

Tracking Corporate Political Donations

Identifying companies that support candidates who do not adequately protect the environment, combat climate change, and respect human rights

The gap between corporate declarations and reality: U.S. banking industry spent \$1 million on television ads for Senator David Perdue

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This report will soon be posted on the [TRACKING CORPORATE POLITICAL DONATIONS website](#).

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- This report, by TRACKING CORPORATE POLITICAL DONATIONS, has no connection with the human rights organizations above.

Contents

Introduction.....	1
1. The declarations.....	3
2. The reality.....	3
3. The questions.....	4
4. Responsibility of all ABA member banks....	5
5. Human rights.....	5
6. Some facts about Senator David Perdue...	5
7. The future.....	8
8. Planned recipients of the report.....	8

Companies mentioned in this report:

U.S. banks including **Bank of America, Bank of New York Mellon, Capital One, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, HSBC Bank USA, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, PNC Financial Services, TD Bank Group, Truist Financial (BB&T/SunTrust merger), U.S. Bancorp, Wells Fargo**

Introduction

- a) The following report raises concerns about U.S. banks spending (through their American Bankers Association - ABA) \$1 million on television ads to try to help Republican U.S. Senator David Perdue get re-elected in the January 2021 runoff in Georgia. The banks often publicize their commitment to protecting the environment, combatting climate change, and respecting democracy and human rights. As the report documents, Perdue had a terrible environmental record, failed to accept that humans contribute to climate change, refused to accept and attacked the outcome of the November 2020 presidential election, and failed to respect internationally-recognized human rights.
- b) It is important to note that the ABA launched its \$1 million of television ads for Perdue in the first week of December 2020 (as mentioned in [this Reuters report](#)) – weeks after Perdue had begun attacking the results of the presidential election, joining Trump in falsely claiming, without evidence, that there was fraud affecting the outcome of the Georgia November 3, 2020 election. On November 9 Perdue had publicly demanded that Georgia's Republican Secretary of State resign.
- c) Section 3 of the report calls for organizations and individuals (of any political party) who care about the environment, climate change, democratic elections and human rights to put three hard questions to all member banks of the ABA.

- d) Section 4 of the report emphasizes that no member bank of the ABA should be allowed to disclaim responsibility for the ABA's \$1 million of television ads for David Perdue. The ABA represents and speaks for those banks, the banks fund the association, and no bank went on record objecting to their association funding those ads. If major ABA member banks did not want their association to fund those ads for Perdue, the ABA would not have done so. Companies cannot be allowed to hide behind their industry association.
- e) Section 7 of the report calls for close monitoring of all future political donations to U.S. candidates by banks, whether direct donations or through the American Bankers Association – as well as close monitoring of donations by all other companies and industry associations. When companies donate to candidates who undermine environmental protection and human rights, they should be held to account. Such donations should be widely publicized in the USA and internationally – and the gap between those donations and a company's public declarations should be highlighted.
- f) The draft of the following report, and the list of planned recipients of the report, were sent via email on January 21, 2021, to the CEOs of the following 13 major banks and the ABA – the emails were sent via several senior executives and/or media contacts at each bank and at the ABA. Each bank and the ABA were invited to submit a response to the report by February 2, and were informed that their response would be included in full when the report was finalized and disseminated. Each bank and the ABA were also invited to correct any factual inaccuracies in the report. The message asked each bank to indicate whether or not it is a member of the ABA, noting that a membership list had previously been requested from ABA, but ABA had refused to disclose its member banks. A reminder was sent to each of the 13 banks and to the ABA on February 1, stating again that if they responded that their bank was not an ABA member in November/December 2020, their bank would be removed from the body of the report when it was finalized, and a footnote would be added listing any major banks that certified they were not an ABA member at that time. The reminder also said that if they needed an extra day or two beyond February 2 to submit a response, they could request that. As indicated in the chart below, only one of the 13 banks responded – the other 12 banks did not reply at all, i.e. did not submit a response to the concerns raised in the report, did not suggest any factual corrections to the report, and failed to deny ABA membership. The ABA also did not respond.

Bank & CEO to whom the invitation was directed	Invitation to submit a response to concerns raised in the report	Invitation to correct any factual inaccuracies in the report	Request to flag if their bank is not an ABA member
Bank of America: Brian Moynihan, Chairman & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Bank of New York Mellon: Thomas P. Gibbons, CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Capital One: Richard Fairbank, Chairman & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Citigroup: Michael Corbat, CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Goldman Sachs: David M. Solomon, CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
HSBC Bank USA: Michael Roberts, President & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
JPMorgan Chase: Jamie Dimon, Chairman & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Morgan Stanley: James Gorman, Chairman & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond

PNC Financial Services: William S. Demchak, Chairman, President & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
TD Bank Group: Bharat Masrani, Group President & CEO	Brief response below – did not address the issues	Did not suggest any corrections	Confirmed ABA membership
Truist Financial (BB&T/SunTrust merger): Kelly S. King, Chairman & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
U.S. Bancorp: Andrew Cecere, Chairman, President & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Wells Fargo: Charles Scharf, CEO & President	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
American Bankers Association: Rob Nichols, President & CEO	Did not respond	Did not respond	Refused to disclose its member banks

