

Beyond Speaking Truth Be the Power

By Deborah Koons Garcia

Speaking truth to power is a fine idea, an admirable activity, one that is highly praised in certain segments of society. However, given what's happened to truth and power in the 21st century, speaking truth to power is a fool's errand. Power retains the right to, in the words of Jon Stewart, "make shit up" or, as Stephen Colbert says, indulge in "truthiness." It says something about the state of the world that we go to comedians to make sense of it.

But the difference between true and false and their relationship to power is no laughing matter. These days, people telling the truth about abuses by the Corporate State can be harshly punished. The more power an entity has, the more right that entity claims to not only ignore the truth, but replace it with blatant falsity.

The antidote to this state of affairs is to tell the truth meticulously, to tell the truth about Power in ways that remove power from Power and allows us, the citizens, the people, the individual within an informed collective, to be the power. On our side, we have our sense of community and the Internet, which can reveal what's true and help us consolidate our power as a voice that must be reckoned with.

For the past 15 years, I have concentrated on making films about agriculture, the food system and soil to explain why we need to move away from corporate control of agriculture, including the GMO regime, and move towards more wholesome systems. The local food sovereignty movement is the single most important development in our food system today. The farmers, activists and citizens in Maine passing municipal ordinances to protect their right to grow and sell the food they want is an excellent example of fighting back against the grasp of corporate control. At the very least we need to be able to feed ourselves in a way that strengthens and nourishes our bodies as well as our communities.

My first sortie into the world of food activism was my film *The Future of Food* which came out

People Power

Article I, § 2 of the Maine Constitution: "All power is inherent in the people; all free governments are founded in their authority and instituted for their benefit, [and that] they have therefore an unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government and to alter, reform, or totally change the same when their safety and happiness require it.



graphic: sayitinpics.com/frankenfood

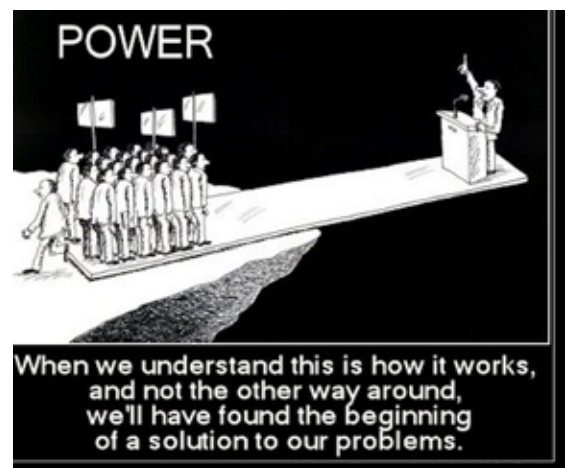
ten years ago. This is the first and most thorough film to present clearly the many problems with the corporate GMO regime: patenting seeds, corporations buying up seed supplies, the release of untested, unlabeled genetically engineered products into our food supply and the massive increase in pesticide use because of GMOs. If someone is looking for an example of blatant falsities on the part of corporations in order to gain control of a whole swath of our lives — what we grow and eat — agricultural genetic engineering is the place to start. The hype surrounding genetically engineered crops has been going full force for nearly 20 years. These companies have spent billions of dollars trying to convince people to accept GMOs and it's really sad for them that most countries on earth are rejecting GMOs and their toxic corporate regime. In this country, millions of people want this stuff out of our fields and food supply for very good reasons.

The regime which is hijacking our food system is also destroying our soil. My latest film, *Symphony of the Soil*, gives people a deep understanding of this miraculous substance and our relationship to it.

Local control and protection of these resources is essential and that happens by gaining political power. We can't let them stop us. The campaigns the people in Maine have taken on and succeeded with are an example that should be followed in every town and city and state in this country. Speak the Truth! Be the power!

Deborah Koons Garcia is a highly acclaimed documentary filmmaker and deeply concerned professional dealing with the global food system.

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graphic: UKIP Daily