Our issues aren’t about choosing between left and right, they’re about choosing between right and wrong.

— Danielle Brian, Executive Director
Dear Friend,

**Everything has changed.** The partisan battle lines are deeper and people on both sides of the line are more intransigent than at any time in our 36-year history. Just this year, we’ve seen many of the hard-won gains we’ve made in recent years in the areas of transparency and ethics get undone or weakened. The inability—or unwillingness—to work together is a very real threat to our democracy.

Yet, nothing has changed. We at the Project On Government Oversight continue to fight for a more effective and accountable government, whether it’s standing up for whistleblowers, conducting hard-hitting investigations into waste and wrongdoing, or calling out President Trump for his potential conflicts of interest. We are hard at work making our voices heard over the din. And we are continuing to do what has made POGO one of the most well-regarded nonprofit organizations in Washington: Deep, thoughtful analyses and investigations that have earned us respect and praise from both sides of the aisle.

**Not your usual Washington nonprofit, POGO works down in the gears of governing.**

— *National Public Radio*

In the last year, we pushed for legislation that strengthened protections for military whistleblowers, proposed stronger ethics bans for political appointees leaving the Obama administration and for those joining the Trump administration, and exposed drug industry ties to the FDA that garnered us a Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

This year, our policy team is working hard to generate bipartisan support to force the Pentagon to comply with the law and pass an audit, something every other agency has done. We are also expanding the critical oversight training programs we offer Congressional staffers. Of course, we are continuing to fight for even greater whistleblower protections.

**Our issues aren’t about choosing between left and right, they’re about choosing between right and wrong.** We’re going to continue doing that no matter who is in the White House or which party controls Congress. **In today’s toxic political climate, our job has gotten tougher and more complicated—and therefore that much more essential.**

Sincerely,

Danielle Brian
Executive Director
POGO doesn’t just call out government wrongdoing—we also work to make it more effective.

For 11 years, POGO’s Congressional Oversight Initiative has trained Congressional staff from both sides of the aisle on the art of conducting effective oversight. In 2016, the Initiative held nine trainings for 386 Congressional staffers, covering topics such as how to hold oversight hearings and how to ask the right questions during an investigation.

Jointly with the Levin Center at Wayne Law School and the Lugar Center, POGO held two intensive two-day Boot Camps for Congressional staff in 2016. The Boot Camps take staffers through the process of conducting an oversight investigation, from creating the investigative plan all the way through the vital step of follow-up.

In 2017, we will expand our Congressional oversight work by adding Master Classes to the list of training opportunities. These classes will take an in-depth look at some of the more complicated investigative tools Congressional staffers have at their disposal.

I have a lot of years on the Hill... I rarely get a chance to learn something new—this was that chance.

Really glad to see this program happen. Knowledgeable speakers, wide-ranging discussion.

— Feedback from Congressional training attendees
POGO investigations have highlighted the need for more careful oversight of the Food and Drug Administration, especially its drug approval process.

Our 2015 investigation into the potentially deadly weaknesses in the FDA’s oversight of prescription drugs won a Sigma Delta Chi Award. The report drew on thousands of pages of FDA documents and a decade of data from different sources to show how the FDA has set low standards and approved drugs based on flawed trials.

>>>In 2017, POGO will continue to build upon its work of ensuring the FDA is protecting consumers rather than industry, like how we opposed both President Obama and President Trump’s FDA nominees over their troubling connections to industry.
Fighting wasteful spending

You deserve to know how your tax dollars are being spent—or wasted—on Congressional pet projects.

Covered in The Hill and The Daily Caller, POGO called attention to a little-known nuclear facility in South Carolina—the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX)—that is astronomically behind schedule and over budget, and is unlikely to be completed for years to come.

In 2017, President Trump continued what President Obama did in 2016 by canceling the MOX program in his budget to Congress. POGO will continue to meet with Congressional offices to push them to follow the President’s lead.

My biggest regret from my time in Congress is not finding a way to thwart this project 13 years ago.

— Former Rep. David Hobson (R-OH), writing on POGO’s MOX work in The Hill
POGO has worked with Congress on the need for the Pentagon to comply with the law and pass an audit, which every other federal agency has done. For the first time both the Republican and the Democratic Party platforms included the belief that the Pentagon should be auditable.