Here is the entire response received from TD Bank Group, sent by their Head of ESG Reporting and Impact Measurement:

*“Thanks for reaching out to TD. I can confirm that TD Bank is a member of various industry associations, including the American Bankers Association (ABA). We advise you to contact the ABA if you have any questions about its media activity. More information on TD's approach to political donations and industry association memberships can be found on our website:
<https://www.td.com/document/PDF/ESG/2019-Public-Policy-and-Political-Contributions.pdf>”*

1. The declarations

U.S. banks publicize their commitment to protecting the environment; combating climate change; promoting diversity and inclusion; and respecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

2. The reality

- a) **U.S. banks (through their American Bankers Association - ABA) spent \$1 million on television ads in Georgia for Republican Senator David Perdue in the weeks leading up to the January 5, 2021 runoff election.** ([“U.S. bank lobby spends \\$1 million on ad blitz for Republican Perdue in Georgia U.S. Senate runoff”](#), Reuters, Dec. 4, 2020). This was reportedly the single largest sum the ABA spent backing a candidate since it began running independent political ads in 2018. Nearly all U.S. banks of all sizes are ABA members – apparently* including **Bank of America, Bank of New York Mellon, Capital One, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, HSBC Bank USA, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, PNC Financial Services, TD Bank Group, Truist Financial (BB&T/SunTrust merger), U.S. Bancorp,**

* While it is thought that all these named major banks are ABA members, the word “apparently” has been added, because the ABA has refused to disclose its member banks. We were able to find current or recent confirmation of ABA membership online by [Bank of America](#), [Capital One](#), [Citigroup](#), [Goldman Sachs](#), [JPMorgan Chase](#), [Morgan Stanley](#), [PNC](#), [TD Bank](#), and [U.S. Bancorp](#). Among the circumstantial indicators that Bank of New York Mellon, HSBC Bank USA, Truist, and Wells Fargo are also ABA members are their failure to deny ABA membership when invited to do so, and one or more of the following: the bank’s senior executives speak at ABA-sponsored conferences, and/or the bank is featured in the ABA’s publications, and/or the bank made donations to the ABA’s Political Action Committee. If Bank of New York Mellon, HSBC Bank USA, Truist, and Wells Fargo continue to refuse to respond to requests to disclose whether or not they are ABA members, that lack of transparency will be flagged on the [TRACKING CORPORATE POLITICAL DONATIONS website](#).

and Wells Fargo. The ABA website states that the ABA “represents” its member banks. [On January 6, 2021, Democrat Jon Ossoff was declared the winner of the Senate runoff against Perdue.]

- b) **Senator Perdue’s record is one of failing to protect the environment, failing to accept that humans contribute to climate change, refusing to accept and attacking the outcome of a democratic election, and falling short in respect for internationally-recognized human rights.** As documented in section 6 below:
- Perdue (one of Trump’s closest allies who called Trump “a historic person of destiny”) has a terrible environmental record, refuses to accept that humans contribute to climate change, received campaign contributions from over 30 oil & gas industry PACs, repeatedly pushed to repeal the Affordable Care Act, was criticized for his response to white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, praised Trump’s inadequate response to the coronavirus pandemic, voted multiple times to defund Planned Parenthood, opposes same-sex marriage, and has a 100% rating by a leading anti-LGBTQ organization. When Perdue was Dollar General CEO, there were many lawsuits alleging discrimination against women and racial discrimination.
 - Senator Perdue, without evidence and contrary to court rulings across the country as well as recounts, supported Trump’s false claim that the 2020 election was “stolen”, demanded that Georgia’s Republican Secretary of State resign, and refused to recognize the outcome of that democratic election. Starting early November 2020, long before the American Bankers Association announced that it would spend \$1 million on TV ads for him, Senator Perdue without evidence supported Trump’s false claim that there was fraud in the Georgia presidential vote. In the following weeks Perdue defended Trump’s phone call pressuring the Georgia Secretary of State to find him 11,780 votes, and opposed certifying the election of Joe Biden. Speaking on CNBC the day after pro-Trump rioters stormed the halls of Congress, Tom Friedman (Pulitzer Prize winning *New York Times* columnist) said, referring to those members of the Senate and House who tried to block certification of the election: *“I certainly hope shareholders, if you’re listening to this show, tell every one of these companies with political PACs that you will sue them if they give donations to the people who supported this insurrection in the Congress...These people were engaged in an effort to undermine the Constitution, to supplant the will and votes of the people by an act of Congress, based on a gigantic lie.”* ([“New York Times’ Tom Friedman calls for Republicans to demand Trump’s resignation”, CNBC](#))

3. **The questions**

Organizations and individuals (of any political party) who care about the environment, climate change, democratic elections and human rights should put questions to all member banks of the American Bankers Association. Questions such as:

- a) How can the U.S. banking industry spend \$1 million supporting David Perdue’s campaign, while they proclaim their commitment to protecting the environment, combatting climate change, and respecting the rights of women, African-Americans and other ethnic minorities, and the LGBTQ community?
- b) How can U.S. banks proclaim their support for democratic values and the rule of law, then spend (through their American Bankers Association) \$1 million supporting the campaign of a candidate who, without any evidence and contrary to court rulings and recounts, had already actively supported Trump’s false claim that there was fraud in the November 2020 election, and refused to recognize the democratic election of Joe Biden?
- c) How can U.S. banks say they are committed to diversity and inclusion, and to equality and justice for African-Americans and other ethnic minorities, then turn around and let their association spend a record amount to fund the Republican candidate in Georgia – recognizing that the Republican Party in Georgia is notorious for suppressing the voting rights of people of color?
 - [“Georgia hotbed for voter suppression tactics”, The Center for Public Integrity](#)
 - [“Georgia and its long history of voter suppression”, Chicago Sun-Times](#)
 - [“Georgia Republicans are going all-in on voter suppression”, Vanity Fair](#)

4. **Responsibility of all ABA member banks**

No member bank of American Bankers Association can disclaim responsibility for the association's \$1 million of television ads for David Perdue. The association represents and speaks for those banks, and the banks fund the association. Not a single bank went on the record opposing the association's ads for Perdue.

5. **Human rights**

- a) **The references in this report to internationally-recognized human rights** relate to the right to health (which is affected by the environment and by access to medical care); the right to equality and non-discrimination based on race, sex or other status; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provision that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government"; the interdependence of democracy, respect for elections, and human rights; and the recognition that climate change can pose a threat to a wide range of universally-recognized rights such as the rights to life, food, adequate housing, health, and water.
- b) **The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** require all companies to respect human rights. Guiding Principle 13 makes clear that this requirement applies to a company's actions or omissions, and to its business relationships. Because the U.S. banking industry's \$1 million spending on television ads for Perdue raises human rights concerns – including support for a candidate who publicly attacked and refused to accept the result of a democratic election – this report will be submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

6. **Some facts about Senator David Perdue**

- a) **Perdue's environmental record is terrible**, earning a disturbing 3% lifetime score from League of Conservation Voters. See his voting record on environmental issues here: ["National Environmental Scorecard – Senator David Perdue"](#), *League of Conservation Voters*.
- b) **Perdue is outspoken in refusing to accept that human beings contribute to climate change.** He urged President Trump to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords, and voted against a Senate resolution that affirmed that human activities contribute to climate change.
 - o ["The Republicans who urged Trump to pull out of Paris deal are big oil darlings"](#), *Guardian*
 - o ["Here Are All the Senators Who Do and Don't Believe in Human-Caused Climate Change -- United States Senators stood up for what they believed in today -- and it wasn't pretty"](#), *Wired*

In 2019 when asked directly by a CBS-affiliated television station in Georgia "Are human beings contributing to climate change?", he responded "Nobody really knows that. There are scientists on both sides of that accord...I haven't seen hard evidence on that, one side or the other." See the video clip of this television interview here: ["Sen. David Perdue discusses climate change"](#), WMAZ-TV.

During 2019-2020 Perdue received campaign contributions from the following oil and gas industry PACs: American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, Apache Corporation, Cabot Oil & Gas, Chesapeake Energy, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Continental Resources, Devon Energy, Diamondback Energy, Enbridge Inc, Energy Marketers of America, Energy Transfer Partners, EVOC Regulatory Services, ExxonMobil, Georgia Oilmen's Association, Halliburton, Hess, HollyFrontier, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Marathon Petroleum, National Association of Truck Stop Operators, National Ocean Industries Association, National Propane Gas Association, North Dakota Petroleum Council, Occidental Petroleum, Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association, Phillips 66, Plains All American Pipeline, Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers, Transcanada USA Services, Western Energy Alliance, Williams Companies (["Sen. David Perdue – Georgia, Political Action Committees \(PACs\) 2019 – 2020"](#), *OpenSecrets.org*, *The Center for Responsive Politics* – based on Federal Election Commission data available electronically on January 11, 2021)

- c) **Senator Perdue, without any evidence, supported Trump's false claim that there was fraud affecting the outcome of the Georgia November 3, 2020 election.** On November 9, 2020, Perdue and Kelly Loeffler publicly demanded that Georgia's Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger

resign. Raffensperger called their complaints “*laughable*” and strongly implied that the motive behind their demand for his resignation was that Trump was on track to lose the state. Raffensperger and his wife reportedly received death threats after the claims by Perdue and Loeffler.

