

# GAVELS FOR SALE

GOP COMMITTEE CHAIRS CALL TO ORDER  
AN **EXTREMIST** CONGRESS



**BRIDGE**  
**PROJECT**

Despite some platitudes promising bipartisan language when taking control of both the House and Senate, it's clear that the Republicans will continue to offer Koch-funded, Tea Party extremism and partisan investigations. The GOP kicked off the 114th Congress by yet again governing by crisis with threats to shutdown the Department of Homeland Security over their opposition to President Obama's executive actions on immigration. The Senate refuses to bring Loretta Lynch's nomination for Attorney General to a vote for partisan reasons. As President Obama stated, the highly qualified candidate's nomination, "will have been languishing on the Senate floor for longer than the seven previous attorneys general combined." They proposed an anti-choice measure that was so extreme female Republicans revolted.

The committee chairs that were selected by the GOP are also indicative of their direction for this Congress. This latest crop of chairs is often openly antagonistic to the very missions of the government agencies they oversee, and beholden to the industries they are charged with regulating.

These chairs have already continued the model started by Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), who honed the GOP's strategy of using chairmanships for partisan witch-hunts rather than legitimate congressional oversight. The most obvious example of this method is the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which is costing taxpayers millions even though seven prior investigations found no wrongdoing on the part of the administration.

Diversity also didn't seem to be a major factor during the selection process. All of the 40 current House, Senate, and joint committee chairs are white. You have to dive into the subcommittee level to find any legislators of color. And despite a record number of women winning last November, there are only two committees chaired by women: Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) in the Senate and Candice Miller (R-MI) in the House. Shortly after being named chair of the House Administration Committee, Miller – a six-term Congresswoman – announced that she would not seek reelection. Bloomberg noted that Miller's committee is "known more for tending to granular details – overseeing federal elections, parking lots and cafeterias – than grabbing headlines."

## SENATE

The Senate committee chairs are mostly comprised of familiar faces with longstanding ties to the industries they are meant to regulate. Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) is once again taking the helm of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The notorious global warming denier announced his plans to scuttle environmental regulations, which should please his largest donor: the oil and gas industry. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) – also coming back for his second go-around as chair of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee – has spent the last few years trying to undermine Dodd-Frank and consumer protection while being bankrolled by big banks. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) has been hostile to both NASA and NOAA during his short tenure as head of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness. As another climate change denier, Cruz argued that funding NASA earth science budget is inappropriate because they should only focus on exploring space.

### Environment & Public Works – Jim Inhofe

Sen. James Inhofe took over as chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in the 114th session of Congress. He was previously chair of the same committee from 2003 to 2007. Known as the Senate's chief climate change denier, Inhofe even wrote a book titled "The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future." Inhofe previously served as a member of the House of Representatives and as the mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### INHOFE IS CHIEF CLIMATE DENIER IN SENATE

**Inhofe Was Previously Chairman Of The Environment & Public Works Committee From 2003 To 2007.** According to the New Republic, "The Republican takeover of the Senate means that the chamber's worst climate-change denier, James Inhofe of Oklahoma, will likely become the chair of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. [...] It doesn't take much guesswork to know the next chairman's priorities, and not only because Inhofe has written a book claiming that global warming is 'the greatest hoax.' Inhofe was already once chairman of the committee from 2003 to 2007." [New Republic, [11/7/14](#)]

**Inhofe: "Man-Made Global Warming Is The Greatest Hoax Ever Perpetrated On The American People."** According to the New York Times, "In a two-hour speech on July 28 on the Senate floor, Senator James M. Inhofe, the Oklahoma Republican who is chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said: 'With all of the hysteria, all of the fear, all of the phony science, could it be that man-made global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people? It sure sounds like it.' Mr. Inhofe convened a hearing on Tuesday that focused on the work of the small core of researchers who insist that there is no evidence for human-caused warming of any import. A spokesman for Mr. Inhofe, Michael Catanzaro, defended the hearing, saying its goal was 'to strip away political factors and just get to the hard science.'" [New York Times, [8/5/03](#)]

- **Inhofe Later Wrote A Book Titled "The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future."** According to Politico, "The 79-year-old former insurance executive has cited the Bible as proof that climate science is a fraud and urged the Justice Department to investigate academic researchers working on the subject. In 2012, he wrote the book "The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future." [Politico, [11/10/14](#)]

**Inhofe Invited Climate Skeptics To Hearings.** According to the San Francisco Chronicle, "Sen. James Inhofe, in his last hearing as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, blamed Hollywood and the news media Wednesday for 'hying' the view that humans are causing global warming. [...] The views of the witnesses at Wednesday's hearing held few surprises. Two of the witnesses, David Deming, a University of Oklahoma geophysicist, and Dan Gainor of the Business and Media Institute, have written opinion columns praising Inhofe's skepticism on global warming. A third witness, paleoclimate researcher Bob Carter of Australia's James Cook University, has penned scathing critiques of Europe's efforts to curb greenhouse gases." [San Francisco Chronicle, [12/07/07](#)]

**Inhofe: Senate Environment Committee Is "Wasting All Of Our Time On All That Silly Stuff, All The Hearings On Global Warming."** According to Greenwire, "The Senate's top global warming skeptic is confident he'll reclaim the gavel of the Environment and Public Works Committee next year, and he's got big plans in store. [...] His top priority, he says, is to stop 'wasting time' on global warming hearings and get down to business on issues he says have been neglected, like

overseeing U.S. EPA and passing major transportation and water infrastructure bills. ‘We haven't really been doing anything because they've been wasting all of our time on all that silly stuff, all the hearings on global warming and all that,’ Inhofe said.” [Greenwire via New York Times, [9/17/10](#)]

**Inhofe And Heartland Institute Presented A Petition Demanding Congress Rein In “Rogue” EPA.** According to a press release from the Heartland Institute, “The Heartland Institute has collected more than 15,000 signatures on a petition demanding Congress rein in a ‘rogue’ Environmental Protection Agency. Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and The Heartland Institute will present the petitions to Congress at a public event in the Capitol Visitors Center.” [Heartland Institute Press Release, [11/21/12](#)]

- **Heartland Is “The Primary American Organization Pushing Climate Change Skepticism.”** According to the New York Times, “At gatherings of climate change skeptics on both sides of the Atlantic, Dr. Lindzen has been treated as a star. During a debate in Australia over carbon taxes, his work was cited repeatedly. When he appears at conferences of the Heartland Institute, the primary American organization pushing climate change skepticism, he is greeted by thunderous applause.” [New York Times, [4/30/12](#)]

## INHOFE’S AGENDA AS CHAIRMAN

**Inhofe Promised To Use Congressional Review Act To Scuttle Regulations.** According to Slate, “After Senate leadership elections on Thursday, Oklahoma Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe—a top opponent of legislation intended to curb climate change and the next chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee—explained the steps his caucus will take. [...] So Congressional Republicans will look to block new EPA regulations, using the Congressional Review Act. Inhofe said they will also look to use the normal legislative process to overturn older regulations.” [Slate, [11/24/14](#)]

**Inhofe Said He Plans To “Fight Changes In The Enforcement Of The Endangered Species Act.”** According to the Tulsa World, “Inhofe's resistance to climate regulations, especially as they relate to carbon emissions, have gotten the most publicity, but his animosity is much broader. He has promised to fight changes in the enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, the definition of federally controlled water and even fuel storage.” [Tulsa World, [12/29/14](#)]

**Inhofe After U.S.-China Climate Deal Announced: “I Will Do Everything In My Power To Rein In And Shed Light On The EPA’s Unchecked Regulations.”** According to the Washington Post, “GOP Sen. Jim Inhofe on Wednesday attacked the historic US-China climate deal unveiled by the Obama administration, calling it a ‘non-binding charade.’ [...] ‘The American people spoke against the President's climate policies in this last election,’ Inhofe said in a statement released to the Washington Post. ‘As we enter a new Congress, I will do everything in my power to rein in and shed light on the EPA's unchecked regulations.’” [Washington Post, [11/12/14](#)]

## INHOFE’S RECORD ON FIGHTING EPA & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Inhofe Press Secretary: Inhofe’s Environmental Views Are A “Realistic Perspective Of Someone Who's Been In The Business World.”** According to the Daily Oklahoman, “Gary Hoitsma, Inhofe's press secretary, said the senator approaches environmental issues from a ‘realistic perspective of someone who's been in the business world.’ Inhofe wants to protect the environment, Hoitsma said, but he also wants to protect jobs and believes that sound science and cost versus benefit analyses allow for both.” [Daily Oklahoman, 10/30/99]

**Inhofe Referred To The EPA As A “Gestapo Bureaucracy.”** According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “I'm trying to use my most moderate language,’ Sen. James Mountain Inhofe warned the witness ---an Environmental Protection Agency official who testified Thursday at a congressional hearing. ‘But the EPA is being blatantly dishonest with the American people’ about its proposed new air quality standards, declared Inhofe, chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee that oversees the federal Clean Air Act. A conservative before conservative was cool ---opining way back in the Vietnam War era that George McGovern should be hanged with Jane Fonda ---the 62-year-old Oklahoma Republican has long been known for speaking his mind. Inhofe has a special disdain for the EPA, which he has deemed a ‘Gestapo bureaucracy.’” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 7/25/97]

**Inhofe: EPA Is “Turning Jobs Into Endangered Species.”** According to the New York Times, “Mr. Inhofe has been a frequent antagonist of the Environmental Protection Agency over the regulations of the Clean Air Act and the quality of the science behind its views. And he accused the agency of ‘turning jobs into endangered species,’ especially in the coal industry, through its efforts to limit particulates in the air.” [New York Times, [10/31/99](#)]



**Inhofe On Endangered Species List: “America Has Adopted An Attitude That Places More Value On The Life Of A Critter Than On A Human Being.”** According to the Newhouse News Service, “Inhofe, incoming chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, often takes direct aim at water and air regulations, as well as the Endangered Species Act. As a junior member of the committee, Inhofe vented his frustration with the law in September 1997. He contrasted painstaking government protection of animals and plants with a public policy of tolerance for late-term abortions. ‘America has adopted an attitude that places more value on the life of a critter than on a human being,’ Inhofe said. ‘We want to protect the Arkansas River shiner, a bait fish in Oklahoma, yet we will allow unborn babies to have their brains sucked out in a partial-birth abortion.’” [Newhouse News Service, 11/18/02]

- **Despite Calling Protections “Burdensome Regulation,” Inhofe Helped Protect Sea Turtles Near Site Where He Vacations.** According to the Washington Post, “There is one instance, however, when a burdensome regulation is worth it for Inhofe. And it involves turtles. For decades, he has vacationed off the coast of Texas on South Padre Island, among the few homes to the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle. Inhofe remembers the nights he used to volunteer to help hatching sea turtles make their way to the ocean, protecting them from predators. In 2003, Inhofe co-sponsored a bill to force shrimpers to put turtle excluders on their boats to keep from accidentally catching them in their nets. ‘It was very inconvenient for them, taking up all that room that they could use to catch more shrimp,’ he said in an interview in his Capitol Hill office. ‘The Chamber of Commerce was mad, the infamous Tom DeLay was really mad because it was in his district. And people say I’m not concerned about the environment.’ Asked what made sea turtles more worthy of burdensome regulations than other objects of environmental concern, Inhofe looked wistfully at a painting of a sea turtle in his office. ‘You know, you’d really just have to see a Ridley sea turtle to understand.’” [Washington Post, [1/8/14](#)]

**Inhofe Pushed A Measure To Further Exempt Military Facilities From Environmental Rules And Regulations.**

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “The Defense Department has authority to set aside laws such as the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Air Act when national security would be threatened by compliance. Even so, it has asked Congress to modify the way the laws are enforced at military bases. [...] The Republican staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has launched a war of news releases with NRDC and other groups, which it calls ‘Operation End Extremism.’ One staffer said the readiness initiative would merely codify and clarify existing policies. The Environment and Public Works Committee, chaired by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), will hold hearings on the legislation Wednesday. One change the initiative would make is in the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which makes it illegal to ‘harass’ wild dolphins, seals, whales, manatees and other marine mammals if the harassment ‘has the potential to injure’ them and disrupt their natural behavior.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 3/31/03]

**Inhofe Opposes Efforts To Classify Animal Waste As A Hazardous Waste Due To Economic Cost.** According to a transcript of Inhofe’s opening statements at a committee hearing on the animal feeding operation industry, “Oklahoma is among the states with the most concentrated animal feeding operations. Concerns have been raised about the possible environmental impacts of these facilities, particularly the impact they have on water supplies. [...] [A]ny effort to further regulate farms must consider the critical economic and employment benefits provided by the nation’s farms.” [EPW.Senate.gov, [9/6/07](#)]

**Inhofe Staffers Convened A Meeting On Anti-EPA Amendment Written By Lobbyists.** According to Politico, “New details are emerging of just how involved a pair of energy industry lobbyists were in writing a controversial amendment by Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski that would strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant. Murkowski’s proposed amendment to the Clean Air Act has been attacked by Obama administration officials and environmental advocates as an industry-led attempt to hamstring efforts to regulate carbon — the only option available in the absence of a viable Senate climate change bill. Jeffrey Holmstead, head of the environmental strategies division at Bracewell & Giuliani, and Roger Martella Jr., a partner at Sidley Austin, walked Senate staffers through the details of the amendment, via speakerphone, during a meeting held at 8:45 a.m. in Room 370 of the Hart Senate Office Building on Sept. 23, 2009, a person familiar with the meeting told POLITICO. The meeting, convened by aides to Murkowski and Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), was called to gauge interest among staffers to four or five Democrats.” [Politico, [1/13/10](#)]

**Inhofe Introduced Legislation To Prevent EPA From Regulating CO2 Levels.** According to the New York Times, “Senator James Inhofe, Republican of Oklahoma, and Representative Fred Upton, Republican of Michigan, on Thursday formally introduced their bill to thwart the Obama administration’s intent to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants, factories and refineries. Dubbing their measure the ‘Energy Tax Prevention Act,’ Mr. Inhofe and Mr. Upton said that their goal was to reverse the agency’s finding that carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases are a danger to human health and the environment. They described the pending regulations as a hidden tax that will throttle the economic recovery, drive up energy

prices and force the closure hundreds of power plants and manufacturing facilities. [...] The Inhofe-Upton bill allows many Clean Air Act programs to continue, but takes away the agency's authority to apply the landmark law to carbon dioxide." [New York Times, [3/3/11](#)]

**Inhofe Introduced Legislation Requiring Senate Approval For EPA Regional Administrator Positions.** According to a press release from the committee, "Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, today introduced a simple two-page bill that will require that the President appoint the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regional administrators 'by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.' Currently EPA regional directors are appointed by the President without having to undergo Senate confirmation." [EPW.Senate.gov, [5/9/12](#)]

**Inhofe Voted Against Hurricane Sandy Aid, But Supported Aid After Oklahoma Tornado.** According to Politico, "Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe, who wanted to slash Hurricane Sandy recovery funding, said on Tuesday that aid for his state would look different in the wake of a devastating tornado. 'Let's look at that, that was totally different,' Inhofe (R-Okla.) said on MSNBC on Tuesday when asked about his Sandy position. 'They were getting things — for instance that was supposed to be in New Jersey, they had things in the Virgin Islands, they were fixing roads there, they were putting roofs on houses in Washington, D.C., everyone was getting in and exploiting the tragedy taking place.'" [Politico, [5/21/13](#)]

### **Inhofe's Ties To Oil & Gas Industries: "We Have An Industry To Protect"**

**Inhofe: "I Would Be On The Oilies' Side. We Have An Industry To Protect."** According to the Daily Oklahoman, "In an interview last week, Inhofe said, with typical candor, 'The fight right now is between the autos and the oilies. I would be on the oilies' side. We have an industry to protect.'" [Daily Oklahoman, 10/30/99]

**Inhofe Is Bankrolled By The Oil And Gas Industry.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, "The chair of the committee, Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), who has rejected the idea that humans are responsible for changes to the planet's climate as recently as January, received more money from the oil/gas and electric utilities industries than any other industries. Oil and gas gave \$556,700 to the senator's campaign committee and leadership PAC from 2009 to 2014, making it his biggest industry donor. The electric utilities industry dropped \$278,000 into his accounts during that same time, ranking second. Three of Inhofe's top four donors in that period were major energy companies that may face repercussions if the EPA tightens its grip on carbon emissions. At the top of the list, Koch Industries employees and PACs donated \$45,200, and lobbyists hired by the company donated \$9,430. Honeywell came in second with individuals and PACs donating \$45,000, while Honeywell lobbyists donated \$15,500. Inhofe's fourth biggest donor was Valero Energy, which donated \$40,000 through its PAC." [Center for Responsive Politics, [2/10/15](#)]

**Inhofe Has Taken \$2,904,492 From The Energy And National Resources Sector During Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Jim Inhofe has taken \$2,904,492 from the energy and natural resources sector between 1989 and 2014. [Center for Responsible Politics, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

- **Inhofe Has Taken \$1,728,221 From The Oil And Gas Industry During Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics Sen. James Inhofe received \$1,757,071 from the oil and gas industry between 1989 and 2014. [Center for Responsible Politics, Accessed [1/5/15](#)]
- **Inhofe Has Taken \$581,217 From Electricity Companies During Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Inhofe has taken \$582,217 from the electric utilities industry between 1989 and 2014. [Center for Responsible Politics, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

**Inhofe's Largest Contributors Include Many Major Energy Companies.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Koch Industries, Murray Energy, ConocoPhillips, Devon Energy, Chevron, and ExxonMobil are all among Inhofe's top 20 contributors between 1989 and 2014. [Center for Responsible Politics, Accessed [1/5/15](#)]

**Inhofe Proposed Legislation To Name A Post Office In Oklahoma After Energy Magnate T. Boone Pickens.** According to a press release from Sen. James Inhofe's office, "Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.), today introduced legislation honoring Thomas Boone Pickens in a proposed bill (S. 775) to name the Holdenville, Oklahoma Post Office in his name. The measure is cosponsored by Senator Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and will now move to the Senate Government Affairs Committee for consideration." [James Inhofe Press Release, [4/14/05](#)]

## **INHOFE'S ANTI-GAY COMMENTS**

**Inhofe Would Not Hire Gay Staffers.** According to the Associated Press, “Seventy-one of the 100 U.S. senators have told a gay rights group that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation when they hire people to work for them, the group said today. [...] The campaign fund began seeking anti-discrimination pledges from federal legislators last year after three Oklahoma congressmen - Republicans Ernest Istook and Jim Inhofe and Democrat Bill Brewster - told the Tulsa World newspaper that they would not hire gay people for their congressional staffs. Inhofe said hiring an openly gay person for his staff would be ‘disruptive in terms of unit cohesion’ - terminology reminiscent of the Pentagon's argument against allowing openly homosexual people in the military.” [Associated Press, [6/13/94](#)]

**Inhofe Blocked Ambassadorship Over A Nominee's Support For The “Gay Rights Agenda.”** According to the Miami Herald, “James Hormel, a San Francisco business executive who is an heir to the Hormel meat packing fortune, had his nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg blocked Thursday by senators who said they were concerned about his homosexual activism. Hormel had been on track to become the country's first openly gay ambassador. ‘This nominee has a long history of promoting the gay rights agenda which Mr. Inhofe does not agree with,’ said Gary Hoitsma, press secretary to Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla.” [Miami Herald, 11/14/97]

**Inhofe: “I’m Really Proud” There Was Never A “Homosexual Relationship” In Family History.** According to the Washington Post, “During yesterday's Senate debate on a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) stood by a large portrait of his family and offered the following: ‘As you see here, and I think this is maybe the most important prop we'll have during the entire debate, my wife and I have been married 47 years. We have 20 kids and grandkids. I'm really proud to say that in the recorded history of our family, we've never had a divorce or any kind of homosexual relationship.’” [Washington Post, [6/8/06](#)]

**Inhofe: “Homosexual Marriage Lobby” Leading The Way For Eventual Protection Of Pedophilia, Incest, And Bestiality.** According to the Congressional Record, Inhofe said, “The homosexual marriage lobby, as well as the polygamist lobby, shares the goal of essentially breaking down all State-regulated marriage requirements to just one: consent. In doing so, they are paving the way for legal protection of such repugnant practices as: homosexual marriage, unrestricted sexual conduct between adults and children, group marriage, incest, and bestiality.” [Congressional Record, [6/6/06](#)]

**Inhofe On Repeal Of Don't Ask Don't Tell: “If It's Not Broke, Don't Fix It.”** According to the Tulsa World, “Inhofe, a longtime member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is the only member of the state's delegation who was in Congress when the current law was passed. ‘The military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy that has been in place since 1993 is a policy that works,’ he said. ‘It is one of those things if it's not broke, don't fix it. It has worked very well.’ He said the current approach ‘retains the high morale, camaraderie and standards synonymous with the professionalism of our military forces.’ Inhofe referenced concerns expressed by others that changing the law and policy could bring problems in military recruitment and retention, adding that is ‘something we cannot afford as our forces engage in the war on terrorism.’” [Tulsa World, 2/7/10]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Koch Industries Is Inhofe's Top Contributor, He Received \$101,150 From Koch.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Koch Industries is Sen. James Inhofe's top contributor and he has received \$101,150 since he was first elected in 1994. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [3/9/15](#)]

**The EPW Committee's New Press Secretary Previously Worked For Generation Opportunity.** According to a press release from the Environment & Public Works committee, “Kristina Baum will serve as press secretary and the primary media contact for the EPW Committee. Baum comes from Generation Opportunity where she worked as a Regional Press Secretary in 2014. Her prior experience includes being an Account Executive at DCI Group from 2012 to 2014 with clients in the energy and environment industries, a RITNews reporter and editor in 2012, and a Platts Energy editor from 2007 to 2010.” [Senate Committee Environment & Public Works Press Release, [1/9/15](#)]

- **Generation Opportunity Is A Koch-Backed Youth Group.** According to Politico, “The Koch brothers’ political network spent hundreds of millions to win the White House and the Senate — and came up empty. So they did what any smart business executives would do: ordered up an audit.” [Politico, [2/20/13](#)]

## OTHER OFFENSIVE COMMENTS

**Inhofe Referred To EPA Administrator Carol Browner As “Tokyo Rose.”** According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, “Since joining the U.S. Senate in 1994 after four terms in the House, the conservative Inhofe has reveled in the maverick's role. The former Tulsa mayor once compared Clinton-era EPA Administrator Carol Browner to Tokyo Rose, the World War II radio propagandist. He refuses to hire gay staffers and stalled the nomination of openly gay James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg.” [Philadelphia Inquirer, [11/13/03](#)]

**Inhofe Speculated That Murrah Federal Building Bombing Was Work Of “Middle Eastern Organizations.”**

According to United Press International, “Oklahoma's congressional delegation reacted Thursday to the deadly bombing in Oklahoma City with calls for swift justice and retaliation if a specific country was found responsible. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., interviewed from Oklahoma City on NBC's ‘Today’ show, said he would favor retaliation against any nation found to have sponsored whoever planted the deadly bomb. Inhofe, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said that while it was still too early to speculate on the source of the bomb, there was a likelihood that it had come from Middle Eastern organizations.” [United Press International, 4/20/95]

**Inhofe: “All Terrorists Are Muslims Or Middle Easterners.”** According to the Tulsa World, “Oklahoma members of a Muslim civil liberties group on Friday sought a meeting with U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe to discuss the Oklahoma Republican's comments they believe describe all terrorists as Muslims or Middle Easterners. [...] Expanding his remarks to include the case of the accused Christmas Day bomber over Detroit, Inhofe said government resources should be directed ‘at the target.’ ‘When you hear that not all Middle Easterners or Muslims between the ages of 20 and 35 are terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims or Middle Easterners between the ages of 20 and 35,’ he said. ‘That's by and large true.’” [Tulsa World, [1/23/10](#)]

**Inhofe: “Extreme Liberals” Like Obama “Sometimes Don’t Think You Need A Military.”** According to the Associated Press, “Inhofe accused the Obama administration of ‘disarming the military’ over the past six years, reducing the nation's military budget by billions of dollars. ‘He is a very liberal person,’ Inhofe said of the president. ‘Extreme liberals sometimes don't think you need a military.’” [Associated Press, [12/29/14](#)]

## Banking – Richard Shelby

Sen. Richard Shelby took over as chair of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Shelby has previously served as chair of the Banking Committee and also chaired the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

### SHELBY BLOCKED ATTEMPTS TO REIN IN BIG BANKS

**Shelby Formerly Chaired The Banking Committee From 2003 To 2007.** According to the Montgomery Advertiser, “Both Alabama senators would likely become committee chairmen next year if Republicans reclaim majority control of the Senate in Tuesday's elections. Sen. Richard Shelby would retake the gavel at the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which he chaired from 2003-2007.” [Montgomery Advertiser, [11/1/14](#)]

**Shelby Objected To A Bill Which “Would Ban Commercial Banks From Trading For Their Own Benefit With Taxpayer-Backed Money.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the top-ranking Republican on the Banking Committee, rose to object to a vote on one of the most talked-about amendments, cosponsored by Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). Levin-Merkley would ban commercial banks from trading for their own benefit with taxpayer-backed money.” [Huffington Post, [5/18/10](#)]

**Shelby: “I Would Never Support A Tax” On Banks.** According to American Banker, “‘I believe that the Democrats want a meaningful substantive regulatory reform bill for financial institutions and want to do it right and keep politics out of it as much as we can,’ Shelby said. ‘We are working in good faith. We are talking about concepts, but nothing has crystallized yet.’ Shelby insisted he will not get behind a tax on large banks. ‘I would never support a tax. ... Banks, most of them, not all, have paid’ Troubled Asset Relief Program ‘money back,’ Shelby said. ‘If you have a bank tax, you are going to take money out of the banks and then you ... don't have money to lend.’” [American Banker, 1/29/10]

**Shelby Objected To A Bill “That Would Rein In Predatory Practices Of Payday Lenders” And A Bill That “Would Have Banned Naked Credit Default Swaps, Which Were At The Heart Of The Financial Crisis.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Shelby also objected to an amendment from Sen. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) that would rein in predatory practices of payday lenders and one from Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) that would have banned naked credit default swaps,



which were at the heart of the financial crisis. Dorgan's amendment was expected to fail, but Levin-Merkley had been surging in recent days.” [Huffington Post, [5/18/10](#)]

### **Shelby Worked To Undermine Dodd-Frank And Consumer Protection**

**Shelby: The Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Is A “Legislative Monster” That Places “New Regulatory Burdens On Businesses.”** According to NPR, “The financial reform bill President Obama signed into law Wednesday will mean sweeping changes in the way banks and financial transactions are regulated. [...] But Republicans cast the bill as overreaching regulation by the government. Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) called the 2,300-page bill a ‘legislative monster’ that will place ‘new regulatory burdens on businesses.’ On today's Fresh Air, Binyamin Appelbaum, who covers finance for The New York Times, untangles the complexities of the Dodd-Frank bill — explaining how the measure was constructed, what aspects of the legislation still need to be hashed out by regulators and Congress, and what the bill will mean for consumers, businesses and large financial institutions.” [NPR, [7/21/10](#)]

**Shelby At American Bankers Association Summit: “Safety And Soundness” Of Banks “Trumps The Consumer Finance Whatever.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Shelby wowed the crowd of bankers assembled at the ABA [American Bankers Association] summit, receiving several rounds of applause and a standing ovation at the conclusion of a speech in which he assailed Dodd's bill and re-asserted his belief that the banking sector's profitability is more important than consumer protection. ‘Safety and soundness trumps everything,’ Shelby said to loud applause. ‘It trumps the consumer finance whatever.’” [Huffington Post, [5/18/10](#)]

**Shelby: “From The Beginning I've Always Thought That We Should Not Create A Stand-Alone Consumer Financial Authority.”** According to the Associated Press, “Dodd has been a strong advocate of an empowered consumer agency, but it has skeptics, even among Senate Democrats. Dodd has been working directly with Shelby on that aspect of the bill, but has not made a breakthrough. ‘From the beginning I've always thought that we should not create a stand-alone consumer financial authority,’ [Richard] Shelby said this week. ‘Safety and soundness (of banks) should be number one.’” [Associated Press, 12/16/09]

