
A lot has changed since 1971 ...

In that year ... the Watergate was still just a little-known hotel in Washington ... people drove station wagons, not SUVs ... passengers could smoke on airplanes ... nuclear power was flourishing ... and a first-class stamp cost 6 cents.

Public Citizen has changed, too. From our founding in 1971 by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, we have grown into a potent countervailing force to the might of Corporate America. Today, we are larger and stronger than ever. But what hasn't changed are the traits that have served us well: independence, persistence, vigilance. We've been the eyes and ears — and sometimes the teeth — of consumers through



the administrations of six presidents and through 15 Congresses.



We were born in an era of activism, during a period when the Congress was creating important new agencies — the Environmental

But Public Citizen Still Fights for Consumers

Protection Agency, the Occupational

Safety and Health Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration — to mitigate the health and safety risks posed by our industrial society.

Since that time, we've withstood a withering corporate backlash against consumer protection. But we

have been uncompromising in our fight for safer products, for government and corporate accountability, for clean elections, for a strong and vibrant civil

justice system, and for clean and safe energy. We have evolved with the times, keeping our core values while moving into new arenas, such as globalization

and electricity deregulation now devastating California consumers.



Public Citizen has won many battles for consumers. We have remained independent by refusing to accept money from corporations or the government, giving us the freedom to name names. We have been persistent, because our battles sometimes stretch across long years. We have been vigilant, because reforms won today can be undone tomorrow.

In the following pages, we look back at our history and accomplishments, and offer an in-depth look at some major issues on which we work.