- [“GOP Sens. Loeffler and Perdue demand that Georgia’s Republican secretary of state resign”, CNBC](#)
- [“Georgia’s Republican secretary of state shoots down Republican senators’ call for his resignation”, CNN](#)
- [“Biden Slams Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue for Bolstering Trump’s Fraud Claims”, Bloomberg](#)

- d) **Senator Perdue on January 4, 2021, defended Trump and attacked Georgia’s Republican Secretary of State after the recording was released of Trump pressuring the Secretary of State to find him 11,780 votes** in an extraordinary hour-long phone call. ([“‘Disgusting’: Perdue hammers Georgia secretary of state for recording Trump call – Perdue also downplayed the significance of the hourlong call”, Politico](#))
- e) **Senator Perdue announced on January 4, 2021 that he opposed certifying the Electoral College vote to confirm Joe Biden’s election** – his position was contrary to court rulings across the country and recounts; *“in defiance of all available evidence, the American constitutional process, and long-held democratic norms”*. ([“The 14 Republican senators objecting to the Electoral College’s certification”, Vox](#))
- f) **Perdue has repeatedly pushed for repeal of the Affordable Care Act.** He also voted multiple times to defend toxic “junk” health plans that can deny coverage for pre-existing conditions – health plans which the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association have vocally opposed.
- [“The Truth About Georgia Sen. David Perdue: He Wants to Rip Health Care Away from Millions of Americans”, Courier](#)
 - [“Court Ruling Helps David Perdue Rip Away Protections for People with Pre-Existing Conditions”, Protect Our Care](#)
 - [“Senate defeats measure to overturn Trump expansion of non-ObamaCare plans”, The Hill](#)
- g) **Senator Perdue was criticized for his response to the August 12, 2017 white supremacist rally in Charlottesville** which turned violent, with many injured and one woman killed when a neo-Nazi deliberately drove his car into a crowd of peaceful counter-protestors. Most lawmakers from both sides of the political aisle called out the Ku Klux Klan, white supremacists and neo-Nazis directly as those who perpetrated the violence. President Trump was criticized for saying there were *“very fine people on both sides”*. Senator Perdue was criticized for his tweet: *“The violence we’ve witnessed today is not who we are as a country. Our thoughts go out [to] all law enforcement working hard to keep the peace.”* That weak statement with no direct mention of the victims or the perpetrators led to demonstrators marching on Senator Perdue’s Atlanta office, where they urged him to speak out against hate groups. March organizer Caroline Stover said: *“Perdue’s tweet is tantamount to making no statement at all. Georgians expect our Senator to come out clearly against hate groups, and we expect him to call on the President to do the same. The message from Perdue’s constituents is loud and clear: white supremacists should not remain reassured that they have a friend in the White House.”* In response to queries, Perdue’s office sent the following statement to a television station: *“Of course Senator Perdue condemns the violence, racism, and hatred displayed by white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups. This does not embody who we are as a nation. Senator Perdue trusts Attorney General Sessions and FBI Director Wray to conduct a thorough investigation and act with a proportionate response to this act of hate.”* ([“Demonstrators call on Sen. Perdue to denounce white nationalists”, 11 Alive WXIA-TV](#))
- Background about the Charlottesville violence, excerpted from [Wikipedia entry on the Charlottesville “Unite the Right rally”](#): *“Protesters included members of the far-right and included self-identified members of the alt-right, neo-Confederates, neo-fascists, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Klansmen, and various right-wing militias. The marchers chanted racist and antisemitic slogans and carried weapons, Nazi and neo-Nazi symbols, the Valknut, Confederate battle flags, Deus Vult crosses, flags, and other symbols of various past and present anti-Muslim and antisemitic groups. The organizers’ stated goals included unifying the American white nationalist movement and opposing the proposed removal of the statue of [Confederate] General Robert E. Lee from Charlottesville’s former Lee Park. The rally occurred amidst controversy generated by the removal of Confederate monuments by local governments following the Charleston church shooting in 2015, in which a white supremacist shot and killed nine black members, including the*

minister (a state senator), and wounded others. The event turned violent after protesters clashed with counter-protesters, resulting in more than 30 injured...At around 1:45 p.m., self-identified white supremacist James Alex Fields Jr. deliberately rammed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters about 0.5 miles (0.8 km) away from the rally site, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 other people. Fields fled the scene in his car but was arrested soon afterward; he was tried and convicted in Virginia state court of first-degree murder, malicious wounding, and other crimes in 2018, with the jury recommending a sentence of life imprisonment plus 419 years. The following year, Fields pleaded guilty to 29 federal hate crimes in a plea agreement to avoid the death penalty in this trial."

