negative effects of the runaway accumulation of corporate wealth. Here is a short list.

- **Increasing corporate lobbying and political contributions.** These effects work largely against the public interest on a huge range of issues—even to the extent that corporations write laws introduced by the legislators they contribute to. The Citizens United decision greatly exacerbated this effect.
- **Increasing externalization of costs.** The wealthier corporations get, the more power they have to use their political influence to avoid regulations. As a result, they can pass along to others the costs of doing business—and thus increase profits even more. The fancy name for this is "externalization of costs."

  A prime example is the dumping of hazardous waste that taxpayers will pay to clean up—or will suffer with. Consider what happens when fracking companies dump pools of polluted water on the landscape, or tear up the land in the fracking process and then leave it torn up, or inject vast amounts of poisonous chemicals in the porous shale rock next to the water table, thus creating polluted drinking and agricultural water. The burden is shifted away from the private corporations and to the public. The prime example, of course, is of corporations emitting the greenhouse gas pollution that has caused global warming. The costs get dumped onto you—whether you're paying more taxes to mitigate climate change or to clean up after severe storms or you're paying more for vegetables during severe droughts.

  But even when you have to spend your time searching a company website or waiting on the phone to talk to a customer service representative, costs are being externalized: Your time is being spent while the company profits by hiring too few people in customer service. Various forms of "self-service" at gas stations, supermarkets, and big box stores are made to sound like conveniences for you, but they are really ways of making you work for the company for free.