THE IMPACT ON AMERICA

PREDATORY LENDING and economic insecurity will drive 3 million homeowners to default on their mortgages this year (the 1st step in the foreclosure process), while reckless banks and bondholders get a multi-billion dollar taxpayer bailout.

SKYROCKETING GAS PRICES take money from the pockets of hard-working Americans and hand it to Big Oil, Wall Street speculators, and dictatorial regimes.

THE IRAQ WAR AND PALESTINIAN CONFLICT have killed over 4,000 American soldiers, hundreds of thousands of civilians, and caused over 100,000 American injuries. The ongoing occupations are destroying Iraq, obstructing creation of a free Palestine, and costing taxpayers over time $720 million per day. This drains resources from schools, clinics, libraries, and public transit, while drinking water and sewage systems, roadways, bridges, and levees are crumbling from disrepair.

“PAY OR DIE” HEALTHCARE leaves 47 million Americans with no healthcare at all, with tens of millions more under-insured. Poor healthcare leaves people vulnerable to economic devastation, disease, and death. There has been a 22-fold increase in medical bankruptcies since 1981.

NO LIVING WAGE leaves fifty million people earning $6.55/hr to $10.50/hr, while CEOs of mega-corporations make $10,000/hr.

FOSSIL-FUELED CLIMATE CHANGE is a cause of the increasing prevalence of hurricanes, U.S. crop failures, and other environmental ravages and costs.

CORPORATE-MANAGED TRADE or “free trade” is making our country less competitive, and allows U.S. corporations to outsource factories and jobs to authoritarian or dictatorial nations, pushing our trade deficit towards $1 trillion per year and helping drive our federal budget deficit to dangerous half-trillion dollar levels and increasing our debt.

Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer, author, and one of the 100 Most Influential Americans in the 20th Century (Time Magazine).

He has helped improve the quality of life for two generations of Americans.

He was instrumental in enacting mandatory seat belts and airbags, nutritional facts on food, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Nader helped create the Wholesome Meat Act, National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), Public Citizen, the Disability Rights Center, the Pension Rights Center and many others.

Because of Ralph Nader we drive safer cars, eat healthier food, breathe better air, drink cleaner water, and work in safer environments. He continues to work to ensure that the products and services that consumers use are safe.

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In 2000, Matt Gonzalez was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and in 2003 was elected President, where he fought to create the highest minimum wage in the country, adjusted for inflation: $9.36/hr.

He led the effort to implement Instant Run-off Voting in San Francisco, where it has successfully obtained a majority outcome without the need for costly run-off elections.

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