- h) **In his 2014 campaign for Senate, Perdue held events at a venue where there was a Confederate flag flying above.** (["Exclusive Footage: Perdue Launched Political Career Under Confederate Flag"](#), *American Ledger*)
- i) **Senator Perdue said that Confederate statues should stay, in most cases, but with some changes.** (["Sen. Perdue: Add context to Confederate monuments"](#), 11Alive WXIA-TV)
- j) **Perdue praised Trump's inadequate response to the coronavirus pandemic.** Asked why he excoriated President Obama for his response to the Ebola outbreak in 2014 but praised Trump's response to coronavirus in 2020, Perdue said, *"It's a totally different situation"* (["Senate GOP candidates attacked Obama over Ebola but defend Trump on coronavirus pandemic"](#), CNN) In 2020, after video recordings were released where Trump said he intentionally downplayed the severity of the coronavirus, Perdue defended Trump, saying *"I understand trying to manage the psyche of the country and also look at the actions that he took...I look at what he did – and it was certainly a strong response."* (["Vulnerable Republicans avoid criticizing Trump after admission to Woodward about downplaying virus"](#), CNN)
- k) **Senator Perdue's campaign ran a Facebook ad in July 2020, in which his opponent Jon Ossoff's nose was digitally altered to be larger,** which Ossoff criticized as *"one of the most classic anti-Semitic tropes in history"*. (["Anti-Semitism charges roil David Perdue's reelection bid as polls tighten"](#), *The Hill*)
- l) **Senator Perdue mispronounced and mocked Kamala Harris' name** at an October 2020 Trump rally:
 - o ["Sen. Perdue called out for mocking Sen. Kamala Harris's first name, echoing Trump"](#), *Washington Post*
 - o ["Sen. David Perdue's racist treatment of Sen. Kamala Harris's name was all too familiar"](#), *Vox*
- m) **Perdue opposes same-sex marriage;** he said in September 2020: *"I...believe that we must protect traditional marriage, keeping it between one man and one woman."* (["David Perdue on Civil Rights"](#), *OnTheIssues*)
- n) **LGBTQ issues:** Senator Perdue's votes earned him a 100% rating by the anti-LGBTQ group Family Research Council Action. (["David Perdue's Political Summary on Issue: Marriage, Family, and Children"](#), *Vote Smart*)
- o) **Senator Perdue voted multiple times to "defund" Planned Parenthood and impose a national 20-week abortion ban.** (["2020 SENATE ELECTION: DAVID PERDUE \(R\), Incumbent"](#), *Planned Parenthood*)
- p) **Ethical questions have been raised about Senator Perdue's buying and selling of stocks** in companies affected by his legislative work; see for example:
 - o ["Ga. Sen. Perdue boosts wealth with well-timed stock trades"](#), *Associated Press*
 - o ["Sen. David Perdue Says His Perfectly Timed Stock Trades Are Completely Innocent"](#), *Daily Beast*
- q) **Perdue has been criticized for his record on women's rights and the rights of African-Americans in the workplace.** When he was CEO of Dollar General the company faced a class action suit from over 2000 women employees over gender discrimination in pay, which was eventually settled for almost \$19 million. Reportedly at least 15 racial discrimination cases were filed during Perdue's tenure at Dollar General. Dollar General was sued by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for discriminating against black applicants, which resulted in a \$6 million settlement. There were reportedly 8 pregnancy discrimination cases filed during Perdue's tenure. (["David Perdue's Dollar General Was Sued 2,500 Times for Sex, Race, Wage Practices"](#), *Newsweek*)

- r) **When Trump was said to have referred to African nations as “shithole” countries** in a private meeting with senators, comments that attendees confirmed, Senator Perdue who was at the meeting said he had not heard the remark.
- [“2 Republican senators in Trump meeting say they don’t recall ‘shithole’ comment”, CNN](#)
 - [“Georgia Sen. David Perdue Won’t Tell the Truth About Trump”, Flagpole](#)

7. **The future**

- a) **Future political donations to U.S. candidates by banks, whether direct donations or through the American Bankers Association, should be closely monitored.** Donations by other companies should also be monitored. TRACKING CORPORATE POLITICAL DONATIONS will be one of the organizations doing that monitoring. Anyone can access information about political donations by individual companies and industry associations via the following websites:
- [Federal Election Commission](#)
 - [OpenSecrets.org](#) (Center for Responsive Politics)
- b) **When companies financially support candidates of any political party who have a record of failing to protect the environment, failing to combat climate change, seeking to overturn the outcome of democratic elections, and failing to respect fundamental human rights, concerns about those donations should be widely publicized in the United States and internationally.** TRACKING CORPORATE POLITICAL DONATIONS will be one of the organizations doing that dissemination. Organizations and individuals who care about the environment, climate change and human rights should consider doing the same.

8. **Planned recipients of the report**

The final report “The gap between corporate declarations and reality: U.S. banking industry spent \$1 million on television ads for Senator David Perdue” will be disseminated to a wide range of recipients, including:

- a) **United Nations**, including:
- The United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights
 - Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
 - CEO of United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing
 - The United Nations Global Compact
 - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - United Nations special envoy for climate action and finance
 - 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference
- b) **International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE)**
- c) **Organization of American States, European Union and Council of Europe** bodies addressing environmental issues, climate change, and human rights
- d) **Embassies – and environment ministries – of countries where climate change is an issue of high public concern**, including: Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Holy See (Vatican), Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom
- e) **High-profile individuals who have played a key role in defining the internationally-recognized human rights and environmental responsibilities of business**, including:
- Mary Robinson, formerly President of Ireland, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, President of Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice; now Chair of The Elders, and Professor for Climate Justice, Trinity College Dublin
 - John Ruggie, formerly United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights (he developed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights); Professor in Human Rights & International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government
 - Karen Christiana Figueres Olsen, Costa Rican diplomat who was Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- f) **Mayors & city council members of leading cities** in the U.S., including mayors of cities where American Bankers Association member banks are headquartered
- g) **Leaders of climate action initiatives by U.S. cities**, including: Baltimore, Boulder, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Oakland, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle
- h) **The president of every historically black college and university in the USA**
- i) **USA & European university presidents; business school deans; professors of business ethics**
- j) **Athletic associations**, including: National Football League Players Association, National Basketball Players Association
- k) **World Economic Forum**
- l) **ESG (Environment, Social and Corporate Governance) rating agencies**, including: Sustainalytics, MSCI, ISS-ESG, Vigeo Eiris
- m) **Board members, senior executives, sustainability managers and other selected employees at member banks** of American Bankers Association and at the Association
- n) **Business organizations**, including Business Roundtable, Conference Board, Climate Leadership Council, Climate Finance Leadership Initiative, CEF - Corporate Eco Forum, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
- o) **Civil rights organizations**, including NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center, CORE, National Urban League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Anti-Defamation League, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta, CivicGeorgia, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Texas Civil Rights Project
- p) **Environmental and climate organizations**, including Climate Justice Alliance, BankTrack, Climate Central, We Are Still In coalition, Power Shift Network, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Union of Concerned Scientists, Earthjustice, Sustainable Markets Initiative (launched by Prince Charles), The Climate Group, CDP Global, CDP North America, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Rainforest Action Network, NextGen America, National Hispanic Environmental Council, Green America, Indigenous Environmental Network, Rocky Mountain Institute, Interfaith Environmental Alliance, Environmental Law Foundation, International Partnership on Religion & Sustainable Development, Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, The Climate Coalition (UK), Volans (UK), Les Amis de la Terre France, German Advisory Council on Global Change, Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (Friends of the Earth Germany), Environmental Action Germany (Deutsche Umwelthilfe), Stockholm Environment Institute, Canadian Institute for Climate Choices
- q) **Human rights organizations**, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights / Fédération internationale pour les droits humains, Human Rights First, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, Institute for Human Rights and Business
- r) **Health rights and medical organizations**, National Coalition on Health Care, National Health Equity Coalition, National Health Council, National Medical Association, Health Care for America Now, Kaiser Family Foundation, Doctors for America, National Physicians Alliance, Latinos United For Health Care, Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition, Black Women's Health Imperative, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Universal Health Care Action Network, National Council of Churches USA Health Task Force, HealthRight International, Global Health Council, Lutheran Health Network, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, Catholic Health Association of the United States, CommonHealth ACTION, Community Health Councils, Protect Our Care, Health Care For All, National Association of Community Health Centers
- s) **LGBTQ organizations**, including Human Rights Campaign, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, National Center for Lesbian Rights, ILGA (The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association), African Human Rights Coalition, National Equality Action Team, National LGBTQ Task Force

- t) **Women's rights organizations**, including National Organization for Women, National Women's Law Center, Emily's List, Global Fund for Women, National Health Law Program
- u) **Corporate accountability organizations**, including International Corporate Accountability Roundtable, Corporate Watch, Reclaim Finance, Corporate Accountability, Change Finance, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), Urgewald, Ethical Consumer
- v) **Voting rights organizations in Georgia**, including Fair Fight, New Georgia Project, All Voting is Local-Georgia, Black Voters Matter - Georgia, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta, Georgia NAACP, ACLU of Georgia
- w) **National voting rights organizations**, including League of Women Voters, Common Cause, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, America Votes, When We All Vote, FairVote, Rock the Vote, ACLU, End Citizens United
- x) **Bank programs & partnerships**, for example:
 - o for Bank of America: Sustainable Markets Initiative (co-chaired by Prince Charles and Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan); The Nature Conservancy; Cherie Blair Foundation - Mentoring Women in Business program; Global Ambassadors Program
 - o for JPMorgan Chase: Advancing Black Pathways; Climate Leadership Council; Center for Climate and Energy Solutions' (C2ES) Business Environmental Leadership Council
- y) **High-profile business commentators**: Mohamed El-Erian (chief economic adviser at Allianz and President of Queens' College Cambridge), Jonathan Fine (Head of Investment Grade Syndicate at Goldman Sachs), Jim Cramer (CNBC host), Jeffrey Sonnenfeld (Yale School of Management), Joseph L. Badaracco Jr. (Professor of Business Ethics, Harvard Business School), Austan Goolsbee (Professor of Economics at University of Chicago's Booth School of Business)
- z) **Investors**:
 - o **Investor networks**, including Climate Action 100+, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, One Planet Asset Managers Initiative, Global Impact Investing Network
 - o **Endowment investment officers of major universities** in USA, Canada, UK and Europe
 - o **Shareholder action and socially-responsible investment organizations**, including Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, As You Sow, ShareAction, UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF), Eurosif
 - o **Leading pension funds** including: TIAA (The Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America-College Retirement Equities Fund), New York State's pension fund, CalPERS (California Public Employees' Retirement System), CalSTRS (California State Teachers' Retirement System), San Francisco Employees' Retirement System, Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global (the world's largest sovereign wealth fund)
 - o **Socially-responsible investment fund managers**, including Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, Natural Capital Investment Alliance (launched by Prince Charles), Calvert, Domini, Earth Equity Advisors, Green Century, Boston Common, Parnassus, Pax World, Trillium, Thrive Partners, Fidelity US Sustainability Index Fund, Fidelity Select Environment & Alternative Energy Portfolio, Fidelity Sustainability Bond Index Fund, Fidelity Women's Leadership Fund, Vanguard ESG U.S. Stock ETF, Vanguard FTSE Social Index Fund, Vanguard Global ESG Select Stock Fund, Vanguard ESG U.S. Corporate Bond ETF, Northern Global Sustainability Index Fund, iShares ESG Screened S&P 500 ETF, iShares ESG Screened S&P Mid-Cap ETF, iShares ESG Screened S&P Small-Cap ETF, Xtrackers S&P 500 ESG ETF
 - o **Indexes**, including S&P 500® ESG Index, Dow Jones Sustainability Index, MSCI ESG Indexes, FTSE Global Climate Index, FTSE4Good Index
- aa) **Journalists/media**, including International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Economist, The Atlantic, Financial Times, New Yorker, CNN, BBC, NPR, Politico, Axios, Bloomberg News, Associated Press, Reuters, Christian Science Monitor, The Hill, Vox, Daily Beast, Global Investigative Journalism Network, ProPublica, Center for Investigative Reporting, Globe and Mail (Canada), Le Devoir (Canada), El Economista (Mexico), Proceso (Mexico), Guardian (UK), Independent (UK), Times (UK), Irish Times, Business Post (Ireland), Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), Handelsblatt (Germany), Der Spiegel (Germany), Le Monde (France), Libération (France), Les Echos (France), NRC Handelsblad (Netherlands), Het Financieel Dagblad (Netherlands), De Standaard (Belgium), Le Soir (Belgium), Le Temps (Switzerland), Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Switzerland), Der Standard (Austria), Die Presse

