERS DOZENS OF LAWSUITS UNDER WAY AGAINST FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES
- CAPTURED MEDIA ATTENTION BY COINING THE TERM "DANGER SEASON" TO DESCRIBE SUMMER'S OVERLAPPING CLIMATE IMPACTS

newest cases having been brought by California, New Jersey, and the most populous county in Oregon.

UCS is actively supporting these efforts through our Science Hub for Climate Litigation—launched in 2020 thanks to your contributions—which collaborates with partners to undertake legally relevant science and foster dialogue among scientific experts, legal scholars and practitioners, and affected communities. In a clear sign of the impact of both our science and our advocacy, the vast majority of current US climate accountability lawsuits cite UCS analyses in their claims.

THE ULTIMATE PRESSURE POINT?

The urgency to address climate change has never been more palpable, and climate lawsuits that draw upon UCS investigative reports and scientific analyses offer a potentially historic lever for securing transparency, accountability, and transformative change. By pursuing litigation, the plaintiffs are not only seeking compensation for environmental harms but also working to dismantle fossil fuel companies' deeply entrenched culture of denial and deception that has done so much to hinder meaningful climate action.

UCS stands with you in the vanguard of this fight. Our powerful science will continue to help debunk climate disinformation, to seek justice for communities on the front lines of climate change, and to force powerful companies to alter ways of doing business that for too long have stood in the way of the progress we need to reduce carbon emissions, slow global warming, and move to a clean energy economy.

FY23 SUCCESSES

SECURED SCIENCE'S SEAT AT THE TABLE



UCS supporters like you enabled us to continue serving as a watchdog for science in 2023, ensuring scientists are heard when it's time to set policy and that science factors into decisionmaking.

Our health and well-being depend on the ability of scientists who work for government agencies to use the best available science, free from political interference—which is why UCS has advocated for years to codify scientific integrity into law, as a guiding principle for federal agency work. Gratifyingly, the Biden administration listened, releasing a landmark scientific integrity framework that closely follows UCS recommendations. As part of our watchdog role, we conducted the latest in a series of surveys that gauge federal scientists' morale and their agencies' commitment to scientific integrity, and we published an online compendium of political attacks on science that covers 22 years and four administrations—as both a record and a warning.

Your support also helped UCS put scientific integrity into action, by launching a campaign pressing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set stronger science-based limits on emissions of ethylene oxide, a

known carcinogen that escapes from medical device sterilization facilities. Our analysis found that more than 14 million people in the United States live within five miles of such facilities, including a disproportionately high number of people of color and low-income households. These findings drew national headlines and led hundreds of people to attend UCS workshops on how to provide public comments to the EPA, urging the agency to adopt more rigorous protections in 2024.

2023 PROGRESS YOU MADE POSSIBLE

- PROVIDED THE BASIS OF A WHITE HOUSE PLAN THAT PROTECTS FEDERAL SCIENTISTS AND THEIR RESEARCH FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE



TOOK A STEP FORWARD ON NUCLEAR JUSTICE

Nearly two years into Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine, the risk of nuclear conflict is higher than it's been in decades. In 2023, your support enabled UCS to pursue diplomacy and collaboration that would slow an emerging arms race that is both technically unnecessary and potentially catastrophic. At the same time, we achieved a measure of justice for the harm the US nuclear weapons program has caused to thousands of people at home and abroad.

2023 PROGRESS YOU MADE POSSIBLE

- EXPANDED COMPENSATION FOR EXPOSURE TO RADIATION FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION AND TESTING TO PEOPLE IN COLORADO, GUAM, IDAHO, MISSOURI, AND MONTANA

In a letter co-authored with the Arms Control Association, UCS called on the US government to prioritize justice for the Marshall Islands, a nation used as a testing site for nuclear weapons, which has left generations grappling with high rates of cancer and other debilitating health conditions stemming from radiation exposure. More than 100 organizations across the United States signed the letter, prompting a meeting with US officials negotiating the Compact of Free Association between the two nations.

Meanwhile, working with members of US communities on the front lines of nuclear weapons production and testing, UCS lobbied senators and publicized the issue of radiation exposure in the media, leading to an extension and expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). In a bipartisan vote, the Senate extended RECA—which was set to expire in 2024—by 19 years and expanded its coverage areas to thousands of additional people who worked in uranium mines and lived downwind of the United States' 200 aboveground nuclear tests. At press time, the act was working its way through the congressional reconciliation process.

Every five years, the trillion-dollar federal legislation UCS refers to as the food and farm bill shapes what farmers produce and what we eat—a system that has been hijacked by corporate-controlled industrial agriculture. With your support, we made a strong case for a new food and farm bill that:

- Protects small farmers and ranchers from Big Ag's monopolistic practices
- Starts to reverse a history of discrimination against farmworkers and Black farmers
- Expands nutrition assistance (instead of cutting it)
- Reduces agriculture's global warming emissions
- Invests in research to make agriculture more sustainable

UCS analysis demonstrated the need for a bill that expands research on the health of this country's 2.4 million farmworkers, who face risks from extreme heat, pesticides, and food insecurity. Another UCS report showed that Black farmers lost nearly 90 percent of their land in the 20th century, and proposed a policy reform that would help turn the tide.