A recent analysis by the Project On Government Oversight notes that the Pentagon has so far spent roughly $6 billion on ‘fixing’ the audit problem—with no solution in sight.

— The American Conservative, “How Not to Audit the Pentagon”
Government oversight and accountability are difficult without transparency. POGO continued the fight in 2016 to keep government information public.

The government frequently classifies and conceals far more information than is necessary, mostly for unjustified reasons. POGO General Counsel Scott Amey testified before Congress on how classification can and should be handled differently and how secrecy creates barriers to government efficiency and public debate.

POGO led the effort to oppose and overturn the Department of Defense’s attempt to get a special exemption from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The exemption was vague enough that it could have been used to hinder the public’s ability to get records on almost any of the operations of the Department.

>>>In 2017, POGO is leading the charge to stop the Pentagon from receiving a new and unjustified exemption to the Freedom of Information Act.

POGO joined forces with the Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch) in the spring of 2016, broadening our work on new issues and bolstering our federal spending transparency efforts.

>>>In 2017, POGO will continue the important work done by CEG by launching a new data hub to track and evaluate government spending.
Opposing conflicts of interest

POGO has continued to advocate for a more ethical government that puts the common good ahead of special-interest money.

EXPOSED THE INSIDIOUS (AND LEGAL) WAY INDUSTRY INFILTRATES CONGRESS

The little-known Congressional Fellowship Program allows private companies and trade groups to pay for fellows in Congressional offices with little or no independence from the sponsoring entity. POGO detailed how some of these fellowships can be and are currently used by industries to influence Congressional priorities.

>>> In 2017, POGO is working with Congressional offices to fix this problem by creating rules that make the program more transparent and free of improper influence.

WORKED TO IMPROVE ETHICS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

In 2016, POGO worked with other groups to improve on previous presidential ethics pledges. We proposed stronger bans for appointees coming into and leaving the next administration, and we urged the Trump and Clinton campaigns and transition teams to apply the pledge to appointees with a financial conflict of interest rather than limiting the bans to registered lobbyists. Since the election, POGO has worked with senior officials on both sides of the aisle to add teeth to the Office of Government Ethics.

>>> In 2017, POGO is working to turn the best practices from the Obama and Trump ethics pledges into law to keep ethics rules from changing from Administration to Administration.

‘We’re going to push the White House to do what’s right,’ said Scott Amey, general counsel for the nonpartisan Project On Government Oversight.

— USA Today, “Watchdogs push Trump to divest businesses, promise oversight”
Protecting government integrity

Fighting for whistleblower protections is core to POGO’s mission, as whistleblowers are often the first to raise issues of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Last May, nearly 200 POGO supporters joined us in celebrating three and a half decades of holding the government accountable with an anniversary event in Washington, DC. The event—a “Storytelling Soiree”—featured special guests who have been at the center of the organization’s activities over the years and their stories.

>>>Watch all of the stories from our 35th Anniversary on our YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/GovtOversight
Military whistleblowers now have greatly expanded protections thanks to legislation fought for by POGO and our bipartisan allies. POGO also worked with Representatives to start a Whistleblower Protection Caucus in the House, modeled after the Senate Caucus POGO helped start in 2015.

In 2017, POGO continues to fight for military whistleblower protections, and will add new trainings for federal employees on their whistleblower and First Amendment rights to disclose wrongdoing.
POGO expanded our good government work through the audiences of several major print and online outlets in 2016:

**UNVEILED NEW POGO VIDEO:**
**THE PEOPLE’S WATCHDOG**

Unveiled at POGO’s 35th Anniversary Celebration and featuring original spoken word poetry by DC poet Jonathan Tucker, our People’s Watchdog video reached over 32,000 views across various online networks. Watch it at: [www.pogo.org/about](http://www.pogo.org/about)

**INSPIRED CARTOONS BY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING CARTOONIST**

Matt Wuerker, a founding staff member at POLITICO and a Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist, drew several cartoons based on POGO’s work highlighting wasteful defense spending. See all of his work at: [www.politico.com/wuerker](http://www.politico.com/wuerker)
Executive Director Danielle Brian shares a story about one of POGO’s earliest reports exposing wasteful government contractors at POGO’s 35th Anniversary “Storytelling Soiree” Celebration.