(Austria), Corriere della sera (Italy), Il Sole 24 Ore (Italy), El País (Spain), El Mundo (Spain), Público (Portugal), Dagens Nyheter (Sweden), Dagens industry (Sweden), Dagbladet (Norway), Dagens Næringsliv (Norway), Norway Post, Dagbladet Politiken (Denmark), Dagbladet Børsen (Denmark), Helsingin Sanomat (Finland), Kauppalehti (Finland), Sydney Morning Herald, Australian Financial Review, New Zealand Herald, Business Day (South Africa), Asahi (Japan), The Nikkei (Japan), South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

bb) **Business responsibility organizations**, including U.S. Climate Action Partnership, BSR (Business for Social Responsibility), JUST Capital, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, Shift, Ceres, Business and Sustainable Development Commission, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Global Reporting Initiative, Business in the Community, Institute of Business Ethics, Ethics & Compliance Initiative

cc) **African-American civil rights leaders**, including:

- Andrew Young (former mayor of Atlanta, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, former executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference)
- Stacey Abrams, former minority leader of Georgia House of Representatives, founder of Fair Fight Action
- Martin Luther King III, oldest son of civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, former President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the NAACP, founder of One Voice Inc.
- William J. Barber II (Co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, member of the national board of NAACP and chair of its Legislative Political Action Committee)
- Ben Jealous, former president and CEO of NAACP, partner at Kapor Capital, President of People for the American Way

dd) **Leading foundations**, including: Ford Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Open Society Institute, Nathan Cummings Foundation, Wallace Global Fund

ee) **Religious organizations**, including African American Ministers In Action, Kairos (The Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary), NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Church World Service, Faith in Public Life, National Council of Jewish Women, Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee

ff) **The Elders** (founded by Nelson Mandela, an independent group of global leaders working together for peace, justice and human rights):

- Mary Robinson, first woman President of Ireland
- Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General
- Graça Machel, first education minister of Mozambique
- Lakhdar Brahimi, former conflict mediator, Algerian Foreign Minister and UN diplomat
- Gro Harlem Brundtland, first woman Prime Minister of Norway
- Zeid Raad Al Hussein, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Hina Jilani, pioneering lawyer and human rights champion
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Nobel Peace Laureate
- Ricardo Lagos, former President of Chile
- Juan Manuel Santos, former President of Colombia and Nobel Peace Laureate
- Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico

gg) **Business school climate change and environmental initiatives**, including:

- International Universities Climate Alliance
- ClimateCAP: The annual Global MBA Summit on Climate, Capital, & Business (hosted in partnership between business school programs at University of Virginia Darden School of Business, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, Harvard Business School, Duke University Fuqua School of Business, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Yale School of Management, MIT Sloan School of Management, London Business School, University of Michigan Ross School of Business, Cornell University School of Business, University of North Carolina, NYU, Georgia Tech, Kellogg School of Management – Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, University of Texas-Austin McCombs School of Business, Columbia University School of Business, Georgetown University McDonough School of Business)
- Columbia Business School - Climate Change and Business Program
- Harvard Business School - Business and Environment Initiative
- NYU Stern School of Business Social Impact & Sustainability Association

