From: Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
To: All Students and Parents

In 1971, students from many Minnesota colleges and universities joined to form the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG). MPIRG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, student-controlled organization. MPIRG's mission is to engage and empower students to work toward meaningful change on issues of the public interest. The underlying principle is that students are citizens and that their education should include actual experience in recognizing, researching, and solving the problems of society. Through MPIRG, students are able to work effectively and on a long-term basis for statewide and local social change and institutional reform in such areas as consumer protection, environmental preservation, and social justice.

MPIRG students at Carleton are involved in a number of projects. During the 2005-2006 school year students worked on:

- **Environmental Justice:** MPIRG has been working the environmental issue from two angles this past year. Legislatively, students have been supporting a Renewable Energy Standard for the state of Minnesota. The bill would mandate that 20% of our state’s energy be renewable by 2020. MPIRG has organized students to be citizen lobbyists by making phone calls, signing postcards, writing letters, and visiting the State Capitol to meet with elected officials. On campus, MPIRG’s largest accomplishment was organizing Dorm Wars, a campus-wide competition between residence halls and campus houses to see who could save the most the energy in the month of February. The purpose was to conserve energy, teach energy saving habits that Carleton students would take with them, and to unite the entire campus around one important issue.

- **Fair Trade:** This year, MPIRG built on the momentum of the Fair Trade movement created last year. We began the year by continuing our educational efforts through Fair Trade Bazaars, movie nights, and educational poster campaigns. Once there was enough buzz about Fair Trade on campus, we were able to work with the dining service and convinced them to make the switch to 100% Fair Trade coffee on campus. It is now served in the snack bar and dining halls as part of student meal plans. MPIRG will continue to work towards bringing more Fair Trade products to campus.

- **Fair and Clean Elections:** MPIRG members are working on a campaign to bring Fair And Clean Elections (FACE) to Minnesota by lobbying legislators, going to the Capitol for an MPIRG student action day, and hosting several educational events on campus. Students brought in State Senator John Hottinger, the chief author of the FACE bill, to speak to a standing room only crowd about the bill and campaign finance reform in general. Students are currently broadening their coalition to other schools and community organizations.

An optional refusable/refundable fee paid by students is what makes MPIRG possible. The fee allows students to hire a professional staff to conduct research, organize, and advocate for students locally and at the State Capitol.

At the request of a majority of Carleton students, and by contractual agreement between its board of trustees and MPIRG, the college collects the MPIRG fee as an agent for its students. By doing so Carleton neither endorses nor approves of any action taken or proposed by MPIRG.

The $7.50 annual fee is added to the comprehensive fee statement fall term for all students. Payment of the fee is entirely optional on the part of the students.

Those who do not wish to support MPIRG should simply sign the following form and return it to the Business Office by August 15th, 2006. The charge will then be deleted from the fee statement. Refunds will be available for students who mistakenly pay the fee or who change their minds after having paid the fee. There will be an official notice of your opportunity to receive an MPIRG refund via campus mail later in the academic year.

I do not wish to support MPIRG

Student name (please print) __________________________ Signature __________________________

Returning Student ID# __________________________ Date Signed __________________________