



Will you be in
Washington, D.C.
soon?
[Contact us](#)
to set up a meeting
on the Hill!

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RANews

November 2011

Dear Thu,

With the 2012 elections just one year away, we can't help but be filled with a sense of excitement. Based on estimates from the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, we could see a record number of women running for office next year, thanks, in no small part, to [The 2012 Project](#).

Original research by our sister organization, [Rachel's Network](#), makes the case that women vote pro-environment more often than men, regardless of party. For that reason, Rachel's Action Network continues to focus on electing more women to office. The countdown to the 2012 elections begins now, and you can depend on RAN for critical information on women and environmental politics as candidates enter the race, with a slate of endorsed women to be announced next spring.

In this edition of *RANews*, get up to speed on the latest developments in the Keystone XL pipeline debate, and take action to support the ongoing legislative battle to reform the outdated Toxic Substances Control Act.

Read on to learn about what our endorsed Congresswomen are up to...and mark your calendars for November 17! You don't want to miss our joint teleconference call with Rachel's Network to discuss how cutting wasteful government spending can protect the environment AND reduce our deficit.

As always, we're here to assist you in your personal advocacy efforts. If you find yourself in Washington, D.C. and want to pay a visit to your Representative or Senator, feel free to [contact us](#) for assistance!

Warm regards,

Kate Drummond, Thu Pham, & Laurie Syms

RAN Staff

Yes, the 2012
Elections are here
already!

Keep an eye out for
RAN's endorsed
candidates. Believe
it or not, 2012 is
right around the
corner!

What can you do
to build a
relationship with
your Member of
Congress?

Express your
opinion with a
phone call or
email

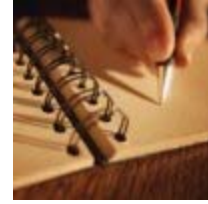
Sign up for the
Representative or
Senator's
e-newsletter

Attend an event
in the District

Schedule a
meeting with him
or her in the
District office

To find your
representative,
visit House.gov or
Senate.gov.

Advocacy Alert: Keystone XL Pipeline



Will you be in Washington, D.C. this weekend??

Advocates from across the country are converging on the White House on Sunday, November 6 to express their support for a clean energy agenda and tell President Obama not to support the Keystone XL pipeline project.

The State Department will make its final determination on the project soon, so your voice needs to be heard. [Let us know](#) if you will be in Washington, D.C. this weekend!

There are three easy ways to get involved:

1. Follow the latest developments at TarSandsAction.org.
2. Call your Member of Congress and let him or her know that you do not support the pipeline. While this is not a Congressional decision, Congress still needs to hear from you! If you have a connection to the White House or State Department, call to express your opinion there, too.
3. Write a letter to the editor in your local newspaper in opposition to the pipeline. Here's a quick refresher on writing a letter to the editor.
 - Pick a newspaper or online news site, and research its letters to the editor policy. *The Washington Post*, for example, imposes a 200-word limit and requires that submissions are exclusive to *The Washington Post*. Your local newspaper is a great place to start.
 - Follow the publication's editorials for a couple of weeks until the time seems right to submit your letter. Most effective letters are in response to an article or opinion piece. Keep your letter succinct, and choose one topic to address.
 - State your point early on in the letter, and be clear about your position. Again, keep the focus on one topic, and be concise!
 - Follow the submission rules, and be sure to include your name and contact information.

It is essential that we continue to highlight this decision as critical to President Obama's conservation legacy. As you make your voice heard, RAN is here to support your efforts.

Help spread the word about Keystone XL, and do your part to ensure the U.S. moves toward clean energy! As always, [RAN staff](#) is available to answer any questions.

In the News

Here's what RAN's endorsed Congresswomen have been working on this fall.

RAN's "fantastic five" work tirelessly to protect the environment and promote sound policy solutions in Congress. Read on for the latest from Capitol Hill!

Congresswoman Diana DeGette (CO-01)



Congresswoman DeGette has continued to push forward in her investigation of suspect practices in hydraulic fracturing. Because of her tireless efforts, EPA now has new information about what exactly is in fracking fluid.

Read more at [The Colorado Independent](#).

Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD-04)

Congresswoman Edwards may face a tough election in 2012, due to redistricting and a primary challenge.

Read on to learn about her race in [The Baltimore Sun](#).



Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (HI-01)



Congresswoman Hanabusa recently weighed in on the upcoming Hawaii Senate contest, which will be a rematch between Democrats Ed Case and Mazie Hirono, and Republican Linda Lingle.

Read Congresswoman Hanabusa's predictions in the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#).

Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-04)

Don't take it from us, Congresswoman Moore has a lot to say about today's economic climate.

Listen to her original poem entitled "[Job Creators](#)."



Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME-01)



Congresswoman Pingree has partnered with Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio to introduce the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act for inclusion in the 2012 Farm Bill. The legislation will improve access to healthy foods and support family farms.

Read more about the bill at [Delta Farm Press](#).

Legislative Update:
The Safe Chemicals Act of 2011 is up for a vote soon!



As the last of the Safe Chemicals Act stakeholder meetings concludes this week, Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ) will be moving his bill to a markup and vote in the Environment and Public Works Committee soon.

As of now, the bill, [S.847](#), has 12 co-sponsors: Richard Blumenthal (CT), Barbara Boxer (CA), Richard Durbin (IL), Al Franken (MN), Kirsten Gillibrand (NY), Amy Klobuchar (MN), Patrick Leahy (VT), Robert Menendez (NJ), Jeff Merkley (OR), Bernard Sanders (VT), Chuck Schumer (NY), and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI).

If your Senators are not listed here, **they should be!** Call them today and urge them to co-sponsor the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011.

The best chance for passage in the House of Representatives is quick passage of this bill in the Senate before the end of the year. **Please make your voice heard** on this critical issue, which affects every product you bring into your home. The [Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Coalition](#), of which we are a member, is always a great source of information on the fight to reform our outdated chemical policy.

Contact [Kate](#) for additional details or sample talking points.

*Join RAN and Rachel's Network for a Joint
Teleconference Call*

Ryan Alexander, President of Taxpayers for Common Sense, and Erich Pica, President of Friends of the Earth, join RAN and Rachel's Network members for a teleconference call to highlight recommendations in the "Green Scissors 2011" report, the cornerstone of the Green Scissors campaign, which seeks to eliminate subsidies and programs that both harm the environment and waste taxpayer dollars. Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS) and Friends of the Earth have partnered with watchdog groups Public Citizen and the Heartland Institute to produce this year's report, which identifies approximately \$380 billion in cuts to wasteful and harmful government programs, including oil and gas royalties, crop insurance, and federal highway funds.



Join us to learn how cuts in wasteful spending can benefit the environment and reduce the deficit!

Thursday, November 17, 2011

2:00pm EST

Dial-In: 888.537.7715

Passcode: 22880041#

Email [Kate](#) to RSVP.

This call is for members only.

LINKS

[Safer Chemicals,
Healthy Families
Coalition](#)

[Rachel's Action
Network](#)

About Us

Rachel's Action Network, a nonpartisan organization, empowers pro-environment women funders to take political action.



Try it FREE today.

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