“As Danielle Brian put it, ‘We’re researching things that hadn’t even been considered before.’

— Business Insider, “Conflict rules hardly the same for president, others”
Financial statement

PROGRAMS

- Congressional Oversight Initiative: $591,844
- Government Accountability: $544,565
- CDI/Straus Military Reform Project: $463,942
- Inspectors General Project: $242,348
- Contract Oversight: $186,074
- Energy and Natural Resources: $151,193
- Whistleblower Protections: $115,896
- Nuclear Weapons Security Investigations: $93,599
- Effective Government: $68,678
- Private Prison Oversight: $20,520
- Open Contracting: $10,531
- Direct and Grassroots Lobbying: $21,725

Total: $2,510,915

REVENUE

- Grants: $1,513,117
- Contributions: $607,977
- Investment Income: $201,593
- Contributed Goods and Services: $12,750
- Publications and Other Income: $388,664

Total: $2,724,101

SUPPORTING SERVICES

- General and Administrative: $147,155
- Development: $321,339

Total supporting services: $468,494

Total expenses: $2,979,409

OVERVIEW

- Change in Net Assets: ($255,308)
- Net Assets at Beginning of Year: $3,158,119
- Net Assets at End of Year: $2,902,811

This statement of activities from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016, has been audited.
Donor spotlight

POGO’s work is only made possible by donors like you.

GABE PAULSON AND NIAMH NOLAN

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT POGO’S WORK AND MISSION?

Niamh: I was impressed by the mission of oversight and ethics and the quality of content and staff.

Gabe: As a small business owner that has executed several prime federal contracts, I have seen inefficiency first-hand. I am motivated to see grassroots support for greater accountability and policy advocacy for proposals like the “Baker’s Dozen.”

PETER AND BETTINA ROSENBLADT

HOW WERE YOU INTRODUCED TO POGO’S WORK?

When the Center for Defense Information (CDI) merged with POGO, as long-time CDI donors, we became exposed to what POGO is doing and were very impressed.

A citizen-oriented nonpartisan oversight process is badly needed, and POGO is doing a great job in playing that role. We proudly support POGO in this effort.

MARTY EISENMAN (AND FAMILY)

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO ATTEND POGO’S 35TH ANNIVERSARY IN DC?

I’ve supported POGO for almost a decade, and I continue to be impressed with how the organization has grown over the years.

I didn’t want to miss the opportunity, as a long-time donor, to celebrate with POGO — I even traveled from my home state of Kansas to do so. And I’m happy I did, I enjoyed the entire evening.
Thanks to all of our supporters

In addition to general support and sustaining donors, we are grateful for all of you who gave to our Center for Defense Information’s Straus Military Reform Project, Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund, and through the Combined Federal Campaign in 2016.

**ESTATE GIFTS**

Duckworth Family Trust  
Sidney Hollander, Jr. Trust  
Alexander and Grace Jablow Trust  
Estate of Catherine Lynch  
Lloyd C. Pray Trust  
Rose Stein Family Trust  

**Please remember POGO in your estate planning.**

**$100,000+**

Laura and John Arnold Foundation  
The Bauman Foundation  
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation  
Colombe Foundation  
Democracy Fund  
Foundation to Promote Open Society  
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
Philip A. Straus  

**$50,000+**

The Arca Foundation  
Ben Cohen Charitable Trust  
The Frederick and Julia Nonneman Foundation  
Open Society Policy Center  
Ploughshares Fund  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  

**$25,000+**

Francis Beidler Foundation  
CS Fund  
The Frankel Foundation  
Fund for Constitutional Government  
Charles Koch Foundation  
OpenTheGovernment.org  
Park Foundation  
Scherman Foundation  
Fred Stanback Donor Advised Fund of the Foundation for the Carolinas  
James M. and Karen Wagstaffe  
Anonymous  

