



**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

December 3, 2010

Friends,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new President and CEO of the Center for International Environmental Law and to invite you to join us as we enter a new, exciting and profoundly important era in CIEL's remarkable history. I took on CIEL's leadership in September, when Dan Magraw stepped into a new role as President Emeritus and Distinguished Scholar.

Like so many environmental attorneys around the world, I began my career as an intern and law fellow at CIEL. My early experience here equipped and inspired me to take on ever greater challenges as a lawyer and environmental leader. Over the years, I have advised companies to help them better comply with international pollution standards, worked to strengthen international treaties to protect endangered species and ecosystems from the impacts of trade, guided successful campaigns to protect forests and oceans, and partnered with communities threatened by the growing and urgent impacts of climate change. Throughout these years, the attorneys and staff at CIEL have been my partners, collaborators, colleagues and friends. I am excited to bring my experience full circle to help them build CIEL into an even stronger force in the global environmental community.

As we enter the holiday season, I am thankful for this homecoming and for CIEL's remarkable twenty year history of success—a history that would not have been possible without your generous support. I want you to know how much we value that support, which enables CIEL's attorneys to do what they have always done best—use the power of law to defend the right to a healthy planet.

From my earliest days in this field, CIELs' work has been an inspiration and as I have explored our programs over my first few months, I've been reminded that CIEL continues to be as innovative, as inspiring and as important as it has ever been. In the last year, CIEL:

- Led successful efforts by environmental and human health groups to get landmark reforms to U.S. chemicals laws introduced in Congress;
- Led a hemisphere-wide civil society effort to secure a strong, reliable, independent accountability mechanism at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB);
- Supported an international campaign to address human rights abuses linked to Guatemala's Marlin Mine, which led the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to request that mine operations be suspended;
- Brought environmental defenders from throughout Mexico and Central America to testify before the Inter-American Commission about mining impacts in their countries and human rights abuses against the environmental defenders who oppose the mines;
- Assisted the United Nations Environment Programme in drafting a new global treaty to address mercury pollution; and
- Worked with 90 countries in Africa and Latin America to adopt strong regional resolutions urging a precautionary approach to nanotechnology.

These achievements would not be possible without support from donors like you. Thank you.

Even as we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year, however, we must look ahead to the challenges of the next. These challenges are as great as any we—or humanity—have ever faced.

The pace of global climate change is accelerating, while the pace of climate solutions falls far behind, with real and immediate consequences for human rights and human lives in countries around the world. Even as CIEL works to secure an effective global agreement on climate change, we are exploring new ways to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, including a new campaign to take on the World Bank's funding of coal-fired power plants and oppose the Bank's efforts to relax its environmental and social safeguards.

We are moving quickly to highlight the emerging tension between global trade rules and actions to promote clean development, and continuing our efforts to increase transparency and democracy in trade disputes to give affected countries and communities a greater say in how trade affects their environment and their lives.

And as the linkages between human rights and environment become ever clearer, we are adapting our programs to ensure our work reflects those linkages. This means building on our existing human rights and environment program to increase our engagement on climate and human rights, and exploring how human rights mechanisms can be used to address other threats to the environment and human health, like toxics.

The years ahead are filled with challenges, but they are also filled with opportunity to bring about changes small and large that will create a more just and sustainable future for all of us. This fall, we launched a comprehensive strategic planning effort to better define CIEL's role in bringing about that future and transforming the organization to meet that role.

As I consider the task ahead of us, there are two things of which I am certain: the world's environmental challenges cannot be overcome without the power of law, and they cannot be overcome without your help. This is why we need you as a partner and supporter at this exciting moment in our history, and why I am asking you to make a special investment in CIEL this year.

This holiday season, as we celebrate our first twenty years and look ahead to the next twenty, I ask you to renew and increase your commitment to CIEL. It is only with your support that we have the freedom and independence to develop new and truly innovative legal strategies to our most pressing environmental issues.

In addition to your financial contribution, we ask that you support us in other ways. Join us on Facebook and Twitter to stay updated on how our work is progressing. Visit our evolving website to learn more about our programs. Participate in our annual CFC campaign or encourage your friends and associates to do the same. Or suggest to friends and family who are planning to buy you a gift that they make a donation in your name to CIEL instead.

However you contribute, we remain deeply grateful for you and your support.

Sincerely,

Carroll Muffett  
President and CEO