We organized scientists, farmers, and groups both local and national in scale; publicized the links between

2023 PROGRESS YOU MADE POSSIBLE

- GOT LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE THAT WOULD IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR 21.5 MILLION FOOD WORKERS AND FARM WORKERS

industrial agriculture, unfair labor practices, and climate change; and brought food system workers to Capitol Hill for an unprecedented briefing with legislators drafting the food and farm bill. We met with the leaders of the House and Senate agriculture committees to press for our list of priorities—backed by polling we commissioned that documents support from voters across the political spectrum.

The negotiations may drag into 2024, but we received a hopeful signal when two bills that would improve working conditions for food workers and farm workers were introduced in the Senate as a result of our work. With your help we will push for a final food and farm bill that includes all our priorities.



PUSHED FOR A TRANSFORMATIONAL FOOD AND FARM BILL

FY23 SUCCESSES



EXPANDED SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING

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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2023

REVENUE



The Union of Concerned Scientists continues to benefit from the generosity of our more than 100,000 members and foundations, who work in partnership with us to build a healthy planet and safer world. The majority of our support—83 percent—came from generous individual donors through outright and planned gifts, while support from foundations represented 15 percent of our revenue.



Eighty-six percent of every dollar donated to UCS in fiscal year 2023 directly funded our program work, with the remaining 14 percent spent on the critical administrative infrastructure and fundraising that support our programs. With an annual budget of \$50 million, UCS continues to strengthen our unique ability to help solve our planet's most pressing problems with the power of independent science.

Note: These are preliminary results that had not been audited at press time; for our audited results, visit the UCS website at www.ucsusa.org/about/funding-financials.

PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2023

OPERATING REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Individual giving	\$ 34,791,862
Foundations	6,399,000
Other	966,398
Total operating revenue and other support	\$ 42,157,260

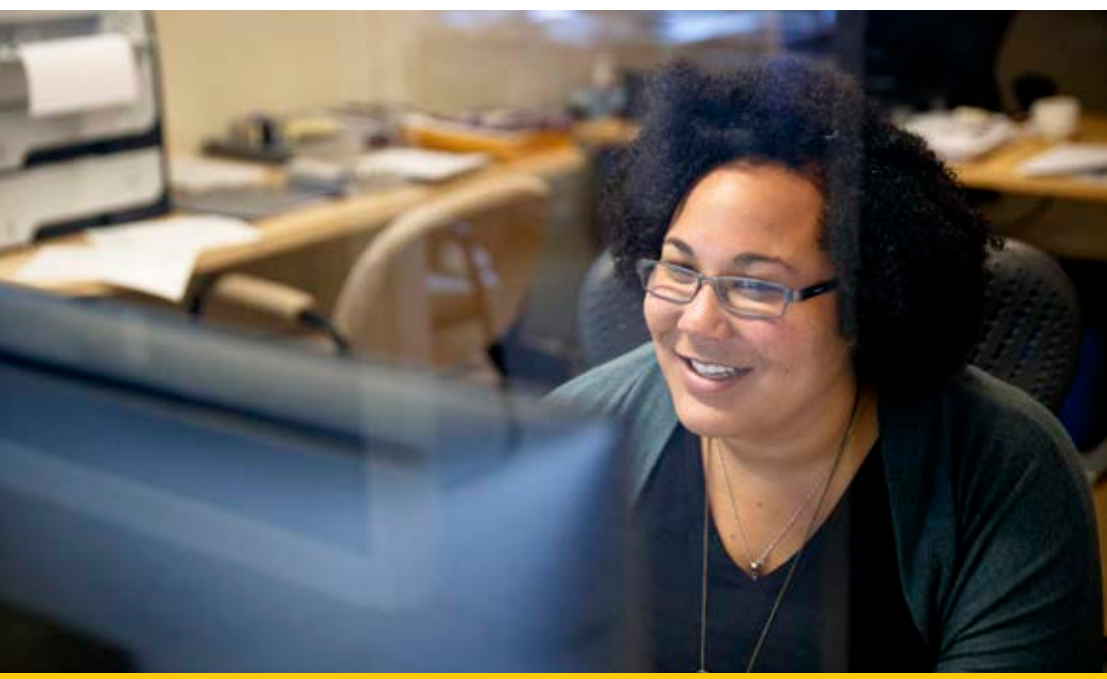
OPERATING EXPENSES

Program expenses	\$ 40,994,917
Fundraising expenses	3,289,127
General and Administrative expenses	3,384,464
Total operating expenses	\$ 47,668,508

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (5,511,248)
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NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 64,654,937
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NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 59,143,689
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Note: These are preliminary results that had not been audited at press time; for our audited results, visit the UCS website at www.ucsusa.org/about/funding-financials.

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The National Advisory Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists builds philanthropic, scientific, and political impact by bringing together diverse partners to provide financial support, advice, and counsel to UCS leadership that shapes and informs our strategies.

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An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a complex network of white and light blue channels branching out from a central point into a darker blue sea. The image is partially obscured by a large yellow rectangular area that contains text.

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WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT. THIS WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER. **THANK YOU.**



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