

30th Anniversary

Dear Friends,

This year marks a significant milestone for POGO: our thirtieth anniversary.

In 1981, with only a desk, a phone, and some amazing sources, Dina Rasor founded the Project on Military Procurement—a scrappy offshoot of the National Taxpayers Union. Under the guidance of Pentagon insiders Ernie Fitzgerald, Pierre Sprey, and Colonel John Boyd, Dina used the government’s own documents to expose the wasteful spending and falsified weapons tests that were making defense contractors rich at the direct expense of our troops.

Over the past thirty years, POGO has evolved and grown, changing our name to the Project On Government Oversight and expanding our watchful eye to even more areas of government. Now POGO’s work spans the federal bureaucracies, covering agencies from the Food and Drug Administration to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of the Interior.

Also, as technology has dramatically changed the landscape of how everyone works, we have embraced new ways to communicate our findings. We have moved from simply sending out press releases to also producing our own newsletter, blogging, posting on Facebook, tweeting, podcasting, and uploading YouTube videos.

Finally, POGO has launched programs to strengthen good government structures, such as our Congressional Oversight Training Series and our advocacy to strengthen the independence and accountability of Inspectors General.

But through all the changes, we have stayed true to our core values: using the government’s own information and working with whistleblowers and other insiders, we remain an aggressive, non-partisan watchdog, relentless in our mission to expose waste, fraud, and abuse. We are looking forward to the next thirty years of POGO working to fix the problems we uncover, and pushing for a more open, ethical, accountable, and effective federal government.

All the best,



Danielle Brian, Executive Director

— From POGO’s 2010 annual report