**$10,000+**

Harold and Stephanie Bronson  
David B. Gold Foundation  
George R. Fund  
Phil Harvey  
David W. and Glenys B. Lynch  
New-Land Foundation  
Andrew Norman Foundation  
David Rockefeller Fund  
Robert P. Rotella Foundation  
The Philip and Lynn Straus Foundation  
William B. Wiener, Jr. Foundation  
Anonymous (2)
### $5,000+

- Doris Z. Bato
  - The Raymond and Elizabeth Bloch Educational and Charitable Foundation
  - William Crudup
- Stephen and Nancy Einhorn
  - Gwiliam, Irvay, Chiosso, Cavalli and Brewer, LLP
  - Katz, Marshall & Banks, LLP
  - Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Shift Foundation
  - Thomson von Stein
  - Western Conservation Foundation

### $1,000+

- Richard S. Alper
- Andy and Molly Barnes
- Dr. Dinah K. Bodkin and J. Alexander Bodkin
- David Hunter and Margaret Bowman
- Danielle Brian
- Michael Cavallo and Leah Greenwald
- Coblintz, Patch, Duffy & Bass, LLP
- Andrew and Leslie Cockburn
- Compton Foundation
- Harriett Crosby
- CrossCurrents Foundation
- Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP
- Stephen D. and Georganna Daley
- Vikas Didwania
- Brian and Nancy Doyal
- Christopher Germain
- John B. and Mariellen O. Gilpin
- Margaret and Peter Goldman
- Jack E. Grynberg
  - Hearthstone Charitable Foundation
  - Dr. Martin and Dorothie Hellman
  - Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation - John Hirschi Donor Advised Fund
  - Tyler Holt
  - Richard and Gina Kelley
  - Peter L. and Isabel Malkin
  - Lamia Matta and Joe Newman
  - Barbara J. Meislin
  - Michl Fund
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  - David Nelson
  - Gabriel Paulson and Niamh Nolan
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- Beth Schulman and David Kamens
- Ruth O. Sherer
- Chris Smith
- Frances W. Stevenson
- Timothy Strinden
- Taxpayers for Common Sense
- The Fertel Foundation
- Nithi and Jing Vivatrat
- Corbin Walters
- Warren Woo
- Anonymous (4)

### $500+

- Ryan Alexander and Geoff Fettus
- Hank and Caroline Banta
- David Barbetta
- Dr. Gary D. Bass and Ms. Suzanne L. Feurt
- Dr. Jonathan Bazeley
- Eliot Bean and Edna K. Teller
- Lucy Wilson Benson
- Aron Bernsteain and Susan Goldhor
- Bradley Birkenfeld
- Dr. Cynthia Blackledge
- Thomas and Susan Blandy
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation - Allan and Marilyn Brown Fund
- Richard A. Buckley and Prudence Bushnell
- David Burnham and Joanne Omang
- Shawn Carpenter and Jennifer Jacobs
- Chandler-Shreve Family Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
- John W. and Janet D. Collins
- Drs. David L. and Rebecca E. Conant
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- Thomas F. McDougal and Sarah J. Duncan
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- Michael L. and Ann Parker
- Evans W. and Carol S. Paschal
- Hugh T. Patrick
- Erich Pica and Amy Zandarski-Pica
- Adam Price
- Lisenne Rockefeller
- Frances Seymour
- David and Trish Shanahan
- Ron Simon
- Dr. Saul Sternberg
- Ashley Still
- Gregory W. Swift
- Carol Weinberg
- Anonymous (5)
We are extremely grateful to the many contributors who gave between $1 and $249 in 2016. You are the foundation of our organization. Thank you!

Our commitment to you:

POGO never shares, sells, or rents the names of our supporters to other groups.

POGO does not accept contributions from for-profit corporations, labor unions, any government, or anyone who stands to benefit financially from our work in order to preserve our independence. POGO reviews all contributions exceeding $100 in order to maintain this standard. POGO accepts employee- and customer-directed contributions and matching funds and accepts contributions from law firms, which we limit to less than 1% of POGO’s operating budget.
About

The Project On Government Oversight is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that fights the influence of money in policy and 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 is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible, CFC #10785

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