- Yale Center for Business and the Environment
- MIT Center for Global Change Science
- Wharton School (Univ. of Pennsylvania) Business, Climate, and Environment Lab
- Duke University Fuqua School of Business Center for Energy, Development, and the Global Environment (EDGE)
- Stanford Graduate School of Business annual Climate, Business & Innovation conference
- Georgetown University McDonough School of Business - Business for Impact initiative
- University of California, Berkeley - Haas School of Business – Energy Institute at Haas

hh) **Climate change experts and activists**, including:

- Greta Thunberg, Swedish climate activist
- Al Gore
- Leonardo DiCaprio, founder of DiCaprio Foundation which promotes climate change awareness
- Heidi Cullen, National Academy of Sciences Board on Atmospheric Science and Climate; Science Advisory Board of European Commission's EUPHEME Project on extreme weather attribution; Chief Science Advisor for Years of Living Dangerously documentary series; Communications Advisor for the World Meteorological Organization Commission for Climatology
- Billy Parish, co-founder and CEO of Mosaic Inc.
- May Boeve, Executive Director of 350.org
- Julian McQueen, Director of education and outreach at Green for All
- Jane Kleeb, Founder of Bold Nebraska
- Reverend Lennox Yearwood Jr., Founder and President of the Hip Hop Caucus
- Katharine Hayhoe, Co-Director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University
- Adrianna Quintero, Founder & Executive Director of Voces Verdes; former senior attorney at Natural Resources Defense Council
- Xiye Bastida, one of the lead organizers of the Fridays for Future Youth climate strike movement
- Alexandria Villaseñor, co-founder of US Youth Climate Strike and founder of Earth Uprising
- Luisa Neubauer, German activist and key organizer of the school strike for climate movement
- Vic Barrett, one of the youth plaintiffs suing US Government in *Juliana vs. United States* climate lawsuit

ii) **University climate change and environmental initiatives**, including:

- Columbia University Climate and Life Initiative
- The Earth Institute, Columbia University
- Columbia University Climate School
- NYU Alliance for Climate Change and Environment (NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service)
- NYU Student Sustainability Committee
- NYU Environmental Law Society
- EarthMatters (NYU's campus-wide environmental club)
- University of Georgia: Georgia Initiative for Climate and Society
- Georgia Tech Global Change Program
- Climate@Emory (Emory University campus-wide initiative)
- Stanford University Global Climate and Energy Project
- Harvard University Presidential Committee on Sustainability
- Harvard University Center for the Environment
- Yale Program on Climate Change Communication
- Yale School of the Environment
- Yale Office of Sustainability
- Georgetown Climate Center
- Georgetown Environment Initiative
- University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
- Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford (UK)
- Cambridge Centre for Climate Science (UK)
- Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research, University of Oslo (Norway)

jj) **Climate and Health Program at U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

kk) **Civil rights and human rights centers at universities**, including:

- University of Georgia Center for Social Justice, Human and Civil Rights
- Emory University, The Carter Center
- University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights

- University of Notre Dame: The Klau Center for Civil & Human Rights
- Howard University: Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center
- Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights
- University of South Carolina Center for Civil Rights History & Research
- Gonzaga University Center for Civil and Human Rights
- Harvard Law School Program on Corporate Governance
- Harvard: François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health & Human Rights (FXB Center)
- Harvard Kennedy School Carr Center for Human Rights Policy
- NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights
- NYU Center for Human Rights & Global Justice
- St. John's University School of Law: Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights
- Yale Law School: Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights
- University of California, Berkeley, Human Rights Center
- University of Minnesota Human Rights Center
- University of Washington Center for Human Rights

II) **Authors and journalists who focus on corporate conduct**, including:

- Lee Drutman (["How Corporate Lobbyists Conquered American Democracy"](#), *The Atlantic*)
- Patrick Greenfield and Kalyeena Makortoff (["Study: global banks 'failing miserably' on climate crisis by funneling trillions into fossil fuels"](#), *The Guardian*)
- Joseba Eceiza, Holger Harreis, Daniel Härtl, and Simona Viscardi (["Banking imperatives for managing climate risk"](#), *McKinsey & Company*)
- Andrew Ross Sorkin (["An Epiphany Moment' for Corporate Political Donors May Have Arrived - As companies put their donations to candidates on hold, they should reassess political giving entirely, making the halt permanent"](#), *New York Times*)
- Steven M. Rothstein and Dan Saccardi, Ceres (["Op-ed: Climate change threatens U.S. banks far more than they're disclosing"](#), *CNBC*)
- Tom Murray, VP of EDF+Business (["The Businesses That Are – And Are Not – Leading On Climate Change"](#), *Forbes*)
- Joel Bakan ([*The New Corporation: How "Good" Corporations Are Bad for Democracy*](#); and [*The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*](#))
- Liz Kennedy (["Top 5 Ways Citizens United Harms Democracy & Top 5 Ways We're Fighting to Take Democracy Back"](#), *Dēmos*)
- Anand Giridharadas ([*Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*](#))