

The Code for Corporate Responsibility

[Also known as the Code for Corporate Citizenship]

According to Corporate Law, Corporations make decisions based only on maximizing profits and increasing stockprices. The Code for Corporate Responsibility seeks to add protections for the environment, human rights, public health and safety, the welfare of our communities and the corporate employees.

The Problem

State laws allow corporations to:

- externalize costs
- minimally comply with the law, lobby to weaken laws, and shop for jurisdictions with lenient laws
- significantly damage the environment, human rights, public health and safety, corporate employee's dignity and the welfare of surrounding communities

The Solution

The [The Code for Corporate Responsibility](#) will ensure that the public's interest is not sacrificed for corporate profit by:

- Eliminating corporate pollution
- Stopping corporate violations of human rights
- Improving public health and safety
- Changing corporate management to ensure employees' dignity is respected

Articles

- [28 Words to Redefine Corporate Duties The Proposal for a Code for Corporate Citizenship, *Multinational Monitor*, July/August 2002](#)
- [Let's Change the DNA of Corporations, 29 July 2002](#)
- ["Interview with Bob Hinkley, *Citizens Working*, 14 July 2002](#)
- ["Profits vs. Public Interest," *Miami Herald*, 11 June 2002](#)
- ["Corporate Values: A Response to President Bush's 10-Point Plan for Corporate Responsibility," *Common Dreams*, 12 March 2002](#)

What you can do

- [The Code for Corporate Responsibility](#): text of model legislation
- [State laws governing corporations](#): list with links to every state law governing corporations
- [Minnesota Chapter](#): an organizational model for "Code for Corporate Responsibility" state chapters
- [Sample Letter to Legislator](#): put pressure on local lawmakers to support the Corporate Code for Responsibility
- [Legal resources](#): pro-bono legal service directories, general FAQ's

- ["Toppling the Corporate Aristocracy," *CommonDreams*, 19 April 2002](#)
- ["How Corporate Law Inhibits Social Responsibility," *Business Ethics*, January/February 2002](#)

- [Organizing Toolbox](#): resources for organizing your community
- [Other strategies](#) for curbing corporate power

For more information on the code, please email Bob Hinkley at bob@citizenworks.org.

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