**In 2011 Shelby Led The Senators Who “Vowed” To Block Anyone Obama Nominated To Head The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “Unless Major Changes” Were Made To The Agency.** According to the Los Angeles Times, “Nearly all Republican senators vowed to block any Obama administration nominee to head the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unless major changes are made to the agency's structure. [...] President Obama still has not nominated a director, a five-year appointment that must be confirmed by the Senate. In all, 44 Republicans — enough to block confirmation — signed a letter about their demands and sent it to Obama on Thursday. [...] ‘The bureau, as currently structured, lacks any semblance of the checks and balances inherent in the Constitution,’ said Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.), who helped organize the letter. ‘Everyone supports consumer protection, but we should never entrust a single person with this much power and public money.’ Shelby said a recess appointment ‘would silence the people's voice.’” [Los Angeles Times, [5/6/11](#)]

- **Los Angeles Times: The Move By Republicans Threatened “To Hobble The Powerful Agency Created Last Year To Protect Consumers In The Financial Marketplace.”** According to the Los Angeles Times, “The move threatens to hobble the powerful agency created last year to protect consumers in the financial marketplace as it prepares to begin operations in July. The bureau was the centerpiece of last year's sweeping overhaul of financial regulations — legislation opposed by most Republicans and industry leaders.” [Los Angeles Times, [5/6/11](#)]

**Shelby Warned That The Nomination Of Richard Cordray To Head The Consumer Protection Bureau Would Be “Dead On Arrival” In The Senate If Obama Did Not Negotiate.** According to an op-ed by Sen. Richard Shelby for the Wall Street Journal, “On July 18, President Obama nominated former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to head the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau created under the Dodd-Frank Act. [...] President Obama has ignored these proposals for months. As a result, Mr. Cordray's nomination is dead on arrival in the Senate and will remain so until these reasonable changes are made. The law allows the administration to delay the bureau's start date for an additional six months. I encourage President Obama to exercise this option and come to the negotiating table.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/21/11](#)]

- **The Day After Shelby Attacked The Consumer Protection Bureau, Goldmans Sachs Donated \$5,000 To Shelby's Leadership PAC, Defend America PAC.** According to Defend America PAC's schedule A disclosure to the FEC, Goldman Sachs donated \$5,000 to the PAC on July 22, 2011. [Federal Election Commission, Accessed [1/8/15](#)]

## **Big Banks Have Bankrolled Shelby**

**Commercial Banks Have Donated Over \$1.1 Million To Richard Shelby.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Richard Shelby Has Received \$1,109,932 from commercial banks since 1989. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/6/15](#)]

**JP Morgan And Citigroup Are Two Of Richard Shelby's All Time Top Contributors.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Richard Shelby Has Received \$145,771 from JP Morgan and \$116,199 from Citigroup since 1989, and the banks included in the list of top five contributors since 1989. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/6/15](#)]

**Shelby Has Received \$72,950 From JP Morgan In The Past Five Years, "Making The Bank His Second-Largest Source Of Campaign Cash."** According to an opinion piece by columnist Dana Milbank for the Washington Post, "Shelby's performance was worth every bit of the \$72,950 JPMorgan Chase and its employees have given him in the past five years, making the bank his second-largest source of campaign cash. It was a remarkable bit of jujitsu: The trading scandal at JPMorgan highlighted the urgent need for tougher regulation of Wall Street, but Shelby's harangue was part of a larger effort to use the scandal as justification to repeal regulations." [Dana Milbank – Washington Post, [5/22/12](#)]

**JP Morgan Chase Admitted It Lost \$2 Billion In Trading Bets In 2012.** According to Bloomberg, "JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon said the firm suffered a \$2 billion trading loss after an 'egregious' failure in a unit managing risks, jeopardizing Wall Street banks' efforts to loosen a federal ban on bets with their own money. [...] Yesterday, he said the timing of the trading blunders 'plays right into the hands of a bunch of pundits out there' who are pushing for a strict version of the proprietary trading ban named for former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker." [Bloomberg, [5/11/12](#)]

- **JP Morgan CEO Admitted To Shelby That Volker Rule Would Have Prevented The Loss.** According to the Alabama Media Group, "Under questioning by other senators, Dimon said he expected some of the employees responsible for the losses would have to return some of their compensation; and that it was 'possible' that the upcoming 'Volcker Rule' barring banks from certain investments would have prevented the bad deals." [Alabama Media Group, [6/12/12](#)]

**Shelby Before JP Morgan Loss: "Not Convinced" Volker Rule "Is Necessary."** According to the New York Times, "A spokesman for Senator Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, the ranking Republican on the Banking Committee, said that while Mr. Shelby 'supports the spirit of the Volcker rule,' he was 'not convinced that the proposal itself is necessary.' The spokesman, Jonathan Graffeo, added: 'Senator Shelby did not receive clear answers during recent hearings as to how proprietary trading contributed to the financial crisis, or why new authority is necessary given authority that bank regulators already have.'" [New York Times, [2/24/10](#)]

**Shelby Tried To Blame JP Morgan Loss On Regulators Despite The Fact That Regulators Were Not Authorized To Oversee The Bank.** According to an opinion by columnist Dana Milbank for the Washington Post, "As the panel held the first hearing on the JPMorgan losses, Sen. Richard Shelby (Ala.), the committee's ranking Republican, glowered at federal regulators and charged that they 'didn't know what was really going on.' 'When did you first learn about these trades?' Shelby inquired. Gary Gensler, head of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, admitted that he had learned about them from press reports. 'Press reports!' Shelby echoed, with mock surprise. He smiled. 'Were you in the dark? Gensler tried to explain that his agency does not yet have authority to regulate the bank, but Shelby interrupted. 'So you really didn't know what was going on . . . until you read the press reports like the rest of us?' he asked again. 'That's what I've said,' Gensler repeated. But Shelby wanted him to keep saying it. 'You didn't know there was a problem there until you read the press reports?'" [Dana Milbank – Washington Post, [5/22/12](#)]

**Dana Milbank: "Industry-Friendly Lawmakers" Like Richard Shelby "Using The Scandal To Discredit Never-Implemented Regulations."** According to an opinion by columnist Dana Milbank for the Washington Post, "Now industry-friendly lawmakers are using the scandal to discredit never-implemented regulations. Although reformers hoped the JPMorgan losses would give them momentum, it's a good bet the company will win the argument, if only because it holds so many IOUs." [Dana Milbank – Washington Post, [5/22/12](#)]

## **Ties To Mortgage Bankers And Freddie Mac**

**Shelby Has Been Criticized For His "Ties To The Mortgage Industry," And "The Generous Campaign Donations He Receives From Financial Services Companies."** According to the New York Times, "But over the years, his critics say,

Mr. Shelby's ties to the mortgage industry and the Alabama real estate market, and the generous campaign donations he receives from financial services companies, have distorted his perspective and led him to delay critical legislative remedies.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**New York Times: Shelby’s Legislative And Business Worlds Often Intersect.** According to the New York Times, “Indeed, Mr. Shelby's legislative and business worlds have often intersected. For instance, while on the Banking Committee, he financed an apartment complex he owns in Tuscaloosa with a \$5 million loan from Freddie Mac, the same government-sponsored mortgage company whose regulation his committee is reshaping.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Has Had Support From The Banking Industry “Since His Early Days In Congress.”** According to the New York Times, “Since his early days in Congress in the 1980s, Mr. Shelby has won support from the banking industry, collecting fees for speeches before industry groups and, since 2000, raising nearly \$1 million from industry powerhouses.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Collected Fees For Speeches In Front Of Industry Groups And, From 2000 To 2008, He Raised Nearly \$1 Million From Industry Powerhouses.”** According to the New York Times, “Since his early days in Congress in the 1980s, Mr. Shelby has won support from the banking industry, collecting fees for speeches before industry groups and, since 2000, raising nearly \$1 million from industry powerhouses.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Has Blocked Legislation That Would Have Restrained Freddie Mac And Fannie Mae “For Years...Allowing The Mortgage Financiers “To Expand Rapidly.”** According to the New York Times, “But Mr. Shelby has for years blocked legislation that would have restrained Freddie Mac and its sibling, Fannie Mae, on the grounds that the bills did not go far enough. In doing so, the mortgage financiers were able to expand rapidly. His positions on other housing issues have frequently been in line with those advocated by the Mortgage Bankers Association, whose legislative agenda was devised in part by Tom Szydlowski, a senior executive at Reilly Mortgage, the bank that arranged Mr. Shelby's \$5 million loan and sold it to Freddie Mac. Mr. Szydlowski joined Reilly a month after the loan to Mr. Shelby.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**New York Times: Shelby’s “Positions On Other Housing Issues Have Frequently Been In Line With Those Advocated By The Mortgage Bankers Association.”** According to the New York Times, “But Mr. Shelby has for years blocked legislation that would have restrained Freddie Mac and its sibling, Fannie Mae, on the grounds that the bills did not go far enough. In doing so, the mortgage financiers were able to expand rapidly. His positions on other housing issues have frequently been in line with those advocated by the Mortgage Bankers Association, whose legislative agenda was devised in part by Tom Szydlowski, a senior executive at Reilly Mortgage, the bank that arranged Mr. Shelby's \$5 million loan and sold it to Freddie Mac. Mr. Szydlowski joined Reilly a month after the loan to Mr. Shelby.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

- **The Mortgage Bankers Association’s Legislative Agenda “Was Devised In Part By Tom Szydlowski, A Senior Executive At Reilly Mortgage, The Bank That Arranged Mr. Shelby's \$5 Million Loan And Sold It To Freddie Mac.”** According to the New York Times, “But Mr. Shelby has for years blocked legislation that would have restrained Freddie Mac and its sibling, Fannie Mae, on the grounds that the bills did not go far enough. In doing so, the mortgage financiers were able to expand rapidly. His positions on other housing issues have frequently been in line with those advocated by the Mortgage Bankers Association, whose legislative agenda was devised in part by Tom Szydlowski, a senior executive at Reilly Mortgage, the bank that arranged Mr. Shelby's \$5 million loan and sold it to Freddie Mac. Mr. Szydlowski joined Reilly a month after the loan to Mr. Shelby.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Mortgage Bankers Association & Shelby Successfully Opposed A Provision In A Senate Bill “That Would Have Allowed Bankruptcy Judges To Lower The Principal On Certain Loans For Homeowners Facing Foreclosure.”** According to the New York Times, “The Mortgage Bankers Association and Mr. Shelby opposed a provision in a Senate bill debated this spring that would have allowed bankruptcy judges to lower the principal on certain loans for homeowners facing foreclosure. Housing advocates viewed the provision as their highest priority, but Mr. Shelby and the mortgage bankers argued it would push up lending costs. It was removed from the measure.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Center For Public Integrity Executive Director Bill Buzenberg On Shelby’s Close Ties To Mortgage Bankers And Freddie Mac: “Even If Everything Is By The Book, It Looks Bad, It Just Smells.”** According to the New York Times, “But Bill Buzenberg, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity, a Washington ethics group, said Mr. Shelby should not be playing a central role on legislation that would affect mortgage bankers and Freddie Mac. ‘Even if everything is by the book, it looks bad, it just smells,’ Mr. Buzenberg said.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Also Owned Real Estate Title Insurance Company In Tuscaloosa.** According to the New York Times, “Questions about the intersection of his two careers, in real estate and politics, have come up before. Just two blocks from the county courthouse here is the headquarters of Tuscaloosa Title, a real estate title insurance company Mr. Shelby has controlled since 1974.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Objected To Proposed Rules From HUD In 2002 To Save Homebuyers Hundreds Of Dollars In Closing Costs By Allowing A Single, Discounted Package Including Appraisal And Title Insurance.** According to the New York Times, “When the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2002 proposed rules to save homebuyers hundreds of dollars in closing costs by allowing a single, discounted package that would include items like the appraisal and title insurance, Mr. Shelby objected, saying the rules would hurt small businesses. Tuscaloosa Title, in a one-story office building that he owns, employs about a dozen people.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

- **HUD, “Under Pressure From Congress,” Withdrew The Proposed Rules.** According to the New York Times, “‘Only the larger institutions would have the market power and volume of business that would permit them to offer volume discounts,’ he [Shelby] said in a 2003 speech to the National Association of Mortgage Brokers. The agency [the department of Housing and Urban Development], under pressure from Congress, ended up withdrawing the proposal.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Six Days After Shelby Pushed Against Raising Taxes “On Private Equity Firms Like Blackstone Group,” Shelby “Collected Nearly \$25,000 In Donations From Blackstone Executives.”** According to the New York Times, “On occasion, the timing of the contributions and Mr. Shelby's official positions have overlapped. Last June, Mr. Shelby pronounced in a television interview that Congress should not increase the taxes on private equity firms like Blackstone Group. Six days later, campaign finance records show, Mr. Shelby collected nearly \$25,000 in donations from Blackstone executives. Mr. Shelby said executives at Blackstone have long supported him. ‘That is not relevant to any decision I made, whether I raise money or don't raise money,’ he said.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

### **Shelby Used His Career In Congress For Personal Profits**

**Shelby’s “Efforts To Steer Federal Money To The University Of Alabama” Even Benefited Shelby Because, “The Money Attracted Students,” And Most Of The Tenants Of His Apartment Complex Were Students.** According to the New York Times, “Even his efforts to steer federal money to the University of Alabama, where a recently built \$60 million science building is named after Mr. Shelby and his wife, Annette, have benefited him. The tens of millions in earmarks have helped the university, his alma mater, grow and attract more students. The tenants of his apartment complex are mostly students.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Became “Considerably Richer In His Years In Congress, With A Net Worth Of \$9 Million To \$32 Million As Of 2007.”** According to the New York Times, “Mr. Shelby has become considerably richer in his years in Congress, with a net worth of \$9 million to \$32 million, according to his 2007 financial disclosure form.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**Shelby Had An Estimated Net Worth Of 11.1 Million In 2013.** According to OpenSecrets, “Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala) ranks 19th in the Senate with an estimated net worth\* of \$11,189,008 in 2013.” [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/23/15](#)]

**Shelby Has Earmarked More Than \$100 Million To Areas Near His Personal Property.** According to the Washington Post, “Shelby has earmarked more than \$100 million toward rebuilding downtown Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he owns an office building. The street in front of the building will be redone as part of phase two of the project. Shelby said there is no conflict between his property and the revitalization project. ‘I have nothing to hide. I make no money out of it,’ he said.” [Washington Post, Accessed [2/23/15](#)]

**In 2008 The “Single Biggest Source” Of Shelby’s Wealth Was A 124-Unit Apartment Complex That He And His Wife Built In Tuscaloosa, Alabama In 1995.** According to the New York Times, “The single biggest source of his new wealth is the 124-unit apartment complex -- complete with a pool and a tennis court -- that he built in Tuscaloosa with his wife in 1995 on land that had been assessed at a few hundred thousand dollars. Now, with the 13 new apartment buildings, it is worth nearly \$8 million, property records show.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**A \$5 Million Mortgage On Shelby’s Apartment Complex, Arranged In October 2002, Was Financed By Freddie Mac.** According to the New York Times, “The financing on the apartments, Yorktown Commons, a few miles from the University of Alabama, shows the complications of serving on the Senate Banking Committee while also developing real estate. A \$5



million mortgage on the apartment complex, arranged in October 2002 by the Reilly Mortgage Group of Virginia, now owned by Wells Fargo Bank, was financed by Freddie Mac. Mr. Shelby said he did not know Freddie Mac would assume his loan. 'This was just a plain-vanilla commercial loan,' said a Wells Fargo official, who asked not to be named because bank rules prohibit public discussion of loans." [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

- **Shelby Has Blocked Legislation That Would Have Restrained Freddie Mac And Fannie Mae "For Years" Allowing The Mortgage Financiers "To Expand Rapidly."** According to the New York Times, "But Mr. Shelby has for years blocked legislation that would have restrained Freddie Mac and its sibling, Fannie Mae, on the grounds that the bills did not go far enough. In doing so, the mortgage financiers were able to expand rapidly. His positions on other housing issues have frequently been in line with those advocated by the Mortgage Bankers Association, whose legislative agenda was devised in part by Tom Szydlowski, a senior executive at Reilly Mortgage, the bank that arranged Mr. Shelby's \$5 million loan and sold it to Freddie Mac. Mr. Szydlowski joined Reilly a month after the loan to Mr. Shelby." [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

## **SHELBY PLACED A HOLD ON ALL NOMINEES FOR "HOME-STATE PORK"**

**Headline: "Sen. Richard Shelby Of Alabama Holding Up Obama Nominees For Home-State Pork."** [Washington Post, [2/6/10](#)]

**In 2010 Shelby Placed A Blanket Hold On All Executive Nominations To Pressure The Obama Administration On Issues Affecting His Home State.** According to the National Journal, "Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., has placed a blanket hold on all executive nominations on the Senate calendar in an effort to win concessions from the Obama administration and Pentagon on a variety of fronts affecting his home state, according to aides to Senate Majority Leader Reid." [National Journal, [2/5/10](#)]

- **National Journal: "A Blanket Hold Represents A Far More Aggressive Use Of The Power Than Is Normal."** According to the National Journal, "While holds are frequent, Senate aides said a blanket hold represents a far more aggressive use of the power than is normal. 'He should not be holding up 70-plus nominees for a parochial issue,' a Democratic aide said. 'They're qualified and they should be moving forward.'" [National Journal, [2/5/10](#)]

**Shelby Wanted The Outcome Of Pentagon's Bidding Process For Air-To-Air Refueling Tankers To Result In The Creation Of Jobs In Mobile, Alabama.** According to Politico, "Alabama Republican Sen. Richard Shelby has placed a unilateral hold on all of President Barack Obama's executive branch nominees in an apparent protest over home state concerns. Shelby is frustrated over the Pentagon's bidding process for air-to-air refueling tankers, which could lead to the creation of jobs in Mobile, Ala. And spokesman Jonathan Graffeo said in a statement the senator is also 'deeply concerned' that the administration 'will not release' funds already appropriated for a Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center to be built in Alabama." [Politico, [2/5/10](#)]

**Shelby Also Wanted The Administration To Release' Funds "Already Appropriated For A Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center" In Alabama.** According to Politico, "Alabama Republican Sen. Richard Shelby has placed a unilateral hold on all of President Barack Obama's executive branch nominees in an apparent protest over home state concerns. Shelby is frustrated over the Pentagon's bidding process for air-to-air refueling tankers, which could lead to the creation of jobs in Mobile, Ala. And spokesman Jonathan Graffeo said in a statement the senator is also 'deeply concerned' that the administration 'will not release' funds already appropriated for a Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center to be built in Alabama." [Politico, [2/5/10](#)]

**Shelby Claimed That His Reasons For Placing The Hold Included "Frustrations With The Air Force's Handling Of The Competition For An Aerial Refueling Tanker."** According to the National Journal, "Earlier in the day, a spokesman for Shelby said the senator has placed holds on 'several pending nominees due to unaddressed national security concerns,' including frustrations with the Air Force's handling of the competition for an aerial refueling tanker. The spokesman did not respond to later requests for comment about the blanket hold. Northrop Grumman Corp. and EADS, the European consortium behind Airbus, and Boeing Co. are vying for the high-stakes contract, potentially worth \$40 billion. The Northrop/EADS team would build the planes in Mobile, Ala., but has threatened to pull out of the competition unless the Air Force makes changes to a draft request for proposals." [National Journal, [2/5/10](#)]

- **Northrop Grumman And EADS Had Promised That, If Given The Air Force Contract, It Would Build Planes In Alabama, But Threatened To Pull Out Of The Running Unless Changes Were Made To A Draft Request For**

**Proposals.** According to the National Journal, “Earlier in the day, a spokesman for Shelby said the senator has placed holds on ‘several pending nominees due to unaddressed national security concerns,’ including frustrations with the Air Force's handling of the competition for an aerial refueling tanker. The spokesman did not respond to later requests for comment about the blanket hold. Northrop Grumman Corp. and EADS, the European consortium behind Airbus, and Boeing Co. are vying for the high-stakes contract, potentially worth \$40 billion. The Northrop/EADS team would build the planes in Mobile, Ala., but has threatened to pull out of the competition unless the Air Force makes changes to a draft request for proposals.” [National Journal, [2/5/10](#)]

**Shelby Also Tried To Use The Hold To Pressure The Administration To Build An Earmarked Alabama-Based FBI Center To Analyze Improvised Explosive Devices.** According to the National Journal, “In addition to the tanker issue, Shelby's spokesman said he is frustrated that the Obama administration won't build an Alabama-based FBI center to analyze improvised explosive devices. Shelby secured a \$45 million earmark in the FY08 omnibus appropriations bill for a Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center to be set up at the Army's Redstone Arsenal.” [National Journal, [2/5/10](#)]

- **Shelby Accused The Administration Of “Coddling” Terrorists.** According to the National Journal, “Sen. Shelby will continue to work with the FBI to give them the capability to coordinate intelligence as well as forensic and technical exploitation related to IEDs, but this administration's coddling of terrorists makes this an uphill effort,’ the spokesman said. ‘He has made the administration aware of these concerns and is willing to discuss them at any time.’” [National Journal, [2/5/10](#)]

## **SHELBY SPENT DONORS’ MONEY ON HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY WHILE LEAVING FELLOW REPUBLICANS HIGH AND DRY**

**Washington Post: Shelby “Reimbursed Himself And His Wife From His Campaign And Leadership PACs More Than Half A Million Dollars To Live The High Life,” Including “Swanky Hotel Stays.”** According to the Washington Post, “Sen. Richard Shelby, who could become chairman of the Senate banking committee if the GOP wins the Senate this election, enjoys top-dollar restaurants and swanky hotel stays. And since 2008 he’s reimbursed himself and his wife from his campaign and leadership PACs more than half a million dollars to live the high life.” [Washington Post, [10/1/14](#)]

**Shelby Spent The Money To “Treat Himself And Donors To Upscale Dinners At Washington Establishments.”** According to the Washington Post, “The Alabama Republican was recently called out by the Wall Street Journal as a stingy lawmaker who hoards contributions and doesn’t share with his more vulnerable colleagues. Now an analysis by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) shows that Shelby is spending that money to treat himself and donors to upscale dinners at Washington establishments, such as The Palm, Bobby Van’s Grill, The Source, Charlie Palmer’s Steakhouse, Citronelle, Bourbon Steak and the Capital Grille.” [Washington Post, [10/1/14](#)]

**Shelby “Amassed \$17.8 Million” But Donated “A Mere \$17,400 From His Cash Pile For The National Republican Senatorial Committee” In 2014.** According to the Wall Street Journal, “Mr. Shelby has amassed \$17.8 million in his war chest, according to his campaign committee's second-quarter filing with the Federal Election Commission. His committee has spent about \$179,000 this cycle, which includes \$4,400 at the Senate Gift Shop and \$1,000 at Chick-fil-A. That's a lot of cole slaw and chicken nuggets. The Senate baron has also rung up \$10,400 at Capitol Hill's posh private 116 Club. Yet the 80-year-old incumbent has donated a mere \$17,400 from his cash pile for the National Republican Senatorial Committee in a year where Senate control hangs in the balance. The fifth-term senator doesn't face voters for another two years and hasn't had a formidable challenge since his election in 1986. It's plausible that Mr. Shelby is hoarding the cash in anticipation of a primary challenge.” [Wall Street Journal, [9/24/14](#)]

**National Review Contributing Editor Quin Hillyer: “Shelby Is Sitting On An \$18 Million Political War Chest While Republicans Scrap To Retake The Senate” In 2014.** According to an opinion by contributing editor for the National Review Quin Hillyer for AL.com, “Recent stories in the ‘Wall Street Journal’ and the ‘Washington Post’ blasted Shelby for his lavish self-indulgence related to political fund-raising and for relative stinginess in distributing donations. Although his office has fiercely fought those narratives, the stories carry weight. Shelby is sitting on an \$18 million political war chest while Republicans scrap to retake the Senate. [...] This is par for Shelby's course. He sat on \$10 million in previous election cycles, including when Republicans squandered the Senate majority by losing three razor's edge races in 2006.” [AL.com, [10/17/14](#)]

- **Hillyer: “Shelby, 80, Apparently Is More Determined To Keep His Senate Seat Until Age 88 Than To Help Candidates Who Are Allies For His Conservative Beliefs.”** According to an opinion by contributing editor for the National Review Quin Hillyer for AL.com, “Shelby, 80, apparently is more determined to keep his Senate seat until age 88

than to help candidates who are allies for his conservative beliefs - or, for that matter, who will help him help Alabama via his ascension to the powerful committee spots. Those ascensions, of course, depend on Republicans taking a Senate majority from the Obama Democrats.” [AL.com, [10/17/14](#)]

## **SHELBY INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI FOR INTELLIGENCE LEAKS**

**Shelby Chaired The Intelligence Committee From 1997 To 2001.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “A fifth-generation Alabamian and University of Alabama alumnus, state loyalty flows through Shelby’s crimson blood. So do conservative politics. Party loyalty is another matter. First elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986 as a Democrat, Shelby, a lawyer by trade whose political philosophy has typically veered right, bolted to the Republican Party in 1994 when the GOP seized a Senate majority. The switch has generally served Shelby well. From 1997 to 2001, he presided over the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence as chairman.” [Center for Responsive Politics, [11/16/09](#)]

**Shelby Was Investigated By The FBI For The “Possible Leak Of Classified Information Concerning A National Security Agency Intercept...Indicating Possible Terror Attacks.”** According to the New York Times, “A tall, imposing man, Mr. Shelby has adopted a much lower profile in the last few years after he and his office were the targets of an F.B.I. criminal investigation into the possible leak of classified information concerning a National Security Agency intercept on Sept. 10, 2001, indicating possible terror attacks in the works. No one was charged in the case, but the leak provoked tensions with the White House.” [New York Times, [5/9/08](#)]

**The Investigation Found That Shelby “Divulged Classified Intercepted Messages To The Media When He Was On The Senate Select Committee On Intelligence.”** According to the Washington Post, “Federal investigators concluded that Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) divulged classified intercepted messages to the media when he was on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, according to sources familiar with the probe.” [Washington Post, [8/5/04](#)]

**Fox News Chief Political Correspondent Carl Cameron Told FBI Investigators That Shelby “Verbally Divulged” The Classified Information To Him During 2002, Interview.** According to the Washington Post, “Specifically, Fox News chief political correspondent Carl Cameron confirmed to FBI investigators that Shelby verbally divulged the information to him during a June 19, 2002, interview, minutes after Shelby’s committee had been given the information in a classified briefing, according to the sources, who declined to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the case.” [Washington Post, [8/5/04](#)]

**The Leak Involved Messages Intercepted By The National Security Agency.** According to the Washington Post, “The disclosure involved two messages that were intercepted by the National Security Agency on the eve of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks but were not translated until Sept. 12. The Arabic-language messages said ‘The match is about to begin’ and ‘Tomorrow is zero hour.’ The Washington Post, citing senior U.S. intelligence officials, reported the same messages in its June 20, 2002, editions. National security officials were outraged by the leak, and moments after the CNN broadcast a CIA official chastised committee members who had by then reconvened to continue the closed-door hearing.” [Washington Post, [8/5/04](#)]

**The Breach Convinced Intelligence Officials That “Congress Could Not Be Trusted With Classified Information.”** According to the Washington Post, “Intelligence officials, who consider intercepted communications among the most closely guarded secrets, said the breach proved that Congress could not be trusted with classified information. But experts in electronic surveillance said the information about the NSA’s intercepts contained nothing harmful because it did not reveal the source of the information or the methods used to gather it.” [Washington Post, [8/5/04](#)]

## **OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS**

**Shelby Questioned Obama’s Citizenship: “His Father Was Kenyan And They Said He Was Born In Hawaii, But I Haven’t Seen Any Birth Certificate.”** According to the Cullman Times, “Comments Sen. Richard Shelby made in Cullman recently concerning a rumor that President Barack Obama is not a natural born United States citizen garnered national attention Monday. During a community meeting at the All Steak Restaurant on Saturday, a local resident asked Shelby if there was any truth to the rumor, which appeared during the presidential campaign. ‘Well his father was Kenyan and they said he was born in Hawaii, but I haven’t seen any birth certificate,’ Shelby said. ‘You have to be born in America to be president.’” [Cullman Times, 2/24/09]

**Shelby Defended State Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore's Defiance Of A Federal Order Upholding Same-Sex Marriage In Alabama.** According to the USA Today, "U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby is defending a decision by the Alabama Supreme Court's chief justice to contradict a federal order upholding same-sex marriage, while acknowledging that the state's probate judges face a 'confusing' situation. 'I think Judge (Roy) Moore ... was concerned that there's been no final ruling on that,' Shelby said Monday as he met with business leaders in Montgomery. 'I think his point was, and is, that there hasn't been a Supreme Court ruling on it. But there will be, sooner or later.'" [USA Today, [2/24/15](#)]

**Shelby Said Raising The Social Security Retirement Age Would "Do Wonders."** According to the Gadsden Times, "Re-elected in November to his fifth term, [Richard] Shelby said upping the retirement age would 'prolong Social Security' and 'would do wonders.' He said the retirement age could be increased over several years to perhaps 70 or 72, because people are living longer and remaining productive longer. 'It would prolong the Social Security fund for the baby boomers, is what I'm saying,' Shelby said. Baby boomers are the generation born between 1946 and 1964, and the first of those reached retirement age this year." [Gadsden Times, [1/13/11](#)]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Koch Industries Has Donated \$20,000 To Richard Shelby's Leadership PAC, Defend America PAC.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Koch Industries donated \$10,000 in the 2010 election cycle, \$5,000 in the 2012 cycle, and \$5,000 in the 2014 cycle to Defend America PAC. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [1/8/15](#)]

## Appropriations – Thad Cochran

Sen. Thad Cochran took over as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the 114th session of Congress. He previously chaired the committee from 2005 to 2007. He also chaired the Agriculture committee from 2003 to 2005. Cochran was elected to the Senate in 1978 and is the third-most senior Senator and second most-senior Republican member.

## COCHRAN LOVES PORK BARREL SPENDING

**Cochran: "I Think Earmarks Have Gotten A Bad Name."** According to the Washington Post, "In the Republican primary in Mississippi, earmarks were always going to be Cochran's secret weapon ... or his worst enemy. Chris McDaniel's entire campaign was premised on the idea that government spending needed to be reined in, and he was running against the Senate's ur-spender. [...] 'I think earmarks have gotten a bad name,' Cochran told NPR in May. 'For those who are opposed to that, [they] are for the federal agencies making the decision. This is supposed to be government of and by and for the people — not for the bureaucrats.'" [Washington Post, [6/25/14](#)]

**Fox News: Cochran Is "The King Of Pork."** According to Fox News, "And the king of pork is ... Sen. Thad Cochran. The Mississippi Republican ranks at the top this year of the Citizens Against Government Waste's list of congressional earmarkers. Cochran, the ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, is typically a leading pork-seeker and in 2010 had his name on 240 projects worth \$490.2 million." [Fox News, [4/14/10](#)]

**Cochran Had 263 Earmarks In The 2010 Spending Bill.** According to the Washington Post, "The port city of Pascagoula on Mississippi's Gulf Coast wants to build a beach promenade, with new benches, lush landscaping and a lighted pathway for joggers, cyclists and dog walkers. So the municipality of 24,000 hired a pair of Washington lobbyists. The city shelled out \$40,000 a year, according to public records, to retain Jeffrey Brooks and Wayne Weidie. They are former top aides to Gulf Coast congressmen and frequent donors to Mississippi's elected officials. The lobbyists parlayed their connections and know-how to secure a \$900,000 earmark for the beach promenade development in the \$1.2 trillion spending bill introduced this week in the Senate. The earmark was one of hundreds sponsored by Mississippi's two Republican senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker. [...] Cochran and Wicker each have more earmarks in the bill than almost every other senator. Cochran sponsored 263 earmarks worth \$522.2 million, while Wicker has 223 earmarks worth \$415.4 million, according to an analysis by Taxpayers for Common Sense, a nonpartisan watchdog group." [Washington Post, [12/16/10](#)]

**Cochran Requested \$837 Million, "The Largest Amount, By Far," In Earmarks In The 2008 Appropriations Bill.** According to the New York Times, "The window for Congressional earmarks is open once again. Lawmakers from both parties are inviting constituents and lobbyists to recommend pet projects that could be financed by the federal government as the 2008 earmark season gets under way. Undeterred by criticism from President Bush and Senator John McCain, the likely Republican presidential nominee, lawmakers have told outside groups to file all requests for earmarks within two weeks, so lawmakers can submit their proposals to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by mid-March. [...] But the largest



amount, by far, went to Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, the senior Republican on the committee, who obtained \$837 million. Many of Mr. Cochran's requests were made jointly with other lawmakers. The amounts tend to be larger for senators because there are fewer of them.” [New York Times, [2/14/08](#)]

### **Cochran Backed \$700 Million To Relocate Private Rail Company’s Railroads Away From Mississippi Coast.**

According to the New York Times, “Tucked inside an emergency spending bill that the Senate will take up this week are provisions far afield from the legislation's main purpose of paying for the war in Iraq and hurricane recovery. There are farm-program provisions totaling \$4 billion, for instance, along with \$700 million to relocate a rail line in Mississippi and \$1.1 billion for fishery projects, including a \$15 million ‘seafood promotion strategy.’ [...] The chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which produced the bill, is Senator Thad Cochran, a Republican from the storm-stricken state of Mississippi. Mr. Cochran is one of the strongest supporters of the \$700 million provision to move a long stretch of the CSX cross-country railroad, which was damaged by last year's storms, a few miles inland, away from the Mississippi coast. The project has drawn intense and public criticism from another Republican, Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, who in remarks earlier this month called it ‘ludicrous.’ But Mr. Cochran and his Republican colleague from Mississippi, Senator Trent Lott, contend that moving the line inland would make it less vulnerable to future hurricanes and would encourage other businesses to locate farther from the coast.” [New York Times, [4/25/06](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Railroad To Nowhere” Is The “Poster Project For Pork-Barrel Spending.”** According to an editorial in the Washington Post, “The \$700 Million ‘Railroad to Nowhere’ is this year's poster project for pork-barrel spending. The project was inserted by Mississippi Republican Sens. Thad Cochran and Trent Lott into the emergency spending bill that the Senate is debating this week, a measure that's supposed to pay for operations in Iraq and the cost of Hurricane Katrina cleanup. The railroad hardly offers a case for emergency spending -- or spending at all, for that matter. Yet the most disturbing aspect of the Great Train Robbery, 2006 edition, is that it's not an aberration. The stretch of track the project would replace does go somewhere, but, like last year's Alaskan ‘Bridge to Nowhere,’ the project reflects lawmakers' arrogance and irresponsibility. The track was indeed damaged by the hurricane -- and already repaired, at a cost of \$300 million, which the report of the Senate Appropriations Committee (chaired by Mr. Cochran) somehow neglects to mention.” [Editorial – Washington Post, [4/26/06](#)]

### **Former Staffers Also Got In On The Earmark Action**

**Former Cochran Staffers Got Earmarks In The 2009 Defense Spending Bill.** According to the Washington Post, “In Cochran's case, the proposed earmarks would benefit at least two entities that hired his former aides. The manager of Mississippi operations for Colorado-based Circadence is R. Bradley Prewitt, whose biography on the company's Web site states that he was counsel and campaign manager to Cochran from 1997 to 2002. The University of Southern Mississippi, which would receive \$10.8 million in Cochran earmarks, paid \$40,000 to a firm that employs Cochran's former legislative director, James Lofton, to help lobby on defense appropriations, according to the firm's Senate registration.” [Washington Post, [9/29/09](#)]

- **Cochran Earmarked \$6 Million To Circadence Corp. In The 2009 Defense Spending Bill.** According to the Washington Post, “Cochran, the ranking Republican on the Appropriations subcommittee on defense, also added \$12 million in earmarked spending for Raytheon Corp., whose officials have contributed \$10,000 to his campaign since 2007. He earmarked nearly \$6 million in military funding for Circadence Corp., whose officers -- including a former Cochran campaign aide -- contributed \$10,000 in the same period.” [Washington Post, [9/29/09](#)]
- **Circadence Lobbyist Was Cochran’s Former Campaign Manager, R. Bradley Prewitt.** According to Circadence’s website, “R. Bradley Prewitt is Vice President of Government Relations and Mississippi Operations for Circadence. [...] Prior to his work at Circadence, Mr. Prewitt served for five years as counsel and campaign manager for U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS). During his tenure, Mr. Prewitt served the Senator as a strategic leader for projects involving Mississippi-based universities, communities, health care institutions, companies, and research and development enterprises.” [Circadence.com. Accessed [1/12/15](#)]
- **Several Other Prewitt Clients Got Earmarks From Cochran.** According to the Commercial Appeal, “The nonprofit Mississippi Technology Alliance, for example, paid Prewitt \$80,000 for lobbying work in 2007, and Cochran delivered the organization a \$1 million earmark. Similarly, Prewitt lobbied for the University of Mississippi for another \$80,000 fee, and Cochran benefited Ole Miss by sponsoring four earmarks worth more than \$6 million.” [Commercial Appeal, [6/8/08](#)]

## **LOBBYISTS POURED IN MONEY TO HELP COCHRAN KEEP HIS SEAT**

**ABC News: “Thad Cochran’s FEC Reports Read Like Checklists Of Every Type Of PAC Imaginable.”** According to ABC News, “Thad Cochran’s FEC reports read like checklists of every type of PAC imaginable. [...] Cochran has basked in PAC money while enjoying healthy support from a cadre of powerful outside-spending groups, led by the NRA and highlighted by the American Hospital Association, the National Association of Realtors, and pro-Cochran super PAC called Mississippi Conservatives, which have spent \$2.23 million\* backing Cochran and opposing McDaniel.” [ABC News, [6/25/14](#)]

**Lobbyists Gave Almost \$500,000 To Cochran’s Reelection Campaign.** According to the Huffington Post, “Lobbyists in Washington are pouring money into Sen. Thad Cochran’s (R-Miss.) runoff campaign, helping the six-term incumbent with a long history of securing funds for well-represented industries in Washington battle his toughest challenge in more than three decades. Registered lobbyists and lobbying firms’ political action committees have given nearly \$500,000 to Cochran’s primary and runoff campaigns against tea party-backed state Sen. Chris McDaniel, according to Federal Election Commission records reviewed by The Huffington Post. McDaniel’s strength against Cochran in last month’s Senate primary raises crony capitalism as an issue, as it has been in other Republican Party primaries including the defeat of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.).” [Huffington Post, [06/18/14](#)]

**Former Sen. Trent Lott, Lobbyist For Huntington Ingalls Industries, Shot An Ad For Cochran’s Reelection.**

According to Time, “Over the last three years, former Mississippi senator Trent Lott’s lobbying firm has been paid a total of \$680,000 to represent the interests of shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc., and his old Mississippi colleague Sen. Thad Cochran has always had an open door, working to approve \$6 billion in contracts for Huntington Ingalls in the last two years alone for Coast Guard Cutters, Navy Destroyers and an amphibious transport dock. [...] Now Lott, the lobbyist, is paying Cochran, the appropriator, back by shooting a 30-second campaign ad on his behalf. In a new ad released today, Lott encourages Mississippians to vote for Cochran in a primary run-off with Tea Party insurgent Chris McDaniel. [...] It screams conflict of interest. Because if you didn’t know Lott and Cochran were lifelong friends, it could look like Lott is working to save his gravy train. After all, Lott’s firm also represents Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, two other companies that benefit from Cochran’s work as the top Republican on the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.” [Time, [6/12/14](#)]

**Huntington Ingalls Gave \$22,700 To Cochran In 2014.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Huntington Ingalls Industries gave \$22,700 to Chad Cochran in the 2014 election cycle. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [2/23/15](#)]

**Ingalls Shipbuilding Parent Company Merged With Northrop Grumman In 2001.** According to the Associated Press, “The head of Northrop Grumman Corp. met with employees at Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding the same day his company completed its merger with Litton Industries. Kent Kresa, Northrop Grumman’s president, chairman and chief executive, took a whirlwind tour Tuesday of the Pascagoula shipyard. ‘It’s a bit humbling that Northrop Grumman is now the largest private employer in the state of Mississippi,’ Kresa said, referring to Ingalls’ more than 10,000 employees. [...] Los Angeles-based Northrop Grumman said the \$3.8 billion merger with Litton Industries bolsters its portfolio of electronics offerings and creates a top-tier global defense industry enterprise.” [Associated Press, 4/4/01]

**Cochran Secured \$500 Million Earmark For Northrop Grumman.** According to an opinion by columnist Robert Novak for RealClearPolitics, “An earmark in the bill’s Senate version would give \$500 million to Northrop Grumman to reimburse cost overruns on U.S. Navy shipbuilding contracts caused by Katrina damage at the Mississippi Gulf Coast shipyards in Pascagoula and Gulfport. If the bill had been completed last week, money for the highly profitable defense contractor would not have been there -- an incentive for Northrop Grumman to lobby all the harder this week. [...] The Northrop Grumman earmark was inserted by the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman himself, Thad Cochran of Mississippi. That once would have guaranteed passage without public notice, even though the Defense Department and the Navy oppose the spending as wasteful.” [Robert Novak - RealClearPolitics, [5/15/06](#)]

- **Northrop Spun Off Shipbuilding Business In 2011.** According to the New York Times, “Northrop Grumman’s board approved the spinoff of its struggling shipyards to stockholders after making changes to ease Navy concerns about the deal, Pentagon and industry officials said on Tuesday. [...] But while the spinoff makes sense for Northrop, the Pentagon could have less leverage over the operations if the new company performs poorly. Analysts said the Navy would have to think twice about withdrawing contracts from Huntington Ingalls if that would result in a weakening of the company’s finances. [...] Northrop’s Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and Mr. Petu said the new company could get in trouble if a similar disaster struck.” [New York Times, [3/15/11](#)]

**Cochran Aide Convicted For Ties To Abramoff**

**Cochran Aide Ann Copland Was Convicted For Trading Legislative Favors To Jack Abramoff.** According to the Washington Post, “A longtime former aide to Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) was sentenced Wednesday to 75 days in a halfway house and 75 days of home detention for trading legislative favors for more than \$25,000 in tickets and gifts from the firm of convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Ann Copland pleaded guilty in March 2009 to one count of conspiracy to commit honest services fraud before U.S. District Judge Richard W. Roberts of the District, acknowledging that she sought to abuse the public trust by manipulating spending legislation for Abramoff and his clients from 2002 to 2004. Copland worked for 29 years for Cochran, now the senior Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee.” [Washington Post, [1/6/11](#)]

**Abramoff: “She'll Get Everything She Wants.”** According to the Washington Post, “Discussion of tickets often accompanied requests for official action or information on legislation. In 2002, [Ann] Copland requested tickets to Paul McCartney and Green Day concerts and Washington Capitals games. She also asked for the circus, but wrote, ‘I’m only interested in the floor for that event.’ The request surprised even some on the Abramoff team, with one lobbyist replying, ‘Wow.’ But when the chain of e-mails was copied to Abramoff, he replied on March 11, 2002: ‘She’ll get everything she wants.’” [Washington Post, [2/21/09](#)]

- **Cochran Continued To Pay Copland After She Left Washington, She Got A Job At Mississippi Agency Backed By Cochran.** According to the Associated Press, “[Ann] Copland abruptly left Cochran’s office last spring after Abramoff prosecutors had netted a dozen convictions in the scandal, including several against congressional staffers under similar circumstances. In March, she took a state job at Mississippi Public Broadcasting, an agency that Cochran has strongly supported. Cochran kept her on his congressional payroll for almost two months after she started the new job, giving her a combined government salary equivalent to more than \$230,000 a year. Cochran’s office said she worked both jobs simultaneously — one in Mississippi and one in Washington — while transitioning out of his office. They also said some of the pay was for unused leave. Last month, Copland left the state job and moved back to Washington, telling associates that she needed to focus on the investigation.” [Associated Press, [2/11/09](#)]

## TOP CONTRIBUTORS

**Cochran Has Gotten More Than \$2.3 Million From Agribusiness Sector During His Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Cochran has gotten \$2,340,108 from the agribusiness sector during his career. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [2/23/14](#)]

**Cochran Has Received More Than \$1.3 Million From Finance, Insurance, And Real Estate Sector.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Cochran has gotten 1,382,923 from the finance, insurance, and real estate sector during his career. [Center for Responsive Politics, [2/23/14](#)]

## OTHER EXTREME POSITIONS

**Cochran Backed Legislation To Prevent EPA From Requiring Companies To Get Permits Before Spraying Pesticides In Waterways.** According to the Times-Picayune, “The Senate Agriculture Committee approved legislation last week that would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from requiring permits for spraying pesticides in waterways already approved under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., said that spraying is needed to reduce the threat of disease-carrying mosquitoes, and delays to obtain EPA permits are unacceptable. “The flooding this spring has heightened concerns about the public health risks associated with mosquitoes and other insect infestations,” Cochran said.” [Times-Picayune, [6/25/11](#)]

- **Former Cochran Aide Is A Lobbyist For Pesticide Industry.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Thomas Hunt Shipman was an aide to Cochran from 1992 to 2001 and later served as the Staff Director of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Committee from 2003 to 2004. Since 2006, Simpson has been a lobbyist with Cornerstone Government Affairs. According to its website, Cornerstone Government Affairs lobbies for CropLife America, a trade group made up of pesticide producers. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/12/15](#); Cornerstone Government Affairs, Accessed [1/12/15](#)]

**Cochran Secured Millions In Earmark In For A Mississippi Health Company.** According to the Mississippi Business Journal, “The Delta Health Alliance has paid an average of \$272,000 the past four years for an administrative contract with the Delta Council. [...] Also in 2008, Cochran was instrumental in securing a \$25 million earmark from HRSA for DHA, in the form of a grant. In 2009, Cochran used the same method to secure \$26 million for DHA; in 2010, he secured \$35 million.” [Mississippi Business Journal, [12/25/11](#)]

- **Cochran Secured Millions For Mississippi Health Care Providers In 2007 Spending Bill.** According to the Clarion-Ledger, “Cochran, the top ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, sponsored many projects. They include \$5 million for a new auditorium and to expand operations at the University of Mississippi's National Center for Natural Products Research and \$2.3 million for construction at the university's School of Pharmacy. Cochran also sponsored a \$3 million earmark to build and renovate the Arthur C. Guyton Laboratory Research Building at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Cochran also sponsored \$250,000 for Mississippi State University's Tissue Engineering Research Center, \$400,000 for the Mississippi Primary Care Association in Jackson, \$150,000 for the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation and \$250,000 for Jackson State University's Southern Institute for Mental Health Advocacy Research and Training.” [Clarion-Ledger, 11/8/07]

**Cochran Didn't Sign Senate Apology Related To Lynching.** According to the New York Times, “Last week, the Senate issued a formal apology to lynching victims and their descendants, marking the first time Congress had apologized to African-Americans for any reason. The intent was to erase what lawmakers called a stain on the Senate's history: its repeated refusal, throughout the first half of the 20th century, to make lynching a federal crime. [...] Absent were Lamar Alexander of Tennessee; Thad Cochran of Mississippi; John Cornyn of Texas; Mike Enzi of Wyoming; Judd Gregg of New Hampshire; Trent Lott of Mississippi; John Sununu of New Hampshire; and Craig Thomas of Wyoming. [...] ‘I don't think I'll get in the business of apologizing for acts that previous Senates took,’ Senator Cochran said.” [New York Times, [6/19/05](#)]

**Cochran Backed Constitutional Ban On Same-Sex Marriage.** According to Gannet News Service, “Senate Republicans, including Trent Lott and Thad Cochran, suffered a major legislative defeat Wednesday when a proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage failed on a procedural vote. Lott and Cochran were early supporters of the controversial measure, which proposed amending the Constitution to add the phrase, ‘Marriage in the United States shall consist of a union between a man and a woman.’ [...] ‘I favor the proposed constitutional amendment because I think that it would be the most appropriate way to achieve a national consensus on this important subject,’ Cochran said.” [Gannet News Service, 7/14/04]

**Cochran Voted Against Repeal Of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.** According to the Clarion-Ledger, “With President Barack Obama's signature Wednesday morning, the countdown has started for the last days of the military's 17-year-old ban on openly gay soldiers serving in the armed forces. Repealing ‘don't ask, don't tell’ has drawn mixed reactions from Mississippians. Mississippi's two Republican senators - Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker - voted against the proposal. ‘We were advised this was going to create conflict between those trying to inspire morale and those trying to create new rules in regards to (repealing DADT),’ Cochran said when reached by phone.” [Clarion-Ledger, 12/23/10]

**Cochran Bragged That He Is Only “One Of Three Senators In History To Vote Against Every Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill That Sought To Provide Amnesty.”** According to Cochran's campaign website, “Thad has consistently voted against inadequate immigration legislation. He even voted against his friend Ronald Reagan's amnesty bill in 1986. In fact, he is one of three Senators in history to vote against every comprehensive immigration reform bill that sought to provide amnesty to those who have entered our country illegally (1986, 2006, 2007, 2013).” [ThadForMississippi.com, Accessed [2/23/15](#)]

**Cochran Voted To Uphold President Reagan's Veto Of Sanctions Against Apartheid South Africa.** According to the Daily Beast, “The young Republican saw injustice in South Africa. He thought Reagan was wrong, so he joined the 31 Republican senators who sided with Democrats in voting to override Reagan's veto of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act. [...] In 2013, voting to end apartheid seems like a no-brainer. But in the Republican-controlled Senate of Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond, McConnell showed courage as he stepped over to the right side of history (The only Republican senators who voted to uphold the veto and still serve in the Senate are Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch and Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran.)” [Daily Beast, [12/10/13](#)]

## Agriculture - Pat Roberts

Sen. Pat Roberts took over as chair of the Agriculture Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Previously he chaired of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Before his Senate career Roberts served in the House of Representatives where he chaired the House Agriculture Committee.

**ROBERTS WENT FROM CHAMPION OF FOOD STAMPS TO SLASHER**



### **In 2002, Roberts Was One Of The “Most Outspoken Opponents” Of Turning Food Stamps Into Block Grants.**

According to the New York Times, “Five states could eliminate the food stamp program and receive lump sums of federal money to feed poor people in any way they wanted under a new provision of the welfare bill coming to a vote this week in the House of Representatives. A similar proposal, part of the House Republican manifesto known as the Contract With America, touched off a furor in 1995. It was dropped from the welfare bill that President Bill Clinton eventually signed in 1996. [...] One of the most outspoken opponents of a block grant for food stamps in 1995 was Pat Roberts, the Kansas Republican who was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and is now a senator.” [New York Times, [5/14/02](#)]

**Roberts Proposed Cutting \$36 Billion From Food Stamps.** According to McClatchy, “Once hailed as the savior of food stamps, Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts has introduced a bill to cut \$36 billion from the federal aid program over 10 years. [...] Roberts said in an interview that the program must reform now or face more drastic changes down the road. ‘We have a program that could self-implode if we’re not careful. I don’t want to see that happen,’ he said.” [McClatchy, [3/21/13](#)]

## **ROBERTS’ FREEDOM TO FARM ACT SEEN AS A FAILURE**

**Roberts’ “Hallmark” Legislation, The Freedom To Farm Act Of 1996, “Failed To Transition Farmers Off Subsidies As Intended.”** According to McClatchy, “It doesn’t help that Roberts’ signature legislative achievements are a mixed bag. His hallmark Freedom to Farm Act of 1996 deregulated agriculture for the first time since the Great Depression, but it failed to transition farmers off subsidies as intended. His stint at the head of the prestigious Senate Intelligence Committee during the Iraq war was marred by vicious partisan sniping. He succeeded in securing a state-of-the-art research facility for his alma mater, Kansas State University, in 2008, only to vote down \$400 million in federal funding for the project six years later.” [McClatchy, [10/13/14](#)]

- **The Freedom To Farm Act Was “A Bipartisan Bill That Ended Government Controls On Production And Phased Out Direct Subsidies For Farmers.”** According to McClatchy, “The highpoint of Roberts’ leadership in the House came with the passage of the Freedom to Farm Act in 1996, a bipartisan bill that ended government controls on production and phased out direct subsidies for farmers. It also cut the food stamp program by \$26 billion over six years.” [McClatchy, [10/13/14](#)]
- **Two Years Later Prices Dropped And Congress Ended Up Providing Billions To Bail Out Farmers, Roberts Admitted That The Act “Didn’t Work Out As Anybody Would Have Hoped.”** According to McClatchy, “But within a few years, even Roberts had to admit that the Freedom to Farm Act ‘didn’t work out as anybody would have hoped.’ When prices dropped in 1998, Congress ended up providing billions in emergency payments to bail farmers out. By 2000, farmers were receiving almost half their net income from subsidies.” [McClatchy, [10/13/14](#)]

## **ROBERTS SPENDS MUCH MORE TIME IN VIRGINIA THAN HIS HOME STATE OF KANSAS**

**Roberts Was Home In Dodge City Seven Times In 2014.** According to the Washington Post, “The latest incident -- flagged by BuzzFeed’s Andrew Kaczynski -- came in a debate between Roberts and Orman over the weekend at the Kansas State Fair. (Debates at state fairs = awesome.) ‘My home is Dodge City and I’m damn proud of it,’ Roberts says to applause from the crowd. When challenged by Orman as to how many times he has been home this year, Roberts confidently replies ‘about seven.’” [Washington Post, [9/8/14](#)]

**Roberts Had Been Home Once Every 35 Days In 2014.** According to the Washington Post, “Ok. So let’s do some basic math. Saturday Sept. 6 -- the day of the debate -- was the 249th day of the year. So, that means that Roberts has been home, roughly, every 35 days this year since the start of the year. In a year in which he faced a serious primary fight. And where Congress had a month-long August recess. (If you want a contrast to the Roberts’ approach, take a look at Mitch McConnell, who, despite being the Republican Senate leader, has spent virtually every waking moment in Kentucky this year.)” [Washington Post, [9/8/14](#)]

**Roberts And His Wife Used Their Alexandria, Virginia Address For Campaign Reimbursements.** According to The Hill, “Though Republican Sen. Pat Roberts insists Kansas remains his home, on Federal Election Commission filings documenting campaign reimbursements to him and his wife, he lists his Alexandria, Va., address. The detail is sure to raise further questions about whether the incumbent is still connected enough to Kansas to represent it in the Senate, questions that dogged him throughout his primary fight and have contributed to his unexpected vulnerability in the general election this fall.

According to data analyzed by Democratic research firm American Bridge and provided to The Hill, Roberts's campaign has reimbursed the senator and his wife, Franki Roberts, a total \$2,342 this cycle for various expenditures." [The Hill, [9/8/14](#)]

## **Kansas Residency**

**During Roberts' 2014 Re-Election Campaign, He "Acknowledged That He Did Not Have A Home Of His Own In Kansas."** According to the New York Times, "In an interview, the three-term senator acknowledged that he did not have a home of his own in Kansas. The house on a country club golf course that he lists as his voting address belongs to two longtime supporters and donors — C. Duane and Phyllis Ross — and he says he stays with them when he is in the area. He established his voting address there the day before his challenger in the August primary, Milton Wolf, announced his candidacy last fall, arguing that Mr. Roberts was out of touch with his High Plains roots." [New York Times, [2/7/14](#)]

**The House Roberts Listed As His Voting Address Belongs To "Two Longtime Supporters And Donors."** According to the New York Times, "The house on a country club golf course that he lists as his voting address belongs to two longtime supporters and donors — C. Duane and Phyllis Ross — and he says he stays with them when he is in the area. He established his voting address there the day before his challenger in the August primary, Milton Wolf, announced his candidacy last fall, arguing that Mr. Roberts was out of touch with his High Plains roots." [New York Times, [2/7/14](#)]

**In 1975 Roberts And His Wife Purchased Property In Alexandria, Virginia.** According to Pat Roberts' deed and a Fairfax County property search, On February 7, 1975, Roberts and his wife purchased property located at 2203 Whiteoaks Drive in Alexandria, Virginia, from C. Victor and Dorel Callender for \$93,000. [Deed, Fairfax County Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court, Doc No. 4161-700, Filed 2/7/75; Fairfax County Property Search, "2203 Whiteoaks," <http://icare.fairfaxcounty.gov/>]

**In December 2003, Roberts Secured A \$235,000 Loan From Mortgage Capital Investors Inc. That Required Roberts To Declare His Alexandria Property His "Principle Residence" And To Occupy The Property For One Year.** According to Pat Roberts' deed of trust, On December 8, 2003, Roberts and his wife secured a mortgage on a property located at 2203 Whiteoaks Drive in Alexandria, Virginia, from Mortgage Capital Investors Inc. in the amount of \$235,000. According to the Mortgage, "Occupancy. Borrower shall occupy, establish, and use the Property as Borrower's principal residence within 60 days after the execution of this Security Instrument and shall continue to occupy the Property as Borrower's principal residence for at least one year after the date of occupancy, unless Lender otherwise agrees in writing, which consent shall not be unreasonable withheld, or unless extenuating circumstances exist which are beyond Borrower's control." [Deed of Trust, Fairfax County Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court, Doc No. 15471-1935, Filed 12/8/03]

- **The Mortgage Was Repaid In 2007.** According to the certificate and affidavit of satisfaction, On January 10, 2007, Roberts repaid the loan in full. [Certificate And Affidavit of Satisfaction, Fairfax County Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court, Doc No. 19047-0748, Filed 1/10/07]

## **ROBERTS MISSED TWO-THIRDS OF AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER**

**Headline: "Roberts Misses Two-Thirds Of Ag Committee Meetings Since 2000."** [Topeka Capital-Journal, [10/13/14](#)]

**Roberts Attended Slightly More Than One-Third Of Senate Agriculture Committee Meetings During The Past 15 Years Of His Political Career In Washington, D.C.** According to the Topeka Capital-Journal, "U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts attended slightly more than one-third of Senate Agriculture Committee meetings during the past 15 years of his political career in Washington, D.C, federal records showed Monday. The three-term Republican from Dodge City serves on the committee responsible for farm, nutrition and forestry issues, as well as Senate committees devoted to health, education, labor and finance topics." [Topeka Capital-Journal, [10/13/14](#)]

**Documents From The U.S. Government Printing Office "Showed Roberts Was Present For 35.5 Percent, Or 71 Of 201 Of The Agriculture Committee's Sessions From 2000 To 2014."** According to the Topeka Capital-Journal, "Documents related to committee attendance available from the U.S. Government Printing Office showed Roberts was present for 35.5 percent, or 71 of 201, of the agriculture committee's sessions from 2000 to 2014." [Topeka Capital-Journal, [10/13/14](#)]

## **ROBERT'S TENURE AS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MIRED IN CONTROVERSY**

**Roberts Had Experience As Chair Of The House Agriculture Committee, But When Elected To The Senate Chose To Head The Senate Intelligence Committee Instead Of The Agriculture Committee.** According to the Topeka Capital-Journal, "Roberts was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee before his election to the U.S. Senate in 1996. He had the option of chairing the Senate Agriculture Committee, but he chose to head the Senate Intelligence Committee. The panel was embroiled in an inquiry of intelligence failures before the 2003 invasion of Iraq and a partisan conflict regarding President George W. Bush's wartime decisions." [Topeka Capital-Journal, [10/13/14](#)]

**Roberts Raised No Objection To CIA's Destruction Of Interrogation Videos.** According to the New York Times, "At a closed briefing in 2003, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee raised no objection to a C.I.A. plan to destroy videotapes of brutal interrogations, according to secret documents released Monday. The senator, Pat Roberts, Republican of Kansas, also rejected a proposal to have his committee conduct its own assessment of the agency's harsh interrogation methods, which included wall-slamming and waterboarding, the documents say. But Mr. Roberts, through a spokesman, denied having approved the destruction of the videotapes, which is under criminal investigation, and defended his record in overseeing the interrogation program. [...] According to a memorandum prepared after the Feb. 4, 2003, briefing by the C.I.A.'s director of Congressional affairs, Stanley M. Moskowitz, Scott Muller, then the agency's general counsel, explained that the interrogations were reported in detailed agency cables and that officials intended to destroy the videotapes as soon as the agency's inspector general completed a review of them. 'Senator Roberts listened carefully and gave his assent,' the C.I.A. memo says." [New York Times, [2/22/10](#)]

**Roberts: Detainee Abuse At Guantanamo "Minor Incidents."** According to the Washington Post, "Interrogators at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, forced a stubborn detainee to wear women's underwear on his head, confronted him with snarling military working dogs and attached a leash to his chains, according to a newly released military investigation that shows the tactics were employed there months before military police used them on detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. [...] Some Republicans, however, said the alleged abuses occurred in just a small fraction of cases. They noted that there have been 24,000 interrogations at Guantanamo Bay and highlighted recent improvements at the facility. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) called the Guantanamo abuse relatively 'minor incidents' that should not be a matter of national interest." [Washington Post, [7/14/05](#)]

**Wichita Eagle Editorial: Roberts A "Reliable Partisan Apologist For The Bush Administration On Intelligence And Security Controversies."** According to an editorial by the Wichita Eagle, "Many Kansans, including members of The Eagle editorial board, have long admired Sen. Pat Roberts for his plainspokenness and reputation for fair brokering of issues. So it's troubling that Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is fast gaining the reputation in Washington, D.C., as a reliable partisan apologist for the Bush administration on intelligence and security controversies. [...] A prime example: He has dragged his feet on a promised but long-delayed Senate investigation into whether the White House cherry-picked and amplified prewar intelligence to fit its preconceived goal of invading Iraq." [Editorial - Wichita Eagle, 2/18/06]

**New York Times Editorial: "Is There Any Aspect Of President Bush's Miserable Record On Intelligence That Senator Pat Roberts...Is Not Willing To Excuse And Help To Cover Up?"** According to an editorial by the New York Times, "Is there any aspect of President Bush's miserable record on intelligence that Senator Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is not willing to excuse and help to cover up? For more than a year, Mr. Roberts has been dragging out an investigation into why Mr. Bush presented old, dubious and just plain wrong intelligence on Iraq as solid new proof that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and was in league with Al Qaeda. It was supposed to start after the 2004 election, but Mr. Roberts was letting it die of neglect until the Democrats protested by forcing the Senate into an unusual closed session last November. Now Mr. Roberts is trying to stop an investigation into Mr. Bush's decision to allow the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on Americans without getting the warrants required by a 27-year-old federal law enacted to stop that sort of abuse." [Editorial - New York Times, [2/17/06](#)]

### **Roberts Refused To Support A Qualified Federal Judicial Nominee From His Home State Because Of ObamaCare**

**Roberts Refused To Support Former Kansas Attorney General Steve Six's Nomination To The Federal Bench, Citing One Of The Reasons As Six's Refusal To File A Lawsuit Challenging Obamacare.** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, "U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., on Thursday said he couldn't support former Kansas Attorney General Steve

Six's nomination to the federal bench because of Six's position on the new federal health care reform law and an abortion investigation. [...] While attorney general, Six, a Democrat, said after analyzing the health care reform bill signed into law by President Barack Obama that he could find no constitutional defect in it. Six declined to file a lawsuit challenging the law, a move that many said helped his Republican opponent Derek Schmidt, who won the election. About Six's opinion on the law, Roberts said, 'While this view runs counter to the overwhelming belief of many Kansans, and the decisions by two federal judges, it points to a larger issue concerning the proper role of government in our lives.' Roberts added, 'And with all due respect, the average person can identify the constitutional defects of Obamacare.'" [Lawrence Journal-World, [7/28/11](#)]

**Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. Patrick Leahy Said He "Would Not Consider Obama's Nomination Of Six To The Federal Appeals Court Because Of Opposition From Roberts And U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran."** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, "Earlier Thursday, the chairman Senate Judiciary Committee said he would not consider Obama's nomination of Six to the federal appeals court because of opposition from Roberts and U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan. The terse statement from Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, of Vermont, came as the committee was set to vote on Six's nomination to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals." [Lawrence Journal-World, [7/28/11](#)]

**Roberts Had Initially Approved Of Six's Nomination.** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, "Documents obtained by The Associated Press show Roberts had initially indicated to the committee in the so-called blue slips that put it up for a hearing that he approved of Six's nomination, while Moran initially reserved judgment until after the hearing. The nomination would never have gotten this far had they initially opposed it." [Lawrence Journal-World, [7/28/11](#)]

**In A Letter To Roberts, Leahy Wrote: "This Type Of Reversal Of Position By A Home State Senator On A Nomination Has Rarely Occurred."** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, "'This type of reversal of position by a home state senator on a nomination has rarely occurred,' Leahy wrote Roberts. 'As I have expressed to Sen. (Charles) Grassley, the Committee's ranking member, in my view no new material information emerged during the course of our review of the nomination, his testimony at his confirmation hearing, or in his answers to multiple rounds of written follow up questions, and certainly none that was disqualifying.'" [Lawrence Journal-World, [7/28/11](#)]

**Several Editorials In Kansas Newspapers Demanded Roberts And Moran "Give Their Reasons For Opposing The Nomination Of The Man Credited With Straightening Out An Office That Was Left In Shambles."** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, "The opposition from the home state senators to Six's nomination has also spawned several editorials in Kansas newspapers demanding Roberts and Moran give their reasons for opposing the nomination of the man credited with straightening out an office that was left in shambles after former Attorney General Phill Kline's prosecution of abortion clinics led to an ethics investigation against Kline for alleged prosecutorial misconduct, and a sex scandal that drove former Attorney General Paul Morrison from office. Moran did not respond to a request from the Journal-World to explain his position about Six's nomination." [Lawrence Journal-World, [7/28/11](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Roberts Warned That America Was Moving Towards "National Socialism."** According to Politico, "Campaigning with Kansas legend Bob Dole on Tuesday, Sen. Pat Roberts warned attendees at a Dodge City event that the United States was on the path to 'national socialism.' 'There's a palpable fear among Kansans all across the state that the America that we love and cherish will not be the same America for our kids and grandkids, and that's wrong,' Roberts said, according to a video of the event posted on the YouTube account of the Democratic opposition research group American Bridge. 'One of the reasons that I'm running is to change that. There's an easy way to do it. I'll let you figure it out. But at any rate, we have to change course because our country is headed for national socialism. That's not right. It's changing our culture. It's changing what we're all about.'" [Politico, [9/23/14](#)]

- **"Faced With Backlash," Roberts' Campaign Manager Released Statement Attacking Obama For Taking The US "Down A Road" Towards Socialism.** According to KSHB, "Faced with an online backlash to the comments, which some took to be a backhanded reference to Nazism, Roberts campaign manager attempted to clarify the comment with a statement to 41 Action News. Barack Obama is a far left liberal who has taken us down a road toward the polar opposite of conservative principles that made this country the most powerful and prosperous nation in history,' campaign manager Corry Bliss wrote. 'President Obama and his liberal allies want to see bigger government, a government run health care system, higher taxes, and more government spending. Senator Roberts has always and will continue to be committed to fighting that agenda.'" [KSHB, [9/23/14](#)]



- **Roberts Said Obama Wanted To Move America Towards “A European Socialistic State.”** According to KSHB, “At campaign appearances Tuesday morning, Roberts doubled down on his characterization of President Obama as a socialist, telling the Washington Post’s Phil Rucker ‘I believe that the direction [President Obama] is heading the country is more like a European socialistic state, yes.’” [KSHB, [9/23/14](#)]

**Roberts Warned Of ISIS And Ebola Coming Into The US Unless The Border Was Secured, And Declared That “We Cannot Support Amnesty.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Perhaps the sharpest policy exchange came near the top. Asked to address the influx of immigrant children crossing the southern border, [Pat] Roberts turned the topic to terrorism and infectious diseases. ‘We have ISIS. We have Ebola. We have to secure the border. And we cannot have amnesty,’ Roberts said. ‘We have to secure the border. That is the first thing. And in addition, with Ebola, ISIS, whoever comes across the border, the 167,000 illegals who are convicted felons, that shows you we have to secure the border and we cannot support amnesty.’” [Huffington Post, [10/15/14](#)]

**Roberts Voted Against The Violence Against Women Act.** According to the Huffington Post, “The Senate easily passed its Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill on Tuesday, officially punting the issue to the House, where Republican leaders still haven’t signaled how they plan to proceed. The bill passed 78 to 22. It already had 62 cosponsors, which ensured its passage, but it picked up additional support from a handful of Republicans. Senators who voted against the bill included Republicans John Barrasso (Wyo.), Roy Blunt (Mo.), John Boozman (Ark.), Tom Coburn (Okla.), John Cornyn (Texas), Ted Cruz (Texas), Mike Enzi (Wyo.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Chuck Grassley (Iowa), Orrin Hatch (Utah), James Inhofe (Okla.), Mike Johanns (Neb.), Ron Johnson (Wisc.), Mike Lee (Utah), Mitch McConnell (Ky.), Rand Paul (Ky.), Jim Risch (Idaho), Pat Roberts (Kansas), Marco Rubio (Fla.), Jeff Sessions (Ala.), John Thune (S.D.) and Tim Scott (S.C.).” [Huffington Post, [2/12/13](#)]

**Roberts Accused Obama’s Nominee To Head Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Of Being For “Socialized Medicine And Death Panels.”** According to a press release from the office of Sen. Pat Roberts, “Recently Leader McConnell, Dr. Barrasso and I engaged in a colloquy regarding President Obama’s nominee for the head of CMS [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services], Dr. Donald Berwick. [...] I know Dr. Berwick is familiar with the Liverpool Care Pathway to death that is employed in the British health care system and its reliance on morphine and counseling. He should also be aware of the growing concerns of many British doctors that this pathway to death is being overused for patients who would have otherwise recovered. Is this what is being advocated for the American health care system? For Medicare patients? This certainly sounds like the death panels that became so roundly ridiculed and dismissed by Obamacare supporters during the last years debate. I know that socialized medicine and death panels have become loaded terms, but if that is what you are for you should just say so!” [Pat Roberts Press Release, 5/19/10]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Koch Industries Has Directly Donated \$48,450 To Roberts.** According to Legal Newsline, “As of Oct. 15, [Sen. Pat] Roberts had raised under \$7 million and spent more than \$6 million. His opponent, Orman, raised more than \$2.3 million but spent more than \$2.2 million, campaign finance records show. Half of Roberts’ funding has come from PACs, with Koch Industries supplying \$48,450 in donations, according to [opensecrets.org](#).” [LegalNewsline.com, [10/29/14](#)]

**Freedom Partners Chamber Of Commerce Gave \$885,000 To Citizenlink In October 2014, Which “Was Launched By Focus On The Family...And Was Previously Known As Focus On The Family Action.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Over the past month, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, the central hub of the Kochs’ dark money enterprise, contributed \$885,000 to CitizenLink, a social welfare nonprofit focused on election engagement. The group was launched by Focus on the Family -- an evangelical Christian group that opposes abortion and gay marriage -- and was previously known as Focus on the Family Action.” [Huffington Post, [10/23/14](#)]

- **Huffington Post: Contributions To Citizenlink Were Used “To Help Elect Republicans Who Share Their Opposition To Same-Sex Marriage And Abortion Rights,” Including Roberts.** According to the Huffington Post, “The contributions to CitizenLink are being used in a ‘get out the vote’ effort to help elect Republicans who share their opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion rights. On Wednesday, CitizenLink reported spending almost \$250,000 on direct mail to support Republican Senate candidates Bill Cassidy in Louisiana, Tom Cotton in Arkansas, Joni Ernst in Iowa, Cory Gardner in Colorado, Pat Roberts in Kansas, Dan Sullivan in Alaska and Thom Tillis in North Carolina. All of these candidates support banning or severely restricting abortion and oppose recent court decisions that struck down bans on same-sex marriage.” [Huffington Post, [10/23/14](#)]

**Kansas City Public Radio: An Ad Running In Kansas “Doesn’t Mention Just Who You Should Vote For, But It’s Very Clear” That Freedom Partners Action Fund Supports Sen. Pat Roberts.** According to Kansas City Public Media, “The political ad doesn’t mention just who you should vote for, but it’s very clear who the Freedom Partners Action Fund does support. The super PAC, funded in part by the conservative Koch Brothers of Kansas, is spending lots of money on GOP incumbent Sen. Pat Roberts. ‘A vote for Greg Orman is one more vote Barack Obama,’ the ad closes, before adding that ‘Freedom Partners Action Fund is responsible for the content of this advertising.’” [KCUR.org, [10/20/14](#)]

**Koch Backed Freedom Partners Action Fund Announced Six Figure Ad Buy Against Roberts’ Opponent Greg Orman.** According to the Associated Press, “A free-market political action committee is launching a television ad in the U.S. Senate race in Kansas attacking the independent challenger to three-term Republican incumbent Pat Roberts. The Freedom Partners Action Fund says it is spending ‘six figures’ on the ad against Greg Orman beginning Tuesday. The PAC is part of the political network of billionaire businessmen Charles and David Koch.” [Associated Press, [10/23/14](#)]

## Judiciary – Chuck Grassley

Sen. Chuck Grassley took over as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee in the 114th session of Congress. He previously served as chair of the Finance Committee in 2001 and from 2003 to 2007.

**Grassley Was Previously Chairman Of The Senate Finance Committee, “Briefly In 2001 And Again From 2003 To 2007.”** According to the Des Moines Register, “Grassley served as chairman of the tax-writing committee briefly in 2001 and again from 2003 to 2007. Since 2007 he has been the panel’s senior Republican. Because of Republican term limits, Grassley is giving up the senior Finance post to take the top GOP seat on the Judiciary Committee.” [Des Moines Register, 12/21/10]

**Grassley Promises To Prioritize Oversight, Claims He Will Hold Republican Presidents To Same Standard.** According to the Des Moines Register, “‘Oversight, oversight, oversight,’ Grassley said. ‘We haven’t done a lot of oversight because I think the Democrat majority doesn’t really want to investigate their own president. I don’t mind investigating Republican presidents, as well as Democrat presidents. It’s my constitutional responsibility of oversight not to be political about it.’” [Des Moines Register, [1/7/15](#)]

## GRASSLEY PUSHED THE BUSH TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY THROUGH THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Grassley Wanted Cuts For Wealthiest Americans To Be Even Larger.** According to an op-ed Grassley wrote for the Washington Post in which he defended his legislation, “Another criticism is that the tax cuts aren’t deep enough at the higher levels. I agree with this, and so does President Bush. One-third of your income in taxes is plenty. But we could cut only so deeply and expect success in the Senate.” [Chuck Grassley - Washington Post, 5/21/01]

**Grassley Compared Writing Tax Cuts Legislation To Farming.** According to an op-ed Grassley wrote for the Washington Post in which he defended his legislation, “Looking back on producing this legislation, I think of my farming background. You put the seed in the ground. When the seed sprouts, you cultivate the field over weeks and months. You watch the seedling weather storms or drought. The seedling either grows into a strong, healthy plant or it doesn’t. President Bush planted the seed of tax cuts as candidate Bush, months ago. With cultivation in Congress, his seedling has thrived. This week, the Senate will help to decide whether Americans will reap a harvest of tax relief. I hope for a generous yield.” [Chuck Grassley - Washington Post, 5/21/01]

**Grassley Referred To His Role In Steering Bush Tax Cuts Through The Senate As A “Privilege.”** According to a press release from Grassley’s office, “As the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee at the time, I had the privilege of steering the largest federal income tax cut in a generation through the Congress. The best way to grow the economy is not by growing government. It’s by allowing the industrious people of the United States to manage their own money. Reducing marginal tax rates on income and investment was exactly the right policy prescription to cure sluggish business investments and prime the pumps that enable American entrepreneurs, small business owners, manufacturers and corporate employers to grow the economy and create jobs.” [Grassley.Senate.gov, [9/13/02](#)]

**Grassley Wanted To Make Bush Tax Cuts Permanent.** According to a press release from Grassley's office, "As the top Republican on the Senate tax-writing committee, I will continue championing pro-growth economic policies. That includes making last year's tax cuts a permanent part of the tax code." [Grassley.Senate.gov, [9/13/02](#)]

## **GRASSLEY SPEARHEADED REWRITE OF BANKRUPTCY LAW MAKING IT HARDER FOR INDIVIDUALS TO FILE**

**Washington Post: Grassley Called Corporate-Friendly Law Making Bankruptcies More Difficult "A Victory For People Who Pay Their Debts Responsibly."** According to the Washington Post, "The Senate approved a measure yesterday backed by the credit card industry that would make it harder for people to wipe out debt through bankruptcy, setting a path for quick passage of the bill by the House within weeks. [...] President Bush has said he would sign the bill. It would be the second major victory for big business in Bush's second term, after passage last month of legislation intended to curb class-action lawsuits against corporations. [...] Grassley, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) and Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) praised yesterday's vote as a victory for people who pay their debts responsibly." [Washington Post, [3/11/05](#)]

**Bankruptcy Law Included Loophole For Wealthiest.** According to the New York Times, "The bankruptcy legislation being debated by the Senate is intended to make it harder for people to walk away from their credit card and other debts. But legal specialists say the proposed law leaves open an increasingly popular loophole that lets wealthy people protect substantial assets from creditors even after filing for bankruptcy. The loophole involves the use of so-called asset protection trusts. For years, wealthy people looking to keep their money out of the reach of domestic creditors have set up these trusts offshore. [...] The Senate bill is favored by banks, credit card companies and retailers, who say it is now too easy for consumers to erase their debts through bankruptcy." [New York Times, [3/2/05](#)]

**Grassley's Office Claimed They Knew Nothing Of Loopholes, Promised To Consider Closing Them.** According to the New York Times, "Senator Charles E. Grassley, an Iowa Republican, is the main sponsor of the bankruptcy bill. His press secretary, Beth Levine, said the senator's staff was unaware of the trusts and the loophole for the wealthy that they represented. 'The senator is always open to suggestions for closing these loopholes,' she said." [New York Times, [3/2/05](#)]

- **Grassley Voted Against Amendment That Would Have Closed Loophole.** According to the New York Times, "The Senate rejected several Democratic amendments to the bankruptcy legislation on Thursday, including one that would have closed a loophole that lets wealthy people protect millions of dollars in assets from creditors even after filing for bankruptcy. The votes, victories for the bill's sponsors and setbacks for its critics, illustrated the broad support for the legislation, which has long been sought by credit card companies, banks and retailers. [...] The amendment failed 56 to 39, and Mr. Schumer managed to get the support of only one Republican, Senator Lincoln D. Chafee of Rhode Island." [New York Times, [3/4/05](#)]

**Grassley Opposed Amendment Backed By Bush SEC Head To Limit Abuse By Investment Banks.** According to the Washington Post, "In a victory for the Wall Street investment banking industry, the Senate voted, largely along party lines, against an amendment proposed by Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) to prohibit an investment bank that advises a company before it files for bankruptcy from continuing to advise it after the company is in bankruptcy. The Republican leadership, led by the bankruptcy bill's major sponsor, Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), pushed to defeat the amendment even though it was backed by Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman William H. Donaldson, a Bush appointee, who has called permitting such dual representation 'a mistake' that could undermine investor confidence." [Washington Post, [3/11/05](#)]

**Grassley Opposed Amendment Exempting Debtors From Certain Provisions If They Were Victims Of Identity Theft.** According to the New York Times, "The chamber also defeated an amendment proposed by Senator Mark Dayton, Democrat of Minnesota, that would have imposed a 30 percent annual limit on credit card interest rate charges. And it rejected an amendment by Senator Bill Nelson, Democrat of Florida, to exempt debtors from the means test if their problems were caused by identity theft." Grassley voted against the amendment. [New York Times, [3/4/05](#); S.Amdt. 37 to S.256, [3/3/05](#)]

**Grassley Opposed Amendments To Protect The Elderly And Sick From Creditors And An Effort To Require Disclosure From Credit Card Companies.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "During Senate debate this week, Democrats have proposed a series of amendments they say are necessary to protect lower-income consumers, especially the sick and elderly and those who fall victim to fraud or aggressive marketing by credit companies. [...] Republicans also defeated an amendment that would have permitted seniors entering bankruptcy to protect \$75,000 of the value of their homes, as well

as one that would have exempted from the means test family members forced into bankruptcy by the need to care for a sick relative. And the GOP rebuffed an effort by Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) to force credit card companies to disclose to their clients how long it would take to pay off their balances if they made only the minimum payments.” [Los Angeles Times, [3/3/05](#)]

**Bankruptcy Law Authored By Grassley Banned People In Bankruptcy From Giving To Charity.** According to the Detroit News, “A New York judge recently ruled that oversights in the 2005 bankruptcy reform law ban people in bankruptcy from tithing -- the biblically inspired practice of giving one-tenth of a person's income to the church. Worse, people who tithe could find that it eliminates any option to have their debts wiped out in Chapter 7 bankruptcy and be forced instead into a Chapter 13 repayment plan that makes no room for religious giving. [...] As the New York ruling gets more attention, members of Congress already are stepping in. Senators Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Jeffrey Sessions, R-Ala. -- all sponsors of the 2005 bankruptcy reform law -- have asked the U.S. Attorney General to correct what they call a ‘misinterpretation’ and tell Chapter 13 trustees not to object to ‘reasonable charitable contributions.’” [Detroit News, 9/23/06]

- **Bankruptcy Bill Undermined Previous Law On Charitable Giving Written By Grassley.** According to the Detroit News, “Before the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 was signed last October, the Belleville woman and others who tithed up to 15percent of their earnings were protected by the Religious Liberty and Charitable Donation Protection Act of 1998. The newer bankruptcy reform law, shoved through Congress at the behest of banks and credit card companies over the objections of consumer advocates and bankruptcy experts, overlooked tithing and charitable giving.” Grassley was the main sponsor of the Religious Liberty and Charitable Donation Protection Act of 1998. [Detroit News, 9/23/06; Govtrack.us, S. 1244, Accessed 1/16/15]

**Bankruptcy Professor: “It Never Made Sense In The First Place That You Could Change The Laws And Make All These Bankruptcies Go Away.”** According to the Des Moines Register, “John Pottow, a bankruptcy professor at the University of Michigan, said the return to pre-2005 filing levels illustrates the failures of the 2005 rewrite, which was authored by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Ia., and others. The legislation came amid lender protest about people abusing the system. Pottow said the measure largely made filings more costly and time-consuming by forcing consumers to undergo a paperwork-heavy test to determine eligibility for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and adding liability for lawyers who provide help. ‘It never made sense in the first place that you could change the laws and make all these bankruptcies go away,’ Pottow said. ‘If people are encountering financial distress, you can only scare them away for so long before they come back again.’” [Des Moines Register, 1/7/10]

## GRASSLEY OPPOSED SOTOMAYOR AND KAGAN AND BACKED GONZALEZ

**Grassley Voted Against Confirmation Of Sonya Sotomayor To Serve On Supreme Court.** According to a press release from Grassley’s office, “Senator Chuck Grassley today released the following comment regarding his decision to vote against the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court. [...] ‘There’s no doubt that Judge Sotomayor has the credentials on paper to be a Justice on the Supreme Court. But, her nomination hearing left me with more questions than answers about her judicial philosophy, and I cannot support her nomination.’” [Grassley.Senate.gov, [7/27/09](#)]

**Grassley Voted Against Confirmation Of Elena Kagan To Serve On Supreme Court.** According to a press release from Grassley’s office, “Senator Chuck Grassley released the following statement regarding his vote on Elena Kagan to be an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court. [...] ‘Based on the record and the nomination hearing, I am not convinced that Solicitor General Kagan will be able to shed her deeply held personal ideological beliefs, political views and experiences, and check those biases at the door of the Supreme Court. Therefore, I must vote against her nomination.’” [Grassley.Senate.gov, [7/20/10](#)]

- **Grassley Called Elena Kagan A “Political Operative.”** According to the Washington Post, “Although at moments they engaged in this debate, the committee's Republicans mostly sought to keep the spotlight on Kagan. After opening with a gracious tone, they moved quickly to frame her -- as Sen. Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) put it -- as a ‘political operative’ who lacks not only judicial experience but also the in-depth legal experience of other non-judges nominated to the court. Her years in the Clinton White House and in academia, they said, left her as somewhat of a cipher in terms of her approach to the law.” [Washington Post, [1/14/15](#)]

**Grassley Praised Alberto Gonzalez: “It Doesn’t Appear That Attorney General Gonzales Committed Any Crimes.”** According to a press release from Grassley’s office, “First and foremost, I want to thank Attorney General Gonzales for his



service to our country. Alberto Gonzales made a tremendous impact in the Justice Department as an advocate for protecting children and aggressively pursuing child predators. Obviously the last couple of years have been tough for him. Even after all the scrutiny, it doesn't appear that Attorney General Gonzales committed any crimes, but he did make management missteps and didn't handle the spotlight well when they were exposed." [Grassley.Senate.gov, [8/27/07](#)]

**Grassley Asked Senate To Quickly Confirm Replacement And "Not Politicize The Process."** According to a press release from Grassley's office, "Democratic leaders got what they wanted. Now I hope they'll send a clear message to the president that they'll get somebody quickly confirmed and not politicize the process. As they've said, the Attorney General is a very important position in our government, and if we're going to get a qualified and respected person to accept the nomination, that person will need to know they won't be drug through the mud for a short-lived stint as Attorney General." [Grassley.Senate.gov, [8/27/07](#)]

## GRASSLEY'S TIES TO INDUSTRY

**Grassley Has Taken In \$1,210,887 In Contributions From Insurance Companies During Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Chuck Grassley has received \$1,210,877 in contributions from the insurance industry since 1989. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/14/15](#)]

**Grassley Has Taken More Than \$3.3 Million From Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Sectors.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Chuck Grassley has received \$3,326,760 from the finance, insurance, & real estate sectors. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/14/15](#)]

**Grassley Has Taken More Than 2.7 Million From The Health Sector.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Chuck Grassley has received \$2,774,393 from the health sector. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/14/15](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Grassley Voted Against Making MLK Day A Federal Holiday.** According to The Hill, "There are only six current members of Congress who previously voted against creating a national holiday for King. Another small handful did so at the state level. The six who cast votes against the national holiday are all Republicans: Sens. Richard Shelby (Ala.), Chuck Grassley (Iowa), John McCain (Ariz.) and Orrin Hatch (Utah), as well as Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner (Wis.) and Hal Rogers (Ky.). Shelby cast his vote as a Democrat, before he switched parties. [...] 'Senator Grassley's vote against an MLK Day holiday was purely an economic decision both in the cost to the broader economy in lost productivity, and the cost to the taxpayers with the federal government closed,' the aide told The Hill in an email." [The Hill, [1/18/15](#)]

**Grassley Compared Effort To Implement Campaign Finance Reform To Alien And Sedition Act.** According to the Washington Times, "Senators opened a historic debate Monday on whether to alter the First Amendment to give Congress the power to squelch free speech in the form of campaign spending, setting up a showdown vote later this week on the first alterations to the founding document in decades. Democrats say the debate is a referendum on democracy and keeping the wealthy from distorting the system. Republicans counter it's a debate about fundamental freedom of speech that all Americans should have. [...] 'This proposed amendment would be the biggest threat to free speech that Congress would have enacted since the Alien and Sedition Acts back in 1798,' said Sen. Chuck Grassley, Iowa Republican." [Washington Times, [9/8/14](#)]

**In 2009, Grassley Bragged About Slowing Down Healthcare Reform, Suggested Law Included Death Panels.** According to the Des Moines Register, "U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley contended Wednesday that his involvement in bipartisan talks on health care has had the effect of slowing the bill. [...] That's a bit more partisan than Grassley has been on the health care bill. In Winterset on Wednesday morning, he seemed to give credence to those who suggest a provision in the House bill would have the government decide when to 'pull the plug on grandma.' 'You have every right to fear,' he said. But later, when talking to reporters, he said he's not certain that the House provision would really have that effect, but that 'the issue of government getting involved in the end-of-life issues are a concern.'" [Des Moines Register, 8/13/09]

## Finance - Orrin Hatch

Sen. Orrin Hatch took over as chair of the Senate Finance Committee in the 114th session of Congress and was named president pro tempore of the Senate. Hatch is in his seventh term as a senator and is the most senior Republican in the Senate.

Hatch has previously chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Labor and Human Resources Committee and is a member of the Federalist Society.

## **HATCH'S TENURE ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MIRED BY PARTISANSHIP AND BREAKING OF TRADITION**

**In 2001 Senate Democrats Walked Out Of A Judiciary Hearing After Hatch Limited Their Ability To Block Presidential Nominees.** According to the Associated Press, "Senate Democrats walked out of a Judiciary Committee meeting Thursday to protest a Republican move to limit their ability to veto President George W. Bush's judicial nominations. The bickering came on the day that officials said Bush intended to nominate Judge Roger Gregory to a permanent seat on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The move would resurrect a nomination that GOP senators once strangled. Former President Bill Clinton resurrected it by giving Gregory a temporary recess appointment. Thursday's walkout infuriated the committee's GOP chairman, Orrin Hatch of Utah, because the move denied him the quorum needed to get confirmation votes on four Justice Department nominees." [Associated Press, 5/1/01]

- **NY Times Columnist William Safire: In The Senate The "Blue-Slip" Process Allowed One Senator To Effectively Hold Up The Confirmation Of A Nominee If That Senator Was From The Nominee's Home State.** According to an opinion by columnist William Safire for the New York Times, "In the slang of the Senate, a 'blue slip' is like a private club's 'blackball.' When a senator opposes a president's nominee for a judgeship from that senator's home state, he or she deliberately fails to return the blue slip of approval to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In olden times, the nomination then died. No hearing; no vote; the unreturned blue slip was a form of burial shroud. In the 80's, under the chairmanship of Ted Kennedy and later Joe Biden, a little wiggle room was allowed: a nominee, despite being blue-slipped by the home-state senator, could theoretically get a hearing provided the president begged the senator's permission in advance." [William Safire- New York Times, [5/10/01](#)]
- **Safire: Through The Clinton Years That Process "Remained In Effect" But After George W. Bush Was Elected Chairman Hatch "Sought To Weaken The Single-Senator's Veto Power."** According to an opinion by columnist William Safire for the New York Times, "Through the Clinton years, that slightly modified veto remained in effect, and G.O.P. senators blocked his liberal nominees at about the same rate that Democrats blocked President Reagan's conservative choices. Chairman Orrin Hatch recently sought to weaken the single-senator's veto power, holding that it would take both offended senators from a home state to slam the door." [William Safire- New York Times, [5/10/01](#)]
- **Hatch "Would Conduct Hearings Even If Democratic Senators From The Nominees' Home States Had Not Sent In Positive Blue Slips, And Several Of Those Nominees Were Ultimately Confirmed."** According to the New Yorker, "In the mid-aughts, when Orrin Hatch was chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Democrats began agitating against some of President George W. Bush's nominees, Hatch started to ignore the blue-slip tradition. He would conduct hearings even if Democratic senators from the nominees' home states had not sent in positive blue slips, and several of those nominees were ultimately confirmed. But Patrick Leahy, the current chairman and a Democrat, has restored the use of blue slips. Last week, after the nuclear-option vote, Leahy recommitted himself to honoring blue slips. 'I assume no one will abuse the blue-slip process like some have abused the use of the filibuster to block judicial nominees on the floor of the Senate,' Leahy said. 'As long as the blue-slip process is not being abused by home-state senators, then I will see no reason to change that tradition.'" [New Yorker, [11/26/13](#)]

### **Hatch Opposed The Nomination Of "Veteran Civil Rights Lawyer" Bill Lann Lee To The U.S.'s Chief Civil Rights Position, Calling Him A Defender Of Policies That "Favor Some And Disfavor Others Based Upon Race."**

According to the Dallas Morning News, "President Clinton's nominee for chief civil rights enforcer, faced the prospect of Senate rejection Tuesday after losing the support of a key Republican. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Mr. Lee has a 'distorted view' that exalts group entitlements over individual rights. 'To this day, he is an adamant defender of preferential policies that, by definition, favor some and disfavor others based upon race and ethnicity,' Mr. Hatch said. Mr. Lee, a veteran civil rights lawyer from Los Angeles, needs at least two Republican votes to clear the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee, which has 10 Republicans and eight Democrats, votes Thursday." [Dallas Morning News, 11/5/97]

**Hatch Called Lee, Who Was The Western Regional Director Of The NAACP Legal Defense And Educational Fund, An "Activist Lawyer" And Reluctant "To Enforce The Law As Intended."** According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, "Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) reiterated his opposition to Lee, who has spent his career as a civil rights litigator and most recently was the western regional director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Hatch also opposes Lee because of his opposition to Proposition 209, the California initiative that bars using racial or gender criteria in state hiring, contracting or college admission. 'His record reflects that he is also an activist lawyer who has demonstrated a distorted view of the Constitution and the nation's civil rights laws,' Hatch said. 'I cannot support a nominee whose record, combined with his testimony, demonstrate a decided reluctance to enforce the law as intended.'" [Philadelphia Inquirer, [11/7/97](#)]

**Hatch Refused To Hold A Full Hearing By The Judiciary Committee On "A Strongly Bipartisan Bill" To Reform Sections Of The Patriot Act.** According to an editorial by the Chicago Tribune, "Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has vigorously -- and rightfully -- criticized Democrats on the committee, and on the Senate floor, for obstructing the president's nomination of federal judges by filibustering them rather than allowing an up-or-down vote by the entire Senate, as the Constitution requires. But now Hatch is refusing to hold a full hearing by the Judiciary Committee of a strongly bipartisan bill to improve -- not repeal -- sections of the increasingly controversial USA Patriot Act." [Editorial – Chicago Tribune, 5/9/04]

## HATCH'S CLOSE TIES TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

**Orrin Hatch's Biggest Contributor is The Pharmaceutical Industry And He Has Received Over \$2.2. Million From The Industry.** According to Center for Responsive Politics, Orrin Hatch's top donor is Pharmaceuticals/Health Products and has received \$2,201,163 from the industry since 1989. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/12/15](#)]

**Hatch "Has Consistently Taken The Industry's Side In The Senate."** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Hatch has long been a strong supporter of the drug industry. He has consistently taken the industry's side in the Senate, arguing against tougher regulation and attempts to impose price restraints." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**In 1989, Hatch Filed A Brief With The Supreme Court On Behalf Of Drug Manufacturers "Whose Executives Had Contributed Thousands Of Dollars To His Campaigns."** According to the Los Angeles Times, "In 1989, he filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court siding with two big drug manufacturers whose executives had contributed thousands of dollars to his campaigns. He acknowledged later that the brief had been prepared with help from lawyers for the drug companies, but said he saw no conflict of interest." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**Two Weeks After Pleading Guilty To Fraud, The Biotech Company Amgen, "Scored A Coup" In The Form Of A Section In The Fiscal Cliff Bill "That Strongly Favored One Of Its Drugs."** According to the New York Times, "Just two weeks after pleading guilty in a major federal fraud case, Amgen, the world's largest biotechnology firm, scored a largely unnoticed coup on Capitol Hill: Lawmakers inserted a paragraph into the 'fiscal cliff' bill that did not mention the company by name but strongly favored one of its drugs. The language buried in Section 632 of the law delays a set of Medicare price restraints on a class of drugs that includes Sensipar, a lucrative Amgen pill used by kidney dialysis patients." [New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

**The Provision In The Fiscal Cliff Bill Delayed "A Set Of Medicare Price Restraints On A Class Of Drugs" That Included The Amgen Drug Sensipar, A Pill Used By Dialysis Patients.** According to the New York Times, "Just two weeks after pleading guilty in a major federal fraud case, Amgen, the world's largest biotechnology firm, scored a largely unnoticed coup on Capitol Hill: Lawmakers inserted a paragraph into the 'fiscal cliff' bill that did not mention the company by name but strongly favored one of its drugs. The language buried in Section 632 of the law delays a set of Medicare price restraints on a class of drugs that includes Sensipar, a lucrative Amgen pill used by kidney dialysis patients." [New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

**Amgen Has "Deep Financial And Political Ties" To Hatch.** According to the New York Times, "Amgen has deep financial and political ties to lawmakers like Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, and Senators Max Baucus, Democrat of Montana, and Orrin G. Hatch, Republican of Utah, who hold heavy sway over Medicare payment policy as the leaders of the Finance Committee." [New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

- **Dan Todd, One Of Hatch's "Top Finance Committee Staff Members On Health And Medicare Policy," Worked As A Health Policy Analyst For Amgen From 2005 To 2009.** According to the New York Times, "In some cases, the company's former employees have found important posts inside the Capitol. They include Dan Todd, one of Mr. Hatch's top Finance Committee staff members on health and Medicare policy, who worked as a health policy analyst for Amgen's government affairs office from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Todd, who joined Mr. Hatch's staff in 2011, was directly

involved in negotiating the dialysis components of the fiscal bill, and he met with 'all the stakeholders,' Mr. Hatch's spokeswoman said, not disputing when asked that this included Amgen lobbyists." [New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

- **Todd Joined Hatch's Staff In 2011, He Was "Directly Involved In Negotiating The Dialysis Components Of The Fiscal Bill," And Met With Amgen Lobbyists.** According to the New York Times, "In some cases, the company's former employees have found important posts inside the Capitol. They include Dan Todd, one of Mr. Hatch's top Finance Committee staff members on health and Medicare policy, who worked as a health policy analyst for Amgen's government affairs office from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Todd, who joined Mr. Hatch's staff in 2011, was directly involved in negotiating the dialysis components of the fiscal bill, and he met with 'all the stakeholders,' Mr. Hatch's spokeswoman said, not disputing when asked that this included Amgen lobbyists." [New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

## **Nutritional Supplement Industry**

**Headline: "Hatch Backed Bill Benefiting Own Stock Holdings."** [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**Sen. Orrin Hatch Was "The Author And Primary Backer...Of Legislation That Benefited A Drug Company" In Which He Owned Stock "Worth As Much As \$50,000."** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, an influential Republican from Utah, was the author and primary backer last year of legislation that benefited a drug company in which he owns stock worth as much as \$50,000, according to documents and interviews." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**Hatch Introduced A Bill That Would Exempt The Vitamin And Dietary Supplement Industry From Regulations Requiring Stricter Evaluations Of Products' Health Claims.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Last year, Hatch introduced a bill to exempt the vitamin and dietary supplement industry from new regulations that require the FDA to evaluate health claims made on food product labels, such as the assertion that fiber reduces the risk of getting cancer. While consumers hailed the regulations, the supplement industry and health stores that sell the products were afraid FDA regulations would severely restrict sales of vitamins, mineral pills, herbs and other supplements." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

- **Hatch Added An Amendment To A Major Drug Bill Prohibiting The FDA From Evaluating Health Claims Made By Vitamins And Other Diet Supplements For One Year.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Hatch's bill was not passed, but near the end of the congressional session he wrote an amendment to a major drug bill, which had passed the House unanimously and had strong support in the Senate. Hatch's amendment prohibited the FDA from monitoring and evaluating health claims for vitamins and other diet supplements for one year." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]
- **Hatch Threatened To Block The Passage Of The Larger Drug Bill Unless His Amendment Was Added To It.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "A congressional staff member familiar with the negotiations over the amendment said Hatch threatened to stop passage of the larger drug measure unless his amendment was adopted. A similar amendment was proposed in the House." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**Hatch Owned More Than 71,000 Shares In The Utah Company Pharmics Inc., Which Sells Prenatal Vitamins And Additives That Would Be Affected By Government Regulation Of The Industry.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Senate financial records show that Hatch owns 71,843 shares in Pharmics Inc. The small Utah company sells prenatal vitamins and Vitamin C additives that would be affected by government regulation of the industry. Hatch's financial disclosure forms value the stock at \$15,000 to \$50,000." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**President Of Pharmics Was Hatch's Former Colleague & Investment Partner.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "The president of Pharmics is Walter J. Plumb, a Salt Lake City attorney and Hatch's former law partner. Hatch and Plumb are partners in several investments, and Plumb owes the senator \$63,000 from the purchase of Hatch's share of their former law practice, according to records." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**New York Times: Orrin Hatch "Is Considered A Hero" In The Region Nicknamed "The Silicon Valley Of The Nutritional Supplement Industry."** According to the New York Times, "A drive along mountain-lined Interstate 15 here shows why Senator Orrin G. Hatch is considered a hero in this region nicknamed the Silicon Valley of the nutritional supplement industry. In the town of Lehi is the sprawling headquarters of Xango, where company officials praised Mr. Hatch, a Utah Republican, late last year for helping their exotic fruit juice business 'operate without excessive intrusion' from Washington." [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]



**Lawyer For Supplement Companies: Hatch Is “Our Natural Ally.”** According to the New York Times, “‘Senator Hatch -- he's our natural ally,’ said Marc S. Ullman, a lawyer for several supplement companies. Mr. Hatch, who credits a daily regimen of nutritional supplements for his vigor at 77, has spent his career in Washington helping the \$25-billion-a-year industry thrive.” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

**During The Obama Administration, Hatch “Repeatedly Intervened” With His Colleagues And Federal Regulators “To Fight Proposed Rules That Industry Officials Consider Objectionable.”** According to the New York Times, “He was the chief author of a federal law enacted 17 years ago that allows companies to make general health claims about their products, but exempts them from federal reviews of their safety or effectiveness before they go to market. During the Obama administration, Mr. Hatch has repeatedly intervened with his colleagues in Congress and federal regulators in Washington to fight proposed rules that industry officials consider objectionable.” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

**New York Times: Hatch “Has Been Rewarded” By Utah Industries “With Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Campaign Contributions, Political Loyalty And Corporate Sponsorship Of His Favorite Causes.”** According to the New York Times, “While Congress is often stalled or bitterly divided in addressing some of the nation’s most pressing problems, like the economy and immigration, legislative champions like Mr. Hatch are often remarkably successful in delivering for niche industries or parochial programs. It is not unusual, of course, for lawmakers to fight for local interests, but Mr. Hatch's alliances are particularly strong and mutually beneficial. Mr. Hatch has been rewarded with hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, political loyalty and corporate sponsorship of his favorite causes back home.” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

**Public Health Experts Argue That Hatch Has “Hindered Regulators” From Restricting Dangerous Products And Is “Most Responsible For The Proliferation Of Products That Make Exaggerated Claims About Health Benefits.”** According to the New York Times, “But many public health experts argue that in his advocacy, Mr. Hatch has hindered regulators from preventing dangerous products from being put on the market, including supplements that are illegally spiked with steroids or other unapproved drugs. They also say he is the person in Washington most responsible for the proliferation of products that make exaggerated claims about health benefits.” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

- **“Some Of Hatch's “Most Important Supporters In Utah” Faced “Repeated Accusations Of Falsely Claiming Their Products Can Treat Almost Everything, Including Cancer And Heart Disease.”** According to the New York Times, “Just in the last two years, 2,292 serious illnesses, including 33 that were fatal, were reported by consumers of supposedly harmless nutritional supplements, federal records show. (These ‘severe adverse reaction’ reports do not necessarily mean the supplements caused the illnesses, just that the consumers became ill after taking them.) And some of Mr. Hatch's most important supporters in Utah have faced repeated accusations of falsely claiming their products can treat almost everything, including cancer and heart disease.” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

**Hatch’s Son And Five Former Aides “Have Earned At Least \$3.9 Million In Fees In The Last Five Years” Representing The Nutritional Supplement Industry.** According to the New York Times, “Scott Hatch and Jack Martin, a former Hatch aide, and four other onetime aides who have worked at lobbying firms have earned at least \$3.9 million in fees in the last five years representing the [nutritional supplement] industry, according to the Center for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. (Mr. Hatch's office says his son does not lobby his father, leaving any contact between their offices up to Mr. Martin.)” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

**Hatch On His Former Aides Who Now Lobby For The Nutritional Supplement Industry: “I Do Whatever They Ask Me To Do Many Times.”** According to the New York Times, “‘I do whatever they ask me to do many times because they've never asked me to do anything that is improper,’ Mr. Hatch told an industry association last year, speaking of Mr. Martin. ‘And, besides, I believe in this industry.’” [New York Times, [6/21/11](#)]

**Utah Pharmaceutical Executive And Supplement Trade Group Leader, Peter Zambetti: “We Owe Hatch For The Decades Of Work He Has Done For The Industry.”** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “‘The people I've talked to in Utah have said it is going to be a difficult one for them,’ said Peter Zambetti, a leader in two supplement trade groups and an executive at Capsugel, a capsule manufacturer. [...] ‘As far as I see it we owe Hatch for the decades of work he has done for the industry,’ said Zambetti.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [3/27/11](#)]

**HATCH ASSISTED THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL WHILE IT WAS INVESTIGATED FOR “TIES TO DICTATORS AND TERRORISTS”**

**Hatch's "Activities On Behalf Of The Bank Of Credit & Commerce International" Were Scrutinized When "It Was Discovered That A Speech He Gave Defending The Bank Was Drafted By BCCI Lawyers."** According to the Los Angeles Times, "His activities on behalf of the Bank of Credit & Commerce International -- the defunct international bank tied to money laundering and corrupt dictators -- came under scrutiny last year after it was discovered that a 1990 speech he gave in the Senate defending the bank was drafted by BCCI lawyers. The Senate Ethics Committee is investigating ties between a former Hatch aide and BCCI, which was shut down by regulators around the world in 1991." [Los Angeles Times, [2/12/93](#)]

**While Hatch Was Working "Behind The Scenes" On Behalf Of BCCI, He Was "Pressing The Bank To Make A \$10 Million Loan To A Close Business Associate" At The Same Time.** According to the New York Times, "Senator Orrin G. Hatch, the powerful Republican from Utah who is a member of the Judiciary Committee, worked behind the scenes on behalf of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International while at the same time pressing the bank to make a \$10 million loan to a close business associate." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

**Hatch Called B.C.C.I.'s President In London To Ask Him To Lend Money To His Friend And Campaign Contributor, Monzer Hourani.** According to the New York Times, "Mr. Hatch earlier acknowledged news media reports that he telephoned B.C.C.I.'s president in London, Swaleh Navqi, to ask him to consider lending money to Mr. [Monzer] Hourani. He portrayed the efforts to get the loan as a casual request that produced no results. But a detailed loan proposal was made by Mr. Hourani, B.C.C.I. documents show. No loan apparently was made to Mr. Hourani, a close friend and campaign contributor to Mr. Hatch." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

- **Hatch Also Gave Hourani \$10,000 To Invest In "A One-Bedroom Apartment In A Development In Southwest Houston."** According to the New York Times, "Mr. Hourani, portrayed by business associates and court documents as hard hit by the Houston recession of the late 1980's, was a big campaign contributor to Mr. Hatch. In 1987 and 1988, he and his employees gave a total of at least \$12,000 to the Senator's campaign organizations. In 1988, the Senator and the developer entered into an unusual investment. Mr. Hatch said Mr. Hourani had invested \$10,000 of Mr. Hatch's money, using it to buy a one-bedroom apartment in a development in southwest Houston. The 600-square-foot apartment is on the first floor of a 20-year-old complex, across a highway from a pawnshop. It is appraised at about \$20,000." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]
- **Hatch's Friends "Stood To Benefit" From Hatch's Involvement In The Case.** In According to the New York Times, "Mr. Hatch's motivation for helping the bank was not clear. But at least three of his friends stood to benefit if B.C.C.I. could remain a going concern in the United States: Mr. Hammoud, a large shareholder in B.C.C.I.; Robert Altman, one of the bank's chief lawyers, and Mr. Hourani, the business associate and campaign contributor who was trying to get a loan." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

**Hatch Was "An Integral Part" Of BCCI's Efforts To Avoid Scrutiny And Bad Publicity After The Bank Pleaded Guilty To Illegally Laundering Drug Money.** According to the New York Times, "From documents and interviews with bank lawyers, a picture emerges of Mr. Hatch and an aide as integral parts of the bank's efforts to escape Senate scrutiny and avoid bad publicity after the bank pleaded guilty in 1989 to Federal charges of illegal laundering of drug money." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

- **In 1989 A Senate Subcommittee Began An Investigation Of The Bank's "Ties To Dictators And Terrorists."** According to the New York Times, "In late 1989, when a Senate subcommittee began a formal investigation of the bank's ties to dictators and terrorists, Michael Pillsbury, a longtime aide to Senator Hatch and an expert on national security, sat down with the bank's lawyers and offered advice on how to counterattack another Senator's inquiry, according to Mr. Pillsbury, as well as some of the bank's lawyers." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]
- **A "Longtime Aide" To Hatch Offered Advice To The Bank "On How To Counterattack" Questioning By A Senator.** According to the New York Times, "In late 1989, when a Senate subcommittee began a formal investigation of the bank's ties to dictators and terrorists, Michael Pillsbury, a longtime aide to Senator Hatch and an expert on national security, sat down with the bank's lawyers and offered advice on how to counterattack another Senator's inquiry, according to Mr. Pillsbury, as well as some of the bank's lawyers." [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

**Hatch Urged "High-Ranking Justice Department Officials" To Defend The Lenient Plea Agreement Reached With BCCI.** According to the New York Times, "After B.C.C.I. resolved the money-laundering case in Tampa, Fla., by reaching a plea agreement that many Government officials complained was far too lenient, Mr. Hatch talked to high-ranking Justice Department officials and urged them to step forward and defend the plea deal. A senior Justice Department official

acknowledged the call. And a B.C.C.I. lawyer in Washington, Raymond Banoun, said he was present in Mr. Hatch's office when the Senator placed the call.” [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

- **The Lenient Plea Agreement “Generated Controversy Among Congressmen And Law-Enforcement Officials Who Considered The Bank To Be Guilty Of Much More.”** According to the New York Times, “Under the proposed plea bargain, B.C.C.I. was to pay \$15 million in fines and admit that it had laundered money. For its part, the Government said it would not pursue various other accusations against B.C.C.I. But this generated controversy among Congressmen and law-enforcement officials who considered the bank to be guilty of much more than money laundering. Some Government officials even said the agreement was a result of the bank's political connections.” [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

**After The Plea Agreement Was Approved, Hatch Gave A Speech On The Senate Floor That Was “Largely Written” By One Of B.C.C.I.'S Lawyers, Defending The Bank And The Justice Department.** According to the New York Times, “The judge approved the plea agreement in January 1990, and the attacks in Congress continued. The next month, Mr. Hatch took the Senate floor. In a speech largely written by Mr. Altman, one of B.C.C.I.'s own lawyers, Mr. Hatch defended the bank and the Justice Department. ‘The case arose from the conduct of a small number of B.C.C.I.'s more than 14,000 employees,’ Mr. Hatch said.” [New York Times, [8/26/92](#)]

## HATCH SUPPORTED BUSH TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

**Hatch Voted For the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act And The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.** According to the roll call vote on the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, Sen. Orrin Hatch voted Yea on both bills. [Govtrack.us, [5/23/01](#) Senate.gov, [5/15/03](#)]

- **The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act And The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 Made Up The Bush Tax Cuts.** According to President George W. Bush’s archived White House website, “President Bush's tax cuts provided \$1.7 trillion in relief through 2008. President Bush worked with Congress to reduce the tax burden on American families and small businesses to spur savings, investment, and job creation. In 2001, President Bush proposed and signed the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. [...] In 2003, President Bush proposed and signed the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act.” [George W. Bush-WhiteHouse.archives.gov, Accessed [3/2/15](#)]

**Hatch Introduced Amendment To Extend Bush Tax Cuts In 2012.** According to The Hill, “Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) introduced an amendment Tuesday that would extend all the Bush-era tax cuts for another year. Hatch wants to attach the amendment to the Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act (S. 2237).” [The Hill, [7/10/12](#)]

**Under Hatch’s Tax Plan “About 13 Million Families Would See Their Tax Refunds Reduced, And Some Would See Their Taxes Increase.”** According to the New York Times, “That sets up a potentially tricky issue for Republicans. They have said they do not want taxes to go up on anyone while the economy struggles to gain altitude, but under their plan, written by Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, the senior Republican on the Finance Committee, about 13 million families would see their tax refunds reduced, and some would see their taxes increase.” [New York Times, [7/23/12](#)]

**The National Tax-Limitation Committee Awarded Hatch A “Lifetime Tax Fighter Award, For His Leadership And Votes On Tax And Spending.”** According to a press release from the office of Sen. Orrin Hatch, “The National Tax-Limitation Committee (NTLC) has awarded Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) with its Lifetime Tax Fighter Award, for his leadership and votes on tax and spending issues throughout his years of service in the United States Senate.” [Orrin Hatch Press Release, 6/30/11]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Hatch Voted To Uphold President Reagan’s Veto Of Sanctions Against Apartheid South Africa.** According to the Daily Beast, “The young Republican saw injustice in South Africa. He thought Reagan was wrong, so he joined the 31 Republican senators who sided with Democrats in voting to override Reagan’s veto of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act. [...] In 2013, voting to end apartheid seems like a no-brainer. But in the Republican-controlled Senate of Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond, McConnell showed courage as he stepped over to the right side of history (The only Republican senators

who voted to uphold the veto and still serve in the Senate are Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch and Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran.)” [Daily Beast, [12/10/13](#)]

**Hatch Voted Against Making MLK Day A Federal Holiday.** According to The Hill, “There are only six current members of Congress who previously voted against creating a national holiday for King. Another small handful did so at the state level. The six who cast votes against the national holiday are all Republicans: Sens. Richard Shelby (Ala.), Chuck Grassley (Iowa), John McCain (Ariz.) and Orrin Hatch (Utah), as well as Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner (Wis.) and Hal Rogers (Ky.). Shelby cast his vote as a Democrat, before he switched parties. [...] ‘Senator Grassley’s vote against an MLK Day holiday was purely an economic decision both in the cost to the broader economy in lost productivity, and the cost to the taxpayers with the federal government closed,’ the aide told The Hill in an email.” [The Hill, [1/18/15](#)]

**Hatch Voted To Override President Clinton’s Veto Of A Bill Banning “Partial-Birth” Abortions That Did Not Include Exceptions “For Women Whose Health Or Future Fertility Were Endangered By Their Pregnancies.”**

According to the Chicago Tribune, “The campaign to ban controversial ‘partial birth’ abortions failed Thursday as the Senate sustained a presidential veto of legislation to prohibit the procedure. The 57-41 vote to override President Clinton's veto fell nine votes short of the two-third majority necessary. The House of Representatives voted last week to override the veto. [...] When Clinton vetoed the ban in April, he based his objections on the failure of Congress to include exceptions for women whose health or future fertility were endangered by their pregnancies. Thursday's debate in the Senate reflected the differences between the presidential candidates. [...] A ‘yes’ vote was a vote to override the president's veto and a ‘no’ vote was a vote to sustain. [...] Utah: Bennett (R) Yes; Hatch (R) Yes.” [Chicago Tribune, [2/27/96](#)]

**Hatch Voted Against The Violence Against Women Act.** According to the Huffington Post, “The Senate easily passed its Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill on Tuesday, officially punting the issue to the House, where Republican leaders still haven't signaled how they plan to proceed. The bill passed 78 to 22. It already had 62 cosponsors, which ensured its passage, but it picked up additional support from a handful of Republicans. Senators who voted against the bill included Republicans John Barrasso (Wyo.), Roy Blunt (Mo.), John Boozman (Ark.), Tom Coburn (Okla.), John Cornyn (Texas), Ted Cruz (Texas), Mike Enzi (Wyo.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Chuck Grassley (Iowa), Orrin Hatch (Utah), James Inhofe (Okla.), Mike Johanns (Neb.), Ron Johnson (Wisc.), Mike Lee (Utah), Mitch McConnell (Ky.), Rand Paul (Ky.), Jim Risch (Idaho), Pat Roberts (Kansas), Marco Rubio (Fla.), Jeff Sessions (Ala.), John Thune (S.D.) and Tim Scott (S.C.).” [Huffington Post, [2/12/13](#)]

**Hatch Introduced Legislation Requiring Unemployment Recipients Be Drug Tested.** According to The Salt Lake Tribune, “People seeking unemployment benefits or welfare would have to first pass a drug test under a proposal Sen. Orrin Hatch will try to add to legislation extending the social safety net during this time of economic turmoil. Hatch, R-Utah, said his idea would help battle drug addiction and could reduce the nation's debt. He will try to get the Senate to include his amendment to a \$140 billion bill extending tax breaks and social programs this week. ‘This amendment is a way to help people get off of drugs to become productive and healthy members of society, while ensuring that valuable taxpayer dollars aren't wasted,’ he said after announcing his amendment. ‘Too many Americans are locked into a life of a dangerous dependency not only on drugs, but the federal assistance that serves to enable their addiction.’” [Salt Lake Tribune, [6/15/10](#)]

**Hatch: The Poor “Need To Share Some Of The Responsibility.”** According to a transcript of Sen. Orrin Hatch’s (R-UT) speech on the Senate floor, “We wonder why the money doesn’t go far enough? When are we going to wake up and realize that the other side just spends and spends and spends. They want to tax and tax and tax so they can spend some more. My gosh. When are we going to wake up in this country and realize they are spending us into oblivion? I hear how they are so caring for the poor and so forth. The poor need jobs, and they also need to share some of the responsibility. We don’t want the very poor people who are in poverty to pay income taxes—but 51 percent of all households?” [Congressional Record, S4350, [7/6/11](#)]

- **In The Same Speech, Hatch Said President’s Call For Taxes On The Wealthy Was “A Shameful Display Of Class Warfare.”** According to a transcript of Sen. Orrin Hatch’s (R-UT) speech on the Senate floor, “‘Last week, in a shameful display of class warfare, the President did specifically call for some tax increases on the rich. That includes 800,000 small businesses, by the way, where 70 percent of the jobs come from.’” [Congressional Record, S4350, 7/6/11]

**Hatch: “There Are People Who Could Be Working Who Won't Work Because They've Got Unemployment Insurance.”** According to a Fox News interview with Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), “On the other hand, we also know there are people who could be working who won't work because they've got unemployment insurance and they keep -- don't go out and



start looking, especially jobs that might not be as good as what they had before. So these are all things that had to be worked out. But the unemployment insurance was going to pass no matter what.” [Fox News, [12/15/10](#)]

**Hatch Blocked A Request “To Bring Up A Bill That Contained A \$1.5 Billion Reauthorization” For The TANF Emergency Fund.** According to the Huffington Post, “The 2009 stimulus bill created an ‘Emergency Fund’ that allowed states to subsidize jobs via the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), formerly known as welfare. The Senate voted against reauthorizing the program in March. Last week Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) blocked a request to bring up a bill that contained a \$1.5 billion reauthorization. Advocates of the program are not optimistic that a change of heart is afoot in the U.S. Senate.” [Huffington Post, [9/27/10](#)]

## Energy & Natural Resources – Lisa Murkowski

Sen. Lisa Murkowski took over as chair of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Murkowski was appointed to the Senate by her father, Frank Murkowski, to succeed him when he vacated the seat after winning his campaign for governor of Alaska. Before her senate career she served in the Alaska House of Representatives, including a term as the House Majority leader.

### MURKOWSKI BANKROLLED BY ENERGY INDUSTRY

**Murkowski Has Received More Than \$2 Million From Energy & National Resources Sector During Her Career.**

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Murkowski has received \$2,061,068 from the Energy & National Resources sector during her career. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/22/15](#)]

- **Murkowski Has Received More Than \$784K From The Electric Utilities Industry During Her Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Murkowski has taken in \$784,613 from the electric utilities industry during her career. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/22/15](#)]
- **Murkowski Has Received More Than \$755K From Oil & Gas Industry During Her Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Murkowski has taken in \$766,094 from the oil & gas industry during her career. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [1/22/15](#)]

### In Return She Has Supported Energy Industry’s Top Priorities

**Murkowski Wants To Lift The Ban On Exporting Crude Oil.** According to The Hill, “The country’s main oil lobby is prioritizing its advocacy efforts this year on overturning the decades-old ban on exporting crude oil. Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, singled out the export ban in a Monday speech on the oil and natural gas industry’s policy wish list for the year. [...] Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, wants the ban lifted, and has indicated that it will be a top priority of her leadership of the panel.” [The Hill, [1/6/15](#)]

**Murkowski Wants To Open ANWR For Drilling.** According to the Alaska Dispatch News, “Robert Dillon, a Murkowski aide and communications director for the Energy Committee, said Murkowski is working to convince her colleagues about the value of opening the coastal area for oil and gas exploration. The Alaska congressional delegation has unsuccessfully tried to open the Arctic plain for decades, but Murkowski isn’t giving up. ‘Sen. Murkowski is a strong supporter of opening ANWR and has introduced legislation in every Congress (she has served in) and will do so at some point in this Congress,’ Dillon said.” [Alaska Dispatch News, [1/20/15](#)]

**Murkowski Promised To “Promote Alaska’s Economic Independence And Self-Reliance.”** According to an op-ed Murkowski wrote in the Alaska Dispatch News, “As chairman, I will pursue an aggressive energy and public lands agenda that promotes Alaska’s economic independence and self-reliance, all while respecting our environment. Implementing policies of abundance will help us finally access our rich resources.” [Murkowski op-ed – Alaska Dispatch News, [1/13/15](#)]

- **One Third Of Alaska’s Economy Relies On Federal Government.** According to the New York Times, “For all the populist anger and legal wrangling in Alaska over federal oversight of its natural resources and protected species, from offshore oil to polar bears, many Alaskans long ago made a pragmatic peace with the arrangement, and they worry what will happen if things change significantly. A third of the state economy depends on federal spending. Many rural villages lack basic plumbing. Only a fraction of Alaska is reachable by road.” [New York Times, [11/6/10](#)]

**Murkowski Wanted To Ban Federal Government From Regulating Fracking On Federal Land.** According to The Hill, “Senior Senate Republicans are floating legislation that would slam the brakes on Obama administration efforts to expand regulation of the controversial oil-and-gas drilling method called ‘hydraulic fracturing’ on federal lands. Sen. James Inhofe (Okla.), the ranking Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, is the lead sponsor, and the seven other backers include Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), the top GOP member on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. [...] The bill introduced Wednesday requires that only states may regulate hydraulic fracturing — or ‘fracking’ — on federal lands within their borders.” [The Hill, [3/9/12](#)]

**Energy Lobbyists Helped Write An Amendment Introduced By Murkowski Limiting EPA’s Regulatory Authority.** According to the Washington Post, “Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) is likely to postpone offering an amendment next week that would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, according to sources familiar with the matter. [...] The maneuvering comes as The Washington Post has confirmed that two Washington lobbyists, Jeffrey R. Holmstead and Roger R. Martella, Jr., helped craft the original amendment Murkowski planned to offer on the floor last fall. Both Holmstead, who heads the Environmental Strategies Group and Bracewell & Giuliani, and Martella, a partner at Sidley Austin LLP, held senior posts at EPA under the Bush administration and represents multiple clients with an interest in climate legislation pending before Congress. In an interview, Holmstead said of the Murkowski amendment, ‘I certainly worked with her staff’ on the exact phrasing of the measure in September.” [Washington Post, [1/11/10](#)]

**Murkowski Wanted To Block The EPA From Regulating CO2 Emissions.** According to the Los Angeles Times, “Murkowski’s staff says she is poised to act this week on a proposed amendment to bar the EPA in the coming year from using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide. The Alaska senator’s staff says she will either introduce the amendment on Wednesday or take a different tack and on Thursday introduce a ‘disapproval resolution’ -- essentially seeking to invoke a congressional veto of the EPA’s proposed finding that greenhouse gases in the atmosphere threaten public health.” [Los Angeles Times, [1/19/10](#)]

**Murkowski’s Bill Weakening EPA’s Regulatory Authority Failed In Senate; Murkowski Said Environmental Authority Should Be In The Hands Of Congress.** According to McClatchy, “The Senate Thursday defeated 53-47 an effort to limit the Environmental Protection Agency’s authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, and President Barack Obama said the vote was a reminder of the need to pass more comprehensive climate change legislation. Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s measure was backed by six Democrats and all 41 Republicans. Had Congress passed it, the White House said earlier this week that Obama would have vetoed it anyway, adding that the proposal would undermine efforts to promote alternatives to fossil fuels, especially as a broken BP well continues to spew as much as 50,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico every day. [...] Calling the Clean Air Act ‘an awful choice for reducing’ emissions that lead to global warming and distancing her effort from the Gulf oil spill, Murkowski made the case that allowing the EPA to write such regulations would cost jobs, hurt the economy and cede to the Obama administration authority that should be in the hands of Congress.” [McClatchy, [6/10/10](#)]

**Murkowski Called Proposal To Tighten Ozone Pollution Standards “Costliest Regulation In US History.”** According to the Christian Science Monitor, “In a controversial move that could impact the US economy as well as the health of millions of Americans, the Obama administration wants to tighten ground-level ozone pollution standards. [...] Industry-friendly lawmakers were quick to pounce as well. ‘EPA’s proposed tightening of ozone standards threatens to put large swaths of the country into non-attainment and could be the costliest regulation in US history, which would be devastating to the economy,’ Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) of Alaska, senior Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said in a statement.” [Christian Science Monitor, [11/26/14](#)]

**Murkowski Introduced An Energy Blueprint For More Drilling And Less Regulation.** According to McClatchy, “The Senate’s top Republican on energy issues, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, has crafted a blueprint for U.S. energy policy that calls for increased drilling while opposing laws to cap greenhouse gases that are blamed for global warming. ‘Energy 20/20’ is a signal of how the Republicans want to proceed on energy policy in the coming years as the nation wrestles with contentious debates over oil drilling, fracking and climate change. Murkowski, top ranking Republican on the Senate energy committee, argues energy is too often seen as a necessary evil rather than embraced for what it brings.” [McClatchy, [2/3/13](#)]

- **Murkowski’s Energy Blueprint Was “Sweeping In Scope.”** According to the Anchorage Daily News, “Murkowski’s ‘Energy 20/20’ proposal is sweeping in scope. Murkowski wants oil leasing off the coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. She wants an increase in drilling on federal lands, saying that will hasten independence from

imported oil. Her proposals include drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and overturning the Interior Department's plan to set aside half the National Petroleum-Reserve Alaska for wildlife, wilderness and recreation. Murkowski also wants to speed approval for resource production on Alaska Native lands.” [Anchorage Daily News, 2/3/13]

- **Murkowski Previously Voted For An Amendment To Limit Emissions.** According to McClatchy, “Murkowski herself co-sponsored an attempt in 2007 to impose a cap on carbon emissions, saying at the time that ‘the permafrost is melting, Arctic ice is disappearing and wildlife habitat is changing.’ She said Friday the economy is weaker now and emphasized the 2007 proposal had limits on its scope.” [McClatchy, [2/3/13](#)]

#### **Murkowski Didn’t Object To Executive Action Barring Drilling In Alaska Due To “Lack Of Interest By Industry.”**

According to the New York Times, “President Obama on Tuesday again used his executive authority to enact an environmental priority as he indefinitely barred oil and gas exploration of Alaska’s picturesque Bristol Bay to protect some of the nation’s most productive commercial fisheries. [...] Senator Lisa Murkowski, a Republican from Alaska, said she did not oppose the decision. ‘Given the lack of interest by industry and the public divide over allowing oil and gas exploration in this area, I am not objecting to this decision at this time,’ she said in a statement. But she added that ‘it is incredibly frustrating that this administration looks at Alaska’ and ‘decides that conservation is our most pressing need,’ rather than supporting an oil-based economy threatened by plunging prices. ‘We are not asking to produce everywhere,’ she added, ‘but right now, we are not being allowed to produce anywhere.’” [New York Times, [12/16/14](#)]

**Murkowski Wanted To Change Definition Of “Clean Energy” To Include The Burning Of Fossil Fuels.** According to the Washington Post, “When most people think of clean energy, they think of solar panels or wind turbines or geothermal plants — these are the sorts of renewable technologies that policymakers often focus on in setting clean-energy policy. Murkowski argues that this is too strict a standard and wants to redefine ‘clean energy’ to simply mean energy that is ‘less intensive in global life-cycle impacts on human health and the environment *than its likeliest alternative*.’ That’s a significant change. Under this definition, the report notes, fuel oil could count as ‘clean energy’ if it allowed people to burn less wood for heating.” [Washington Post, [2/4/13](#)]

#### **Murkowski’s Close Ties To Energy Lobbyists**

##### **Energy Lobbyists And Executives Help Fund Murkowski’s Non-Profit Organization, The Waterfall Foundation.**

According to the New York Times, “In Alaska, Senator Lisa Murkowski, whose family began the Waterfall Foundation to finance breast cancer screening in rural Alaska, appeared at an exclusive fishing resort on Prince of Wales Island, reachable only by boat or seaplane. The guest list of nearly 100 was a who’s who of the global oil and coal industries, with lobbyists and executives from Exxon Mobile, ConocoPhillips, BP, Duke Energy and Royal Dutch Shell. (David Lawrence, Shell’s executive vice president for oil exploration, pulled in one of the biggest fish, a 105-pound halibut.) Ms. Murkowski, the ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee who just lost her re-election bid, has been a staunch advocate for the companies, which variously are seeking drilling rights off Alaska, federal assistance for new nuclear projects and a halt to efforts to impose a cap on carbon dioxide emissions. Ms. Murkowski’s sister, Eileen Van Wyhe, the charity’s executive director, called the event a huge success. It brought in about \$500,000, half of which was donated to the foundation and the rest largely covering the resort bill.” [New York Times, [9/5/10](#)]

**Murkowski Staffers Convened A Meeting On Anti-EPA Amendment Written By Lobbyists.** According to Politico, “New details are emerging of just how involved a pair of energy industry lobbyists were in writing a controversial amendment by Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski that would strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant. Murkowski’s proposed amendment to the Clean Air Act has been attacked by Obama administration officials and environmental advocates as an industry-led attempt to hamstring efforts to regulate carbon — the only option available in the absence of a viable Senate climate change bill. Jeffrey Holmstead, head of the environmental strategies division at Bracewell & Giuliani, and Roger Martella Jr., a partner at Sidley Austin, walked Senate staffers through the details of the amendment, via speakerphone, during a meeting held at 8:45 a.m. in Room 370 of the Hart Senate Office Building on Sept. 23, 2009, a person familiar with the meeting told POLITICO. The meeting, convened by aides to Murkowski and Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), was called to gauge interest among staffers to four or five Democrats.” [Politico, [1/13/10](#)]

#### **KOCH CONNECTIONS**

**A Former Murkowski Staffer Now Lobbies For Bill Koch.** According to National Journal, “A former chief of staff to Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is opening a

Washington office for Oxbow Carbon, an energy company founded by one of the Koch brothers. [...] In addition to her energy work for Murkowski, Knutson also worked as Vice President Dick Cheney's energy and environment adviser. As Oxbow's top lobbyist, Knutson will represent an energy company with more than \$4 billion in annual sales founded by Bill Koch, the brother of David and Charles, whose funding of conservative causes and the tea party has generated headlines and controversy." [National Journal, [7/25/11](#)]

## Health, Education, Labor And Pensions – Lamar Alexander

Lamar Alexander took over as chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor And Pensions (HELP) Committee in the 114th session of Congress. He previously served as conference chair of the Senate Republican Party. Before his Senate career Alexander served as the governor of Tennessee from 1979 to 1987, and as the state's Secretary of Education. He also ran for president twice.

### ALEXANDER HAS EXTREME VIEWS ON EDUCATION

**Alexander's Agenda Is To Move Away From The "Trend Towards A National School Board."** According to the New York Times, "Ahead of hearings to discuss an overhaul of No Child Left Behind, the signature education law from the George W. Bush administration, Senator Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee and chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said Tuesday that he wanted to reverse the 'trend towards a national school board' in federal education policy. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, Mr. Alexander said he wanted to 'put the responsibility back with states and local school districts' to oversee public schools with as few mandates as possible from Washington." [New York Times, [1/13/15](#)]

**Alexander Introduced Legislation To Turn Public Education Into Voucher System.** According to The Chattanooga, "U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) Tuesday introduced legislation that would allow states to create \$2,100 scholarships out of existing federal education dollars to follow 11 million low-income children to any public or private school of their parents' choice. The Scholarships for Kids Act would redirect \$24 billion, or 41 percent of the dollars now directly spent on federal K-12 education programs. Senator Alexander unveiled the proposal during a speech at the American Enterprise Institute alongside Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.), who has introduced legislation that would create similar scholarships for children with disabilities." [The Chattanooga, [1/28/14](#)]

**Alexander Increased DOE Budget, Later Wanted DOE Abolished.** According to the New York Times, "Mr. Alexander headed the Department of Education for 22 months under President George Bush, increasing its budget by 20 percent; now he wants to eliminate the department. He developed important contacts in that post that have proved crucial during his quest for the Presidency. Members of the department's staff helped organize a politically lucrative venture, a nonprofit satellite television network that broadcast a show by Mr. Alexander and helped him develop a core of political donors." [New York Times, [2/26/96](#)]

### Alexander Pushed To Privatize Public Education As Secretary Of Education In 90s

**Alexander Served As Secretary Of Education From 1991 To 1993.** According to Education Week, "Did creating this department 25 years ago make things better?" asked Mr. [Lamar] Alexander, who served as secretary from 1991 to 1993 under President George H.W. Bush. 'I doubt the things it has done couldn't have been done by an office of education and an adviser,' he added, referring to the idea of an education adviser to the president stationed in the White House." [Education Week, [9/20/05](#)]

**During Time As Secretary Of Education, Alexander Pushed For Voucher Programs.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Tuition vouchers will play a key part in the Bush Administration's drive for education reform, Education Secretary Lamar Alexander said. The system would give parents tax dollars to allow them to choose the schools their children will attend, he said in Denver at the first of eight regional meetings being held by the National Education Goals Panel. He said the concept that 'choice improves competition' should apply to schools, but he did not say whether private or parochial schools would be included. 'The President believes parents should have the broadest choice in where they send their children,' Alexander said." [Los Angeles Times, [4/13/91](#)]

- **Alexander In 1993: Vouchers Are "Inevitable."** According to the Los Angeles Times, "An array of national and state politicians Thursday announced the formation of a national organization to advocate the use of public money to educate



children in private schools. In its first act of largess, the group sent \$25,000 to California to support the state's school voucher initiative. The organization, Americans for School Choice, will raise money, provide information and serve as a network for local groups working to give public school students the right to attend private schools at state expense. "This idea is inevitable," said Lamar Alexander, secretary of education under former President George Bush and a former governor of Tennessee. "Our objective is to help make that inevitability come sooner." [Los Angeles Times, [10/8/93](#)]

## ALEXANDER'S TIES TO FOR-PROFIT EDUCATION

**Alexander Once Sat On The Board Of Channel One.** According to the New York Times, "Once the outline is complete, Whittle intends to build 200 schools around the country, to open in the fall of 1996. The cost, he imagines, could approach \$3 billion, which he might raise by selling shares to large companies. Within 15 years, Whittle foresees 1,000 Whittle schools educating as many as two million students. Whittle's initiative will run parallel to the new education plan unveiled by President Bush and Education Secretary Lamar Alexander (a Whittle friend and former member of the Channel One board), which calls for grants to invent experimental public schools and for the building of 535 model schools by 1996." [New York Times, [5/19/91](#)]

- **Channel One Is For-Profit Education Programming Shown To Primary School Students.** According to the New York Times, "In separate research, professors from Vassar and Johns Hopkins sharply attack Channel One, the 12-minute television program seen daily by an estimated eight million public school students in the United States, as an advertising vehicle loaded with superficial, biased and sometimes hurtful programming. [...] Ever since 1990, when Whittle Communications introduced Channel One into middle and high schools, the daily programs, which include two minutes of advertising, have aroused controversy over the role of commercial television in the classroom. Only one state, New York, bans Channel One from its public schools. Channel One, which was purchased in 1994 for \$250 million by K-III Communications, provides its program to more than 12,000 schools in the United States. The audience is believed to include more than 40 percent of the nation's teen-agers." [New York Times, [1/22/97](#)]

## ALEXANDER USED HIS EDUCATION TIES TO BOLSTER HIS FAILED PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

**Alexander Ran For President In 1996 And 2000.** According to the New York Times, "Relationships with campaigners tend to be intense and temporary, said Senator Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee who ran for president in 1996 and briefly in 2000. 'And then, just like that, it's over,' Mr. Alexander said." [New York Times, [2/24/07](#)]

**Alexander Used A Nonprofit Called The Republican Satellite Exchange Network To Help His Presidential Campaign And Get Around Federal Election Laws.** According to the Associated Press, "In the two years before he entered the presidential race, Lamar Alexander raised \$5.5 million, assembled a staff and tested his ideas in a television show beamed across the nation. And he did it without having to deal with federal election laws that sharply limit the size of contributions and require that donors be identified. In fact, the 13 biggest donors to Alexander's effort each gave \$100,000 -100 times more than the maximum donation they could give to his presidential campaign. His vehicle was the Republican Satellite Exchange Network, a nonprofit group Alexander formed in 1993. [...] Alexander has acknowledged that the network would benefit his campaign. 'I had to raise several million dollars to support the network, so that's given me an opportunity to build the party and to create a political and financial base,' he said in a December interview." [Associated Press, [6/21/95](#)]

**Alexander Admitted Nonprofit Allowed Him To Meet Donors.** According the New York Times, "The network broadcast a monthly program by Mr. Alexander for Republican workers around the state, allowing them to get better acquainted with him. It also helped the soon-to-be candidate put together a long list of potential donors. [...] Speaking of the network in an interview last year, Mr. Alexander said, 'Of all the things it did for me, I'd say it was probably the financial network that was most important.'" [New York Times, [2/26/96](#)]

**Nonprofit Was Disbanded Before Campaign Announcement; Key Staff From Nonprofit Joined His Campaign.** According to the Associated Press, "On the eve of his campaign announcement, Alexander disbanded the group but took some of its key staffers and ideas with him. The group is still pursuing tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, so it won't have to pay taxes on the donations. It declined several requests to identify the donors." [Associated Press, [6/21/95](#)]

**A Major Supporter Of Alexander Created A Lobbyist Position To Hire Him For, To Give Him "Financial Security As He Prepared For His Presidential Bid."** According to the New York Times, "Mr. Alexander's most important political

guru and supporter has been former Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., a fellow Tennessean who was the Senate majority leader and chief of staff for President Ronald Reagan and is, in some respects, the ultimate Washington insider. Mr. Baker is also 'bilingual,' fluent in the ways of both Washington and Tennessee, which is how Mr. Alexander describes himself. [...] Mr. Baker created a special job for Mr. Alexander in the law firm's Tennessee office in 1993 that guaranteed him financial security as he prepared for his Presidential bid, while protecting him from ethical improprieties. Mr. Alexander did not have his compensation linked to the firm's clients, did not represent foreign clients and did not lobby for clients. He had a handful of clients, and he brought Texas Instruments in as a client. He worked out of the firm's base in Tennessee, occasionally out of its large Washington office, near the White House." [New York Times, [2/25/96](#)]

**Alexander's 1996 Presidential Campaign Was "Guided In Part By Two Mega-Lobbyists."** According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, "Lamar Alexander has created an outsider persona based on Beltway bashing, but his campaign is guided in part by two mega-lobbyists, former Sen. Howard Baker and former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger." [Philadelphia Inquirer, [2/16/96](#)]

## ALEXANDER'S WAR AGAINST WIND ENERGY

**In 2005 Alexander Wanted To Ban All Tax Credits For Wind Farms Near Coastlines.** According to the Denver Post, "Lamar vs. Lamar. The southeastern Colorado town, that is, is squaring off against U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander in a tiff over wind. Tennessee Republican Alexander, a foe of wind power, plans to introduce an amendment to the Senate energy bill that would limit wind-energy incentives. [...] Alexander seeks to ban tax credits for wind farms near coastlines, national parks and other scenic areas. He also proposes to delay federal permitting of wind projects to give local governments a chance to intervene." [Denver Post, [6/16/05](#)]

- **Alexander: Wind Turbines Are "Gigantic Public Nuisances."** According to the Wall Street Journal, "More and more policymakers are embracing the \$7 billion wind-power industry as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels. Mr. Alexander, a Republican senator from Tennessee, says wind energy poses its own environmental threat, calling wind-powered turbines 'gigantic public nuisances.' On the Senate floor last Thursday, Mr. Alexander fought a Democratic-led proposal to require utilities to produce more power from wind and other 'renewable energy resources.' He lost 52-48. This week, he promises, he will be back, pushing an amendment to restrict the location of wind-turbine complexes and a plan to block a proposed \$3.7 billion tax credit, most of which will subsidize wind-power producers." [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/05](#)]

**Alexander Owned Undeveloped Land In Nantucket, Site Of Proposed Windmill Complex.** According to the Wall Street Journal, "Sen. Alexander says his campaign against what he calls a federal 'windmill energy policy' is aimed partly to protect taxpayers, but also to preserve the beauty of America's outdoors. Mr. Alexander owns an undeveloped lot in Nantucket, Mass., near the site of a proposed 130-windmill complex on Nantucket Sound. [...] Alexia Poe, a spokeswoman for Mr. Alexander, explains that he bought the lot in 2001, planning to build a retirement home. She says his opposition to windmills can't be explained, as some of Sen. Alexander's foes have suggested, by his ownership of the lot: 'The senator has said he doesn't want windmills marring any landscape.'" [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/05](#)]

**In 2010 Alexander Said Wind Energy Program Off Cape Cod Coast "A Taxpayer Rip-Off."** According to the Knoxville News Sentinel, "Clean-energy proponents who want to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels celebrated last month when the federal government approved the nation's first offshore wind farm off Cape Cod, Mass. [...] But to U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, the \$1 billion Cape Wind project is a costly, colossal mistake. 'It's a taxpayer rip-off,' the Maryville Republican said. 'It creates a puny amount of very expensive electricity. Taxpayers in Tennessee will be paying extra for it because of the taxpayer subsidies. And it will destroy a very beautiful Nantucket Sound.'" [Knoxville News Sentinel, [5/23/10](#)]

**In 2011 Alexander Sold His Real Estate Investment In Nantucket.** According to the Knoxville News-Sentinel, "Alexander and his wife recently sold their investments in an undeveloped land parcel in Nantucket, Mass., in two sales valued at \$500,000 to \$1 million each. In last year's report, Alexander reported the Nantucket investments' worth at \$1 million to \$5 million each." [Knoxville News-Sentinel, [9/23/11](#)]

**In 2012 Alexander Introduced An Amendment To Prohibit Wind Energy Companies Who Receive Loans From Getting Other Federal Support.** According to Inside Energy Extra, "The Senate plans to vote this week on three amendments to block Agriculture Department support for renewable-energy and biofuels production, but not on a Republican proposal to exempt some energy companies from new rules governing commodities swaps, Democratic leaders said Tuesday. [...] The remaining energy-related amendments are: A measure by Senator Lamar Alexander, Republican-

Tennessee, to prevent organizations that receive loans or loan guarantees for wind energy from receiving other federal support for the projects.” [Inside Energy Extra, 6/19/12]

**In 2011: Alexander Offered An Amendment To Repeal Wind Energy Tax Credit To Offset Repeal Of Medical Device Tax.** “According to Inside Health Reform, “Sources in the medical device industry have said they will leave it up to lawmakers to decide the appropriate offsets. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to repeal a wind energy tax credit to pay for repealing the medical device tax, although it did not receive a vote in the upper chamber.” [Inside Health Reform, 4/3/13]

**In 2014 Alexander Wanted To Eliminate Tax Credit For Wind Energy.** According to Congressional Quarterly, “Key Republican senators including Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania and Jeff Sessions of Alabama said they were undecided about the \$41.6 billion, one-year tax extensions package (HR 5771), in part because it includes a \$9.6 billion continuation of the wind energy production tax credit. [...] Alexander said the immediate elimination of the wind energy PTC would be one of his top priorities next year, and said a number of other alternative energy incentives would be part of the debate. ‘I think it's time for it to end. It's time for the wind industry to stand on its own,’ Alexander said.” [Congressional Quarterly, 12/3/14]

**Alexander Said He Plans To Cut Subsidies For Wind Energy.** According to The Tennessean, “His thoughts could take on added importance after November. If he wins re-election and if Republicans retake the Senate, two scenarios many political observers see as likely, Alexander would become the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a position from which he could steer government policy on energy. Alexander says he would use the position to cut subsidies to mature industries — such as wind and oil — and encourage research in other sectors.” [Tennessean, [6/28/14](#)]

## ALEXANDER’S TIES TO WALL STREET

**Alexander Received \$6.3 Million From Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Sector.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Alexander has gotten \$6,324,245 from the finance, insurance, and real estate sector during his career. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

**Alexander Called For The Abolishment Of The Federal Minimum Wage.** According to the Huffington Post, “Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), the ranking Republican on the Senate's labor committee, said in a hearing Tuesday that he would prefer to see the minimum wage abolished. Alexander's declaration came amid a back-and-forth between a witness from the conservative Heritage Foundation and Sens. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). The trio had been debating what kind of impact a higher minimum wage would have on a theoretical worker, and it seemed Sanders wanted to know whether the witness opposed raising the minimum wage or having a minimum wage at all.” [Huffington Post, [6/25/13](#)]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Eliminating Wind Tax Breaks A Top Priority For The Koch Brothers.** According to Politico, “Powerful conservative groups including those backed by the Koch Brothers are pushing Republicans to take a hard line on a raft of expired tax breaks pending in the lame duck, an effort that could jeopardize party leaders’ hopes for a low-drama Congress. Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity, Heritage Action for America and others want Republicans to capitalize on their election victory by killing some of the tax ‘extenders’ they’ve long hated, such as a one subsidizing the wind energy industry.” [Politico, [11/12/14](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Alexander Called Medicaid “A Medical Ghetto.”** According to the Congressional Record of a debate on Medicaid expansion, “Mr. Alexander. ‘Mr. President, for those who are watching, Republican Senators are reading through the bill, reading the bill in its entirety. It is kind of like reading the entire New Testament in Greek. It is better to have somebody help interpret it. We have been talking about page 396, title II, subtitle A, section 2001, which expands Medicaid. We have heard eloquent statements about how moving 15 million low-income Americans into a program called Medicaid, which is a medical ghetto, is not health care reform. We have also heard Senator after Senator say what right do we have to expand Medicaid and tell the States that you are going to pay for it. What kind of arrogance do we have to say that to States that are in their worst fiscal condition since the Depression?’” [Congressional Record, [11/21/09](#)]

- **Alexander: Expanding Medicaid Would Mean “Dumping 15 Million Low-Income Americans Into A Medical Ghetto Called Medicaid, Which None Of Us Or Any Of Our Families Would Ever Want To Be A Part Of.”**

According to the Congressional Record of a debate on Medicaid expansion, “Mr. Alexander. [...] ‘I wonder if my colleagues would not agree with me that this bill is historic in its arrogance? It is historic in its arrogance to think that we in Congress are wise enough to take this entire complex health care system, that serves 300 million Americans and is 16 percent of our economy, and think we can write a 2,074-page bill and be wise enough to change it all at once. It is historic in its arrogance by dumping 15 million low-income Americans into a medical ghetto called Medicaid, which none of us or any of our families would ever want to be a part of for our health care. It is historic in its arrogance by sending the States, that are going broke, a big chunk of the bill for what we have just done. It is historic in its arrogance because it tells Americans that the bill costs \$849 billion and then thinks we are not smart enough to read the print and figure out that the real cost is \$2.5 trillion when it actually is implemented.’” [Congressional Record, [11/21/09](#)]

**Alexander Introduced A Bill “That Called For The National Anthem To Be Sung Solely In English,” In Response To The Release Of A Spanish-Language Version Of The Song.** According to The Hill, “Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) introduced a bill that calls for the national anthem to be sung solely in English, in response to a Spanish-language version of the national anthem that was released on Friday.” [The Hill, [5/1/06](#)]

- **Alexander: “We Wouldn’t Recite The Pledge In French, Or German, Or Russian, Or Hindi, Or Even Chinese... And “We Shouldn’t Sing The National Anthem In Spanish.”** According to the text of Sen. Lamar Alexander’s remarks published by The Hill, “That’s why we should always sing it in our common language, English. And that’s why today I am introducing a resolution that affirms that statements of national unity, especially the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, ought to be recited or sung in English. We wouldn’t recite the Pledge in French, or German, or Russian, or Hindi, or even Chinese (which, after Spanish, is the second most spoken foreign language in the United States). And we shouldn’t sing the national anthem in Spanish, or any other foreign language. So, in this land of immigrants, let’s all sing it together, as one American nation, in our common language: English.” [The Hill, [5/1/06](#)]

**Alexander Said He Wanted To Abolish The Minimum Wage.** According to the Huffington Post, “Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), the ranking Republican on the Senate’s labor committee, said in a hearing Tuesday that he would prefer to see the minimum wage abolished. ‘There are some conservatives who do not believe in the concept of the minimum wage,’ Sanders said to the witness, James Sherk, a labor policy analyst at the think tank. Alexander’s declaration came amid a back-and-forth between a witness from the conservative Heritage Foundation and Sens. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). ‘Let me jump in,’ Alexander then said. ‘I do not believe in it.’ The policy debate had been lively, with interruptions all around, and Sanders grew excited at Alexander’s interjection. ‘So we have a ranking member,’ Sanders responded. ‘Alright! There we go!’ Sanders turned to Alexander. ‘So you do not believe in the concept of the minimum wage?’ ‘That’s correct,’ Alexander responded. ‘You would abolish the minimum wage?’ ‘Correct.’” [Huffington Post, [6/25/13](#)]

- **Alexander Has A Net Worth Of \$5.28 Million.** According to Roll Call’s list of the wealthiest members of Congress, Sen. Lamar Alexander had a net worth of \$5.28 million in 2013. [Roll Call, [1/6/15](#)]

## Budget - Sen. Mike Enzi

Senator Mike Enzi took over as chair of the Budget Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Enzi previously chaired the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Enzi is an accountant and previously was director of the energy company Black Hills Corporation.

### ENZI TRIED TO OBSTRUCT HEALTH CARE REFORM

**Huffington Post: Sen. Mike Enzi, “One Of Three Republicans Negotiating Health Care Reform...Told A Wyoming Town Hall Crowd That He Had No Plans To Compromise With Democrats.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Mike Enzi, one of three Republicans ostensibly negotiating health care reform as part of the Senate’s ‘Gang of Six,’ told a Wyoming town hall crowd that he had no plans to compromise with Democrats and was merely trying to extract concessions.” [Huffington Post, [9/26/09](#)]

**Enzi: “It’s Not Where I Get Them To Compromise, It’s What I Get Them To Leave Out.”** According to the Huffington Post, “‘It’s not where I get them to compromise, it’s what I get them to leave out,’ Enzi said Monday, according to



the Billings Gazette. Enzi found himself under attack at the town hall simply for sitting in the same room as the three Finance Committee Democrats. Republicans in the crowd called for him to exit the talks. He assured conservatives that his presence was delaying health care reform.” [Huffington Post, [9/26/09](#)]

**Enzi: “If I Hadn't Been Involved In This Process As Long As I Have And To The Depth As I Have, You Would Already Have National Health Care.”** According to the Huffington Post, “‘If I hadn't been involved in this process as long as I have and to the depth as I have, you would already have national health care,’ he said. ‘Someone has to be at the table asking questions,’ Enzi said. ‘If you're not at the table, you're on the menu.’” [Huffington Post, [9/26/09](#)]

### **Even When It Meant Shutting Down The Government**

**Wyoming Tribune-Eagle: “A Group Including Sen. Mike Enzi...Is Willing To Let The Government Shut Down In Order To Defund ‘Obamacare’ Once And For All.”** According to the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, “A group including Wyoming Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso is willing to let the government shut down in order to defund ‘Obamacare’ once and for all.” [Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, [8/10/13](#)]

**Enzi Joined Ted Cruz And Mike Lee In Pledging To Defund Obamacare.** According to the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, “The move to defund Obamacare has been championed by Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah, though nearly a dozen other Republican senators have joined them, signing a pledge to do so. Among them is Wyoming Sen. Mike Enzi, who added his name to the list last week. Enzi’s commitment to the pledge didn’t escape the notice of conservative media, with some arguing the move may have been a pre-emptive strike against Liz Cheney, the daughter of former vice president Dick Cheney, who announced a bid for Enzi’s seat last month..” [Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, [8/10/13](#)]

**Enzi Said His Commitment To Defunding Obamacare Even At The Risk Of Shutting Down The Government Was “Not A New Position.”** According to the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, “Yet Enzi seems unfazed by the dissenters within his party. In an email sent Wednesday, spokesman Daniel Head said Enzi’s decision to sign the Cruz/Lee pledge was ‘not a new position.’ ‘Whether others think it’s possible or a good strategy is for them to decide,’ Head wrote. ‘Senator Enzi believes it’s bad leadership on the part of the Senate majority and the president to put the country in the position of shutting down in the first place.’” [Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, [8/10/13](#)]

**Sen. Mike Enzi Voted Against The 2013 Deal To Reopen The Government And Raise The Debt Ceiling.** According to the Northern Wyoming Daily News, “The federal government is reopened and the debt ceiling has been raised, thanks in part to the effort of exactly onethird of Wyoming's congressional delegation. Republican Sen. John Barrasso was the sole member of the delegation to support the final deal that passed Congress late Wednesday. Sen. Mike Enzi and Rep. Cynthia Lummis, both also Republicans, voted against the bill that will fund the government through Jan. 15 and extend the nation's borrowing authority through at least Feb. 7. Lummis sided with a majority of Republicans in the House of Representatives in voting against the bill, which passed 285-144. All Democrats and 87 Republicans voted to approve it (two Democrats and one Republican did not vote). Enzi, meanwhile, was one of only 18 Republicans to side against the measure in the Senate, where it passed with 52 Democratic and 27 Republican votes, plus two independents who caucus with the Democrats.” [Northern Wyoming Daily News, 10/19/13]

### **ENZI HAS “ONE OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE VOTING RECORDS IN THE SENATE”**

**Wyoming Tribune-Eagle: Enzi “Has Maintained One Of The Most Conservative Voting Records In The Senate Since His Initial Election, And There Is No Expectation That Will Change.”** According to an editorial by the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, “On other issues, Mr. Enzi offers no surprises. He has maintained one of the most conservative voting records in the Senate since his initial election, and there is no expectation that will change.” [Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, [10/20/14](#)]

**Enzi Voted Against The Violence Against Women Act.** According to the Riverton Ranger, “One woman who spoke told Enzi her issue was with the Violence Against Women Act. ‘My concern is the violence against women and children on the reservation,’ she said. ‘(There is a problem) when a person not living on the reservation can violate them and not get prosecuted because they're not Native American. ‘Could you please take that to Washington and protect our small ones?’ she asked Enzi. Both Enzi and Wyoming's other U.S. Senator, John Barrasso, voted against the bill, which passed the Senate on Feb. 14. The legislation would grant American Indian courts new powers, including the ability to try non-tribal members who are accused of domestic violence.” [Riverton Ranger, 2/26/13]

**Enzi Introduced Legislation To Prevent The Government From Withholding Funding From Organizations That Discriminate Against People On Religious Grounds, Such As Same-Sex Couples.** According to ThinkProgress, “Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) are introducing the ‘Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2014,’ legislation to protect religious organizations that provide child welfare services, including adoption and foster care. The bill would force the government to continue to contracting with any organization that provides services to children, regardless of how their religious tenets affect the way they provide those services. Though the text doesn’t mention ‘same-sex’ anywhere, it specifically references ‘some States, including Massachusetts, California, Illinois, and the District of Columbia,’ four places where recognition of same-sex unions conflicted with Catholic Charities, which refused to provide adoption services to those couples. [...] Any state that declines to fund discriminating religious organizations would lose 15 percent of its federal funding for child welfare services.” [ThinkProgress, [7/31/14](#)]

- **The Legislation Was Endorsed By The Family Research Council.** According to an action alert from the Family Research Council, “In California, Massachusetts, Illinois, and D.C. religious adoption and foster care providers have had their government funding pulled and have been forced to end services, simply because they continue to believe in the importance of a child having a mom and a dad. [...] This important legislation sponsored by Congressman Mike Kelly in the House and Senator Mike Enzi in the Senate will ensure that the interests of children are placed ahead of political correctness. Specifically, this bill will prohibit discrimination against faith-based child welfare service providers by the federal government and by states receiving federal funds for adoption and foster care services. [...] Please contact your Representative and Senator and urge them to co-sponsor the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2014.” [Family Research Council Action Alert, [7/30/14](#)]

### **Enzi Advocated Cuts To Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid And Job Benefits**

**Enzi Sponsored The So-Called “Penny Plan” To Cut Federal Spending.** According to Fox News, “The so-called ‘Penny Plan’ would, according to its sponsors, balance the federal budget in two years by using just a 1 percent reduction in spending. The lawmakers are pitching the plan in the simplest terms -- cutting a penny from every dollar the government spends so that spending will soon equal revenue. They cast the plan as a pick-and-choose alternative to the sequester’s across-the-board budget cuts. [...] ‘Everybody should be able to live with one percent less in order to help bring this country back from the brink of catastrophic failure,’ bill sponsor and Wyoming Republican Sen. Mike Enzi said in submitting the legislation just before August recess.” [Fox News, [8/7/13](#)]

- **“Penny Plan” Bill Singled Out Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid.** According to Fox News, “Enzi has frequently talked about reducing spending by eliminating ineffective, outdated and redundant federal programs. [...] However, the bill singles out only entitlements. ‘Absent reform, the growth of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other health-related spending will overwhelm all other federal programs,’ the bill states.” [Fox News, [8/7/13](#)]

**In 2010: Enzi Blocked Reauthorization Of The TANF Emergency Fund.** According to the Huffington Post, “Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) on Tuesday tried to push a three-month extension of a stimulus bill jobs program that is set to expire on Thursday, jeopardizing tens of thousands of jobs. Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) objected. [...] The program is an ‘Emergency Fund’ created by the stimulus bill to help states subsidize jobs for poor parents via the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (formerly known as welfare). The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has estimated that the TANF Emergency Fund has created more than 240,000 jobs.” [Huffington Post, [9/29/10](#)]

### **ENZI’S CLOSE TIES TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY**

**Enzi’s Former Health Policy Director, Stephen J. Northrup, Was A Registered Lobbyist For Wellpoint, “A Subsidiary Of Insurance Giant Blue Cross Blue Shield.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Enzi’s former health policy director between 2003 to 2006, Stephen J. Northrup, is now a registered lobbyist for WellPoint, a subsidiary of insurance giant Blue Cross Blue Shield. Northrup, who has represented numerous health insurance and pharmaceutical companies in the past, is currently ‘responsible for leading WellPoint’s advocacy efforts before Congress and various federal government agencies’, according to the journal Modern Healthcare.” [Huffington Post, [11/11/09](#)]

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Was Enzi’s Biggest Contributor In 2009.** According to the Huffington Post, “That’s not all. Blue Cross Blue Shield is currently Enzi’s biggest contributor, according to the Center For Responsive Politics, having provided the Republican senator a total of \$38,500 in campaign cash this election cycle.” [Huffington Post, [11/11/09](#)]

**Enzi Accepted \$793,711 From Various Health Care Industries From 2005 To 2009.** According to the Huffington Post, “Overall, Enzi has accepted \$793,711 from various health care industries since 2005.” [Huffington Post, [11/11/09](#)]

**Sen. Mike Enzi's Biggest Contributor is The Pharmaceutical Industry.** According to OpenSecrets, Mike Enzi's top donor is Pharmaceuticals/Health Products and has received \$566,388 from the industry during his career. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

**In 2006 Enzi Received More Than \$111,000 From The Insurance Industry.** According to OpenSecrets, the insurance industry donated \$111,822 to Sen. Mike Enzi in 2006. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [1/22/15](#)]

### **Enzi Introduced Legislation That Would Let Insurance Companies Offer "Bare-Bones" Plans**

**Enzi Introduced A Bill That Would Allow Associations "Like The National Federation Of Independent Business, Or National Restaurant Association, To Create And Offer Health Plans To Their Small Business Members."**

According to NPR, "Like most members of Congress, Enzi wanted to do something to help bring down the cost of insurance for small businesses. President Bush and Republican-controlled House, have been pushing something called association health plans for years. They would allow groups like the National Federation of Independent Business, or National Restaurant Association, to create and offer health plans to their small business members across the country." [NPR, [5/1/06](#)]

**Enzi Changed The Bill On Behalf Of Insurance Companies So It Not Only Exempted Association Insurance Plans From State Requirements, But Also Big Insurers, Allowing Them To Offer "Bare-Bones" Plans.** According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "In the original version of Enzi's proposal \_ taken from a measure championed by Talent when he was in the House \_ trade associations could offer insurance plans that would be exempt from the state mandates. Blue Cross and other big insurers worried that would allow new competitors to offer cheaper, bare-bones plans, when they would still be required to offer more expensive bells-and-whistles packages. So in revising the bill, Enzi included, among other changes, a provision to exempt all insurers from state mandates, muting a key complaint from Blue Cross." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/12/06]

**Illinois Attorney General: "The Bill Preempts State Laws That Control The Cost, Quality And Accountability Of Health Insurance Delivery, Causing Many Important Consumer Protections To Be Eliminated."** According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Both Missouri and Illinois, for example, have laws requiring insurers to cover screening tests for prostate and breast cancer. The Enzi bill would have exempted insurers from such mandates. 'The bill preempts state laws that control the cost, quality and accountability of health insurance delivery, causing many important consumer protections to be eliminated,' Lisa Madigan, Illinois' attorney general, wrote in a letter opposing the bill. Missouri's Attorney General, Jay Nixon, also opposed it." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/12/06]

**The Proposal Was Criticized For Undermining "Key Health Care Protections By Letting Insurers Opt Out Of State Mandates That Guarantee Certain Coverage."** According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "But critics said the proposal would also undermine key health care protections by letting insurers opt out of state mandates that guarantee certain coverage. A gamut of patient and medical advocacy groups, from the American Cancer Society to the American Pediatric Association, came out strongly against the bill." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/12/06]

**Flanagan: The Changes To The Bill Meant That Any Insurance Company Would Be Allowed To Sell A "Junk Plan...With No Real Protections."** According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "'Their (past) opposition has to it has kept the bill from ever moving in the Senate,' said Jerry Flanagan, of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, a California-based consumer advocacy organization. [...] To critics, however, the changes meant any insurance company could sell a 'junk plan . . . with no real protections,' said Flanagan. Lehnhard said Blue Cross has always argued for more 'flexibility' in determining what insurance package to offer. But she said even if Enzi had required that all insurers adhere to all state mandates, 'we still would have been mum. It's the fact they did the same thing for everyone.'" [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/12/06]

**Flanagan: The Bill Was "An Insurance Company Giveaway."** According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Staying 'mum' may have proved to be more useful for Enzi than if Blue Cross had come out strongly in favor, critics said. 'You can image that Enzi doesn't want to have the HMOs and big insurance companies out in front on this bill because that will . . . portray the bill for what it really is, an insurance company giveaway,' Flanagan said." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/12/06]

**Foundation For Taxpayer And Consumer Rights: "The Effect Of This Legislation Will Be To Deregulate The Entire Health Insurance Market."** According to the Grand Rapids Business Journal, "'The effect of this legislation will be to deregulate the entire health insurance market,' wrote consumer advocates from the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights. The watchdog group pleaded with Enzi to change provisions in his bill allowing for what the group calls 'junk health care.'" [Grand Rapids Business Journal, 3/27/06]

**Grand Rapids Business Journal: The Bill Could Have Caused “The Loss Of State Benefits Such As...A New Jersey Child's Access To A Hepatitis B Inoculation, And A Tennessee Patient's Coverage For Diabetes Treatment.”**

According to the Grand Rapids Business Journal, “(This bill) could mean the loss of state benefits such as a California woman's right to visit an OB-GYN, a New Jersey child's access to a hepatitis B inoculation, and a Tennessee patient's coverage for diabetes treatment,’ the letter to Enzi read. ‘A panoply of patient services could also be eviscerated including cornerstone patient protections such as access to a second doctor's opinion, and the right to independent medical review when an insurer denies access to treatments.’” [Grand Rapids Business Journal, 3/27/06]

## **ENZI BACKED BIG BUSINESS OVER WORKING FAMILIES**

**New York Times: “President Obama’s Nominee To Be The Labor Department’s Top Enforcement Official,” M. Patricia Smith, “Won Approval...But Encountered A Roadblock.”** According to the New York Times, “The New York State labor commissioner, President Obama’s nominee to be the Labor Department’s top enforcement official, won approval from a Senate committee Wednesday but immediately encountered a roadblock when the committee’s senior Republican said he would put a ‘hold’ on the nomination. [...] The nominee, M. Patricia Smith, who would fill the post of Labor Department solicitor, has run into strong Republican opposition in Washington despite enthusiastic support from business leaders in her home state. Republican members of the Senate committee, on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, point to inaccurate statements she made at her confirmation hearing in May. Some have also objected to the close ties between New York unions and Ms. Smith, a labor advocate for more than three decades who would be the department’s No. 3 official.” [New York Times, [10/7/09](#)]

- **The HELP Committee Approved The Nomination But Enzi Placed A Hold On It, Citing Questions About Smith’s Work “On Behalf Of Low-Wage Immigrants.”** According to the New York Times, “Wednesday’s committee vote to approve the nomination was 13 to 10, along party lines. The intention to place a hold was then promptly announced by the ranking Republican, Senator Michael B. Enzi of Wyoming. Mr. Enzi first urged Mr. Obama to withdraw the nomination in August, complaining of the inaccuracies in Ms. Smith’s testimony concerning New York Wage Watch, a program created by her department in which labor unions and groups advocating on behalf of low-wage immigrants work with state officials to uncover wage and hour violations.” [New York Times, [10/7/09](#)]
- **Enzi Sent A Letter Signed By All The HELP Committee’s Republican Members, Urging Chairman, Sen. Tom Harkin, “Not To Move Forward With The Nomination.”** According to the New York Times, “But Mr. Enzi stepped up his opposition on Monday, sending a letter signed by all the committee’s Republicans that urged the chairman, Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, not to move forward with the nomination. Since the hearing, ‘subsequent statements by Ms. Smith intended to clarify the discrepancies do not alleviate our concerns about her candor and raise additional concerns about her ability to manage the solicitor’s office,’ the Republicans wrote. ‘We regret that in light of Ms. Smith’s statements before Congress, we lack confidence in her ability to serve as solicitor of Labor.’” [New York Times, [10/7/09](#)]

**Enzi Sponsored A Bill To Open The U.S. Occupational Safety And Health Administration To Privatization.**

According to the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, “Minnesota Labor Department officials are opposing congressional legislation that would open the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to privatization. The bill, sponsored by U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., would require the federal agency to set up a program to certify safety consultants, who could execute workplace health and safety consultations and inspections and help businesses comply with the law.” [Saint Paul Pioneer Press, 3/6/99]

- **The Chamber Of Commerce Backed Enzi's Bill, “Saying The Legislation Focuses On Educating Businesses About Workplace Safety...Rather Than Simply Inundating Them With Regulations.”** According to the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is backing Enzi's bill, saying the legislation focuses on educating businesses about workplace safety and accident prevention, rather than simply inundating them with regulations and penalizing them for safety infractions. But Darrell Anderson, administrative director of Minnesota's OSHA management team, opposes federal OSHA certifying third parties to do workplace safety consultations and inspections based on behalf of the government.” [Saint Paul Pioneer Press, 3/6/99]

## **OTHER CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS**

**Enzi Voted Against Reauthorizing The Violence Against Women Act.** According to the Huffington Post, “The Senate easily passed its Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill on Tuesday, officially punting the issue to the House, where Republican leaders still haven't signaled how they plan to proceed. The bill passed 78 to 22. It already had 62 cosponsors, which ensured its passage, but it picked up additional support from a handful of Republicans. Senators who voted against the



bill included Republicans John Barrasso (Wyo.), Roy Blunt (Mo.), John Boozman (Ark.), Tom Coburn (Okla.), John Cornyn (Texas), Ted Cruz (Texas), Mike Enzi (Wyo.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Chuck Grassley (Iowa), Orrin Hatch (Utah), James Inhofe (Okla.), Mike Johanns (Neb.), Ron Johnson (Wisc.), Mike Lee (Utah), Mitch McConnell (Ky.), Rand Paul (Ky.), Jim Risch (Idaho), Pat Roberts (Kansas), Marco Rubio (Fla.), Jeff Sessions (Ala.), John Thune (S.D.) and Tim Scott (S.C.).” [Huffington Post, [2/12/13](#)]

**Enzi Co-Sponsored “The Marriage Protection Amendment,” To Amend The Constitution To Define Marriage “As The Union Between One Man And One Woman.”** According to a press release from the office of Sen. Mike Enzi, “Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., and the U.S. Senate gained support over past year's efforts to pass an amendment that would clearly define marriage as the union between one man and one woman. The Marriage Protection Amendment which would define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, received 49 of the 60 votes needed to limit debate and have a final vote on the measure. [...] ‘We need to remove the definition of marriage from the courts, and return the decision making power to the American people,’ said Enzi, a cosponsor of the amendment. ‘I will continue work to get my colleagues on board in the hopes that we will get the votes necessary to define and preserve the institution of marriage.’” [Mike Enzi Press Release, 6/7/06]

- **Enzi: “The Institution Of Marriage Is Under Attack By Some Rogue Local Officials And Activist Judges Who Wish To Push Their Agenda Onto The Majority Of Americans.”** According to a press release from the office of Sen. Mike Enzi, “It is important to have this debate because the institution of marriage is under attack by some rogue local officials and activist judges who wish to push their agenda onto the majority of Americans. We need to have this debate to give the American people the opportunity to define marriage as they see fit. We need to remove the definition of marriage from the courts, and return the decision making power to the American people,’ said Enzi, a cosponsor of the amendment. ‘I will continue work to get my colleagues on board in the hopes that we will get the votes necessary to define and preserve the institution of marriage.’” [Mike Enzi Press Release, 6/7/06]

## Homeland Security - Ron Johnson

Sen. Ron Johnson took over as chair of the Budget Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Johnson was elected to the Senate in 2010 and had previously never held public office. He made millions as CEO of the plastics manufacturing company PACUR.

### JOHNSON’S RECORD ON NATIONAL SECURITY

**Johnson On The UN: “We Have To Sit There, We Fund The Whole Thing, And We Get Insulted By The United Nations...It Is A Joke.”** According to video of Ron Johnson at the Rock River Patriots Candidate Forum posted to YouTube, “I share your skepticism of the United Nations....It’s pretty gross- We have to sit there, we fund the whole thing, and we get insulted by the United Nations. It by and large is, you know, it is a joke. You have human rights commissions chaired by Iran, I mean, it’s an embarrassment no doubt about it.” [YouTube, [6/14/10](#)]

### Johnson’s Office Sat On VA Whistlower Tips For Several Months

**At Tomah VA Hospital Nicknamed “Candy Land,” Prescriptions Of Opiates Quadrupled Over Eight Years.** According to NBC News, “A Wisconsin VA hospital nicknamed ‘Candy Land’ by some for an alarming surge in pain killer prescriptions is under investigation — six months after a Marine Corps veteran died of an overdose in the psychiatric ward. The amount of opiates doled out by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Tomah nearly quadrupled over eight years, under the leadership of the chief of staff, Dr. David Houlihan, as the non profit Center for Investigative Reporting first revealed. Prescriptions for just one of them, often abused oxycodone, shot up ten fold — from about 78,000 pills in 2005 to almost 712,000 in 2012, the center found.” [NBC News, [2/24/15](#)]

**January 2015: Center For Investigative Reporting Reveals IG’s Report On Tomah VA Hospital.** According to the Center For Investigative Reporting, “Last March, the VA’s inspector general found that Houlihan had on average prescribed the equivalent of 25,000 milligrams of morphine to each of the 128 patients he saw in 2012, a level investigators said was ‘at considerable variance compared with most opioid prescribers’ and ‘raised potentially serious concerns’ that should be brought to the attention of the federal agency’s leadership. Independent experts who reviewed CIR’s findings said it was disturbing that the top prescriber of painkillers was a psychiatrist, charged with treating mental, rather than physical, ailments.” [Center For Investigative Reporting, [1/8/15](#)]

## **MJS Columnist Daniel Bice Opinion Headline: Ron Johnson Aides Sat On Whistleblower Tips On Tomah VA.**

[Daniel Bice – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/9/15](#)]

**Bice: Johnson's Staff Repeatedly Said They Referred Tomah VA Whistleblower Complaints To A Senate Oversight Committee.** According to an opinion by columnist Daniel Bice for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's No Quarter blog, "Aides to U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson have stated repeatedly that they referred a whistleblower's complaints about the troubled Tomah VA Medical Center to a U.S. Senate oversight committee last year. One Johnson staffer told the whistleblower that back in October, and the assertion has been repeated in media reports by another Johnson aide." [Daniel Bice – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/9/15](#)]

**Bice: But A Spokesman For The Former Committee Chairperson Said The Complaints Never Reached Them.** According to an opinion by columnist Daniel Bice for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's No Quarter blog, "But a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat who ran the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Federal Contracting Oversight, said Sunday that the whistleblower complaints never reached her or others in charge of the panel. The oversight subcommittee couldn't have taken formal action on the complaints last year without the involvement of the chairwoman or other Democratic members of the committee. 'Neither Claire nor the majority staff received notification of these complaints,' said John LaBombard, McCaskill's spokesman." [Daniel Bice – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/9/15](#)]

**Bice: "The Complaints Died" When A Johnson Senate Staffer Forwarded The Complaints To A Johnson Committee Staffer.** According to an opinion by columnist Daniel Bice for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's No Quarter blog, "A Johnson spokeswoman responded Monday that the complaints filed last fall by Ryan Honl, a former Tomah employee, did go from one Johnson aide on his Senate staff to Johnson aides assigned to the subcommittee. And there the complaints died. Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican, was the highest ranking minority member of the oversight panel last year. The Senate and subcommittee staffers both report to Johnson but have different command structures. 'Our state staff referred the case to Senator Johnson's appointees to the subcommittee staff,' said Melinda Schnell, the senator's communications director. 'Because our subcommittee staff did not have the report, they did not, at the time, appreciate the severity of the problems at Tomah — nor did they bring the matter to the senator's attention.'" [Daniel Bice – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/9/15](#)]

**Bice: A Johnson Adviser "Noted" That The Complaints Reached Johnson's Office During Recess And Ahead Of The 2014 General Election.** According to an opinion by columnist Daniel Bice for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's No Quarter blog, "Patrick McIlheran, a policy adviser for Johnson, noted the complaints arrived while the Senate was in recess and shortly before the general election. The Senate flipped from Democratic to Republican control in November." [Daniel Bice – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/9/15](#)]

## **JOHNSON'S EXTREME RECORD ON IMMIGRATION**

**Johnson Claimed The Deferred Action Program Was Responsible For Increasing Illegal Immigration.** According to the Associated Press, "Johnson said the deferred action program was responsible for increasing illegal immigration, including the recent crisis of unaccompanied minors from Central America — something administration officials dispute." [Associated Press, [11/10/14](#)]

**Johnson Wanted The Deferred Action Program Overturned.** According to Associated Press, "He said it should be overturned, though he stopped short of pledging to attempt to do that legislatively." [Associated Press, [11/10/14](#)]

## **JOHNSON DOES NOT BELIEVE IN CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Johnson In 2010: "I Absolutely Do Not Believe In The Science Of Man-Caused Climate Change."** According to Politico, "I absolutely do not believe in the science of man-caused climate change," Johnson told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Monday." [Politico, [8/18/10](#)]

- **Johnson On Man-Made Climate Change: "It's Not Proven By Any Stretch Of The Imagination."** According to Politico, Johnson stated: "It's not proven by any stretch of the imagination." [Politico, [8/18/10](#)]
- **Johnson Called The Idea Of Man-Made Climate Change "Lunacy."** According to Politico, "Johnson told the newspaper that the climate change theory was 'lunacy' and blamed changes in the Earth's temperature to 'sunspot activity or just something in the geologic eons of time.'" [Politico, [8/18/10](#)]

- **Johnson Suggested The Climate Change Could Be As A Result Of “Sunspot Activity Or Just Something In The Geologic Eons Of Time.”** According to Politico, “Johnson told the newspaper that the climate change theory was ‘lunacy’ and blamed changes in the Earth’s temperature to ‘sunspot activity or just something in the geologic eons of time.’” [Politico, [8/18/10](#)]

#### **Johnson In 2014 On Human Activity Causing Climate Change: “I Think The Science Is Far From Settled.”**

According to a transcript of A Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the Keystone XL pipeline, obtained via Madison.com, when discussing humans as the cause of climate change, Johnson stated: “I think the science is far from settled.” [Madison.com, [3/14/14](#)]

## **JOHNSON HAS MILLIONS IN ASSETS BUT WAS AGAINST RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE**

**Johnson Effectively Voted Against Raising The Federal Minimum Wage By Nearly Three Dollars, To \$10.10, By 2016.** In April 2014, Johnson effectively voted against a bill that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would [have] increase[d] the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 by 2016. It would gradually increase the minimum cash wage for workers who receive tips until it equals 70 percent of the federal minimum wage for other workers. It also would amend the tax code to extend through 2016 the \$500,000 cap for small business expensing of investments eligible for deductions, including allowances for computer software and qualified real property.” The vote was on a motion to end debate on the motion to proceed to consider the legislation, which required 60 votes to succeed. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote 54 to 42. [Senate Vote 117, [4/30/14](#); Congressional Quarterly, 4/30/14]

**Johnson: “Good Workers” Don’t “Stay At Minimum Wage For Long [...] You Can Trust Me On That.”** According to the Huffington post, “In a spirited exchange with some unemployed constituents and activists last week, GOP Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) defended the concept of a rock-bottom minimum wage, arguing that ‘when you’re a good worker, you don’t stay at minimum wage for long.’ He added, ‘You can trust me on that.’” [Huffington post, [12/13/11](#)]

**In 2010 Johnson Had Approximately \$22.9 Million In Assets.** According to the Washington Post, in 2010, Johnson’s wealth was estimated at \$22.9 million. [Washington Post – Ron Johnson Assets, Accessed on [11/17/14](#)]

**In 2013 Johnson’s Assets Were Valued Between \$13,516,014 And \$60,165,000.** According to his latest personal financial disclosure form, for the 2013 calendar year, Johnson’s assets were valued between \$13,516,014 and \$60,165,000. [United States Senate – Financial Disclosure for Ron Johnson, Filed [5/15/14](#)]

### **Johnson’s Former Company Paid Him \$10 Million In Deferred Compensation**

**Johnson’s Plastics Company Paid Him \$10 Million In Deferred Compensation Before He Was Sworn Into Office.** According to the Wisconsin State Journal, “Johnson’s plastics company then paid him \$10 million in deferred compensation not long before he was sworn in, which infuriated his critics.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [1/20/14](#)]

- **2010: Johnson Spent Approximately \$9 Million Of His Own Money On His Senate Race Against Incumbent Russ Feingold.** According to the Wisconsin State Journal, “Johnson, a multimillionaire businessman who has spent decades as a plastics manufacturer, ran as a ‘citizen legislator’ in 2010. He defeated longtime liberal favorite Sen. Russ Feingold, spending about \$9 million of his own money on the race.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [1/20/14](#)]
- **Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: Johnson Declined To Disclose How His Firm “Came Up With A Figure That So Closely Mirrored The Amount He Personally Put Into His Campaign Fund.”** According to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, The first-term Republican declined to say how his Oshkosh firm, Pacur, came up with a figure that so closely mirrored the amount he personally put into his campaign fund.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [6/23/14](#)]

**The Payment Was Potentially A Violation Of Campaign Law.** According to Talking Points Memo, “The freshman lawmaker has offered few details on how or when the company worked out the \$10 million number, but legal experts told TPM that if the package was negotiated after his Senate run it could potentially count as an illegal corporate donation to his campaign.” [Talking Points Memo, [6/28/11](#)]

- **Federal Election Commission Spokesman, Christian Hilland, Claimed It Would Be Illegal For A Corporation To Donate Directly To A Candidate For The Express Purpose Of Reimbursing Campaign**

**Costs.** According to an opinion by columnist Daniel Bice for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's No Quarter blog,, "Actually, Federal Election Commission spokesman Christian Hilland said the situation is a new one on him, too. Hilland, though, said he couldn't discuss the Johnson matter in particular. All he could say was it would be illegal for a corporation to donate directly to a candidate or for it to give money to a candidate for the express purpose of reimbursing the individual for campaign loans or contributions." [Daniel Bice – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/9/15](#)]

## JOHNSON CALLED SOCIAL SECURITY A PONZI SCHEME

**Johnson Called Social Security A Legal Ponzi Scheme, Run By The Federal Government.** According to the Northland News Center, "While President Obama wrapped up his two day tour in Minnesota, the Northland's lone Republican in the United States Senate met with voters at a town hall meeting in Superior. When laying out the country's financial woes, Senator Ron Johnson called on Democrats to work with Republicans in Congress. [...] The Republican also pointed to Social Security, asking Americans to be cynical of the program's sustainability. 'Before I got into the campaign I called Social Security a ponzi scheme. First of all, let me admit I was wrong because a ponzi scheme is illegal,' Sen. Johnson said. 'When the Federal Government runs a ponzi scheme it is legal. I don't take any joy in saying that, it's sad and unfortunate, but that is what it is.'" [Northland News Center, [6/30/14](#)]

### **Johnson Called Social Security A "Ponzi Scheme, And Acknowledged, "I Did Say That – 'Cause It's True."**

According to the Atlantic, "While Mitt Romney and his aides argued last night that Texas Gov. Rick Perry would be a poor fit for a general election contest thanks to his argument that Social Security is a 'Ponzi scheme' based on a 'monstrous lie,' Erick Erickson of RedState.com points out that there's actually a precedent for a successful Republican candidate who says just that: tea party-backed Republican Senator Ron Johnson. In this 2010 campaign video, Johnson says: 'Guess what's coming in Russ Feingold's negative campaign? He's going to tell you I said Washington treats Social Security like a Ponzi scheme. You know what? I did say that – 'cause it's true. Russ Feingold and politicians of both parties raided the Social Security trust fund of trillions and left seniors an IOU. They spent the money. It's gone. I'll fight to keep every nickel of Social Security for retirees, and I respect you enough to tell you the truth.'" [Atlantic, [9/8/11](#)]

## JOHNSON WANTED TO REPEAL DODD-FRANK

**Johnson Wanted To Repeal Dodd-Frank.** According to the National Journal, "Johnson's proposals include: repealing Dodd-Frank." [National Journal, [8/30/11](#)]

**Johnson Claimed Dodd-Frank Unsettled Markets, Businesses, And Consumers.** According to the National Journal, "Johnson blamed economic stimulus, health care reform, the Dodd-Frank bill, and an 'explosion' of regulations for unsettling markets, businesses, and consumers." [National Journal, [8/30/11](#)]

## JOHNSON IS BELOVED BY THE TEA PARTY...

**George Will On Then Senate Candidate Ron Johnson: This 55-Year-Old Manufacturer Of Plastic Products From Oshkosh Is What The Tea Party Looks Like.** According to an opinion by columnist George Will for the Washington Post, "Before what he calls 'the jaw-dropping' events of the last 19 months -- TARP, the stimulus, Government Motors, the mistreatment of Chrysler's creditors, Obamacare, etc. -- the idea of running for office never crossed Ron Johnson's mind. He was, however, dry tinder -- he calls Ayn Rand's 'Atlas Shrugged' his 'foundational book' -- and now is ablaze, in an understated, upper-Midwestern way. This 55-year-old manufacturer of plastic products from Oshkosh is what the tea party looks like." [George Will – Washington Post, [5/27/10](#)]

**Johnson Called Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged His "Foundational Book."** According to an opinion by columnist George Will for the Washington Post, "Before what he calls 'the jaw-dropping' events of the last 19 months -- TARP, the stimulus, Government Motors, the mistreatment of Chrysler's creditors, Obamacare, etc. -- the idea of running for office never crossed Ron Johnson's mind. He was, however, dry tinder -- he calls Ayn Rand's 'Atlas Shrugged' his 'foundational book' -- and now is ablaze, in an understated, upper-Midwestern way. This 55-year-old manufacturer of plastic products from Oshkosh is what the tea party looks like." [George Will – Washington Post, [5/27/10](#)]

**Speaking To A Tea Party Group, Johnson "Called The United Nations A Joke, Mocked The Notion Of Human-Made Global Warming, Endorsed Dramatically Lower Taxes And Said Abolition Of The IRS Would Be Wonderful."** According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "U.S. Senate candidate Ron Johnson's courtship of tea party groups took another twist as he postponed question-and-answer sessions with two organizations this week after a skeptical reception from



constitutional conservatives in Jefferson County. Johnson called the United Nations a joke, mocked the notion of human-made global warming, endorsed dramatically lower taxes and said abolition of the IRS would be wonderful, but the Republican wasn't prepared for some questions thrown at him Friday by the Rock River Patriots.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [6/16/10](#)]

## ...AND THE KOCHS

**Johnson Attended One Of The Kochs’ “Secretive Political Gatherings” In California.** According to Politico, “It was 105 degrees on a late April afternoon in the California desert town of Indian Wells as several dozen guests trickled into the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort hotel. [...] The better-groomed group had been invited by the billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch to attend the latest in a running series of secretive political gatherings of the big-money conservative elite. [...] I feigned disinterest in a conversation that Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin was having with a group of donors as they walked by. Ken Ellegard, an Arizona car dealer and Republican donor, sidled up to the bar next to the Toyota marketing guy and me and ordered a vodka soda with a splash of cranberry.” [Politico Magazine, [May 2015](#)]

**Johnson Was Described By An Attendee At The Event As The Kochs’ “Model Legislator.”** According to Politico, “On the final full day of the seminar, I noticed Senator Johnson schmoozing two donors at a poolside cabana. I’d heard someone who attended these seminars describe Johnson as the Kochs’ ‘model legislator.’ Figuring I had to make my last few moments count, I walked over and sat down nearby. It was just me, the Kochs’ model senator and the two wealthy backers he was talking to, identified by their name tags as Ned Diefenthal and Rob Ryan. Diefenthal, it turns out, is a Louisiana metal titan, and he was complaining to Johnson about the incompetence of the Republican National Committee. Johnson did not reject Diefenthal’s complaint, and he implied that the Kochs might be a viable alternative to RNC Chairman Reince Priebus—at least for the issue in question. “That’s what they’re trying to do here and that’s what Reince is trying to do,” Johnson said.” [Politico Magazine, [May 2015](#)]

**Johnson Discussed The Kochs As “A Viable Alternative To RNC Chairman Reince Priebus” With Two Donors At The Event.** According to Politico, “On the final full day of the seminar, I noticed Senator Johnson schmoozing two donors at a poolside cabana. I’d heard someone who attended these seminars describe Johnson as the Kochs’ ‘model legislator.’ Figuring I had to make my last few moments count, I walked over and sat down nearby. It was just me, the Kochs’ model senator and the two wealthy backers he was talking to, identified by their name tags as Ned Diefenthal and Rob Ryan. Diefenthal, it turns out, is a Louisiana metal titan, and he was complaining to Johnson about the incompetence of the Republican National Committee. Johnson did not reject Diefenthal’s complaint, and he implied that the Kochs might be a viable alternative to RNC Chairman Reince Priebus—at least for the issue in question. “That’s what they’re trying to do here and that’s what Reince is trying to do” Johnson said.” [Politico Magazine, [May 2015](#)]

**Koch Industries Directly Donated \$25,650 To Ron Johnson In 2010, And Only Gave More To 6 Other Candidates.** According to OpenSecrets, Ron Johnson received \$25,650 from Koch Industries and received the sixth highest direct donation. [OpenSecrets, accessed [1/27/15](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Johnson Voted Against A Reauthorization Of The Violence Against Women Act.** In February 2013, Johnson voted against the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which, according to Politico, “include[d] protections for illegal immigrants, Native Americans and people in same-sex relationships.” According to The Washington Post, “First authorized in 1994, the bill provides \$660 million over the next five years for programs that provide legal assistance, transitional housing, counseling and support hotlines to victims of rape and domestic abuse.” The Senate passed the measure by a vote of 78 to 22. The house passed the Senate’s version of the bill February 28, 2013. The president signed the bill March 7, 2013 and it became Public Law 113-004. [Senate Vote 19, [2/12/13](#); Politico, [3/7/13](#); The Washington Post, [3/7/13](#); Public Law 113-004, [3/7/13](#)]

**Johnson Advised Women Who Could Not Afford Contraception To Search For It Online To Find Cheaper Options.** According to Huffington Post, “Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) weighed into the controversy surrounding President Barack Obama’s birth control mandate this weekend, dismissing the concerns of women who cannot afford contraception. ‘My wife actually went online here in Wisconsin and typed in, ‘what if I can’t afford birth control,’ the freshman Tea Party senator told ThinkProgress. ‘Came up, bam. If you can’t afford it, you can get birth control in this country.’” [Huffington Post, [3/27/12](#)]

**Johnson Voted Against Repealing Tax Breaks For Oil Companies.** In March 2012, Johnson voted against the Repeal Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act, which, according to ABC News, “would have killed several tax breaks taken by the five largest oil

companies and use some of the proceeds to extend expiring energy tax provisions, such as tax breaks for renewable energy, electric cars and energy efficient homes.” The Senate failed to pass the bill, by a vote of 51 to 47, as the bill failed to invoke cloture. [Senate Vote 63, [3/29/12](#); ABC News, [3/29/12](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 2204](#)]

- **Johnson Claimed That There Were Legitimate Reasons To Keep Oil Subsidies In Place.** According to the Associated Press, “As Democrats in the U.S. Senate took aim at ending subsidies for oil companies, Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson said Friday there might be legitimate reasons to keep the subsidies in place.” [Associated Press, [4/29/11](#)]

**Johnson Effectively Voted To Allow Employers To Decline To Provide Federally Required Health Coverage, Particularly Coverage For Contraception.** According to Congressional Quarterly, in July 2014, Johnson effectively voted against a bill that, “would prohibit employers from refusing to cover contraception or any other type of health coverage guaranteed under federal law for their employees and dependents. It includes language that would ensure that exemptions for places of worship and religiously-affiliated nonprofit organizations remain in place.” The vote was on a motion to end debate on a motion to proceed to consider the bill, which required 60 votes to succeed. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote of 56 to 43. [Senate Vote 228, [7/16/14](#); Congressional Quarterly, 7/16/14]

**Johnson Supported The Supreme Court’s Ruling On Hobby Lobby, Stating He Was “Grateful The Supreme Court Recognized That Individuals Do Not Surrender Their Religious Freedoms When Operating A Business.”** According to a statement a press release from the Office of Senator Johnson, “I am grateful the Supreme Court recognized that individuals do not surrender their religious freedoms when operating a business.” [Ron Johnson Press Release, [6/30/14](#)]

**Johnson Co-Sponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act In 2013.** According to the Library of Congress, in November 2013, Johnson co-sponsored the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. According to its CRS summary, the bill prohibited “abortion from being performed if the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or greater.” The bill was eventually referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. No further action was taken. [S 1670 via Thomas.loc.gov, [11/7/13](#)]

**Johnson: College Students Delay Graduation Because “College Is A Lot Of Fun,” Student Loans Are Too Easy To Get.** According to The Hill, “Sen. Ron Johnson (R Wis.) argued that students are taking longer than four years to graduate because it’s too easy to get student loans and ‘college is a lot of fun’ in a recent event in the state. Johnson, who’s one of the most vulnerable GOP senators next year, was discussing the rising cost of college education with constituents in Verona last Saturday when he argued that federal student loan programs had made it too easy for students to take on big loads of debt. ‘It’s pretty easy to get a federal loan, college is fun,’ he said with a laugh.” [The Hill, [3/25/15](#)]

**Johnson: Students Take Loans Instead Of Working Through College So They Do Not Value Their Degree Or Early Graduation.** According to The Hill, “Johnson continued on to say that he’d worked and paid his way through school so he felt a need to get out as quickly as possible with as little debt as possible. He then said students getting loans takes away the incentive to try to graduate on time with a degree that could help them get a job, not mentioning the possibility that some may be also working their way through college. ‘Today, there are different studies on this but somewhere between five and a half to six years is the average length of time it takes somebody to get a four year degree. Why is that? I’d argue, well, loans are actually pretty easy to get and college is a lot of fun. All three of my kids went to Madison and I guarantee you, they had a really good time, particularly that first year of college,’ he said.” [The Hill, [3/25/15](#)]

## Other Notable Senate Chairs

### SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP – DAVID VITTER

Sen. David Vitter took over as the chair of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee in the 114<sup>th</sup> session of Congress.

**Vitter Referred To DREAM Act As “Illegal Alien Student Bailout.”** According to a press release from Vitter’s office, “U.S. Sen. David Vitter today made the following comments after the U.S. Senate defeated the DREAM Act, legislation that would have provided a powerful incentive for more illegal immigration by granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens who entered the U.S. as minors and met loosely defined ‘educational requirements.’ ‘I’m very pleased that we were able to defeat the illegal alien student bailout known as the DREAM Act once and for all,’ said Vitter. ‘This bill would have allowed at least 2.1 million illegal aliens to receive immediate amnesty and be granted lawful permanent resident status, allowing them to then petition the government for green cards for their family members.’” [Vitter.Senate.gov, [12/18/10](#)]

**Despite Wanting To Deny Prosecutorial Discretion For Immigrants Vitter Benefited From Prosecutorial Discretion Over Sex With Prostitutes.** According to the Houston Chronicle, “The administration has asked federal prosecutors to use their discretion and give priority to deporting violent criminals and terrorists ahead of illegal immigrant students or parents of children born in the United States. During a House hearing, Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., noted that prosecutorial discretion that has been enjoyed by previous presidential administrations. Lofgren also attacked the Senate author of the bill, Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who she charged is trying to deny the benefit of prosecutorial discretion to immigrants even though he did not face trial after his exposure in the ‘DC Madam’ scandal. Vitter's phone number was found in the records of Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the ‘DC Madam,’ who was convicted in 2008 of racketeering for running a prostitution service. Vitter admitted he was a client of the escort service, but he did not face prosecution.” [Houston Chronicle, 7/27/11]

**Vitter Introduced Legislation To Take Away Birthright Citizenship From Constitution.** According to The Hill, “Two Republican Senators are introducing a resolution that would end the constitutional right to citizenship that comes with being born on U.S. Soil. Rand Paul (Ky.) And David Vitter (La.) are introducing a resolution this week that would amend the Constitution so that a person born in the United States could only become an American citizen if one or more of his or her parents is a legal citizen, legal immigrant or member of the Armed Forces, according to a joint press release Thursday.” [The Hill, [1/27/11](#)]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION – JOHN CORNYN**

Sen. John Cornyn Is Chairman Of The Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee On The Constitution.

**The Subcommittee Was Called The Subcommittee On The Constitution, Civil Rights And Human Rights Until Cornyn Removed Civil Rights And Human Rights From The Name.** According to BuzzFeed, “The Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights is now just the Subcommittee on the Constitution. A spokeswoman for Sen. John Cornyn, the number two Senate Republican and chairman of the subcommittee, defended the name change. ‘The Constitution covers our most basic rights including civil and human rights,’ said Megan Mitchell, Cornyn’s spokeswoman, in an email to BuzzFeed News. ‘We will focus on these rights along with other issues that fall under the broader umbrella of the Constitution.’” [BuzzFeed, [1/23/15](#)]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST - JEFF SESSIONS**

Sen. Jeff Sessions is Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest.

**Politico: Sessions Is “One Of The Most Relentless Critics Of The Obama Administration’s Immigration Directives.”** According to Politico, “Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), one of the most relentless critics of the Obama administration’s immigration directives, is taking over the Senate’s panel that oversees immigration, according to three sources familiar with the decision. Sessions is set to assume the chairmanship of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security, according to the sources — giving the conservative a key platform to advance his immigration policies. Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), a new member of the Judiciary Committee, is going to be the panel’s vice chair, the sources said. [...] But Sessions is also well-known for his advocacy on stricter immigration controls and aggressive pushback against President Barack Obama’s executive actions on immigration, pushing fellow Republicans toward a more confrontational stance on the issue.” [Politico, [1/21/15](#)]

**Sessions Added “National Interest” To Subcommittee Title.** According to a press release from Sen. Jeff Session’s office, “U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) issued the following statement today after being named Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee on Armed Services and the Chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee on Judiciary: ‘I am honored to have the opportunity to chair these two crucial subcommittees. [...] My focus as Chairman of the Immigration subcommittee will be to advance the core interests of the nation and its people. On no issue have special interests had a tighter grip than on the issue of immigration. That is why I am renaming the subcommittee ‘Immigration and the National Interest,’ as a declaration to the American people that this subcommittee belongs to them.’” [Jeff Sessions Press Release, [1/22/15](#)]

**Sessions Wanted To Limit The Number Of Legal Immigrants.** According to Politico, “Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) is trying to win the messaging war on immigration. The conservative Republican and chief critic of President Barack Obama’s executive actions on immigration is sending around a detailed and lengthy memo that encourages fellow GOP lawmakers to

block the unilateral moves, even arguing that Congress' response to what he calls 'this emergency' will 'define its legacy.' [...] But Sessions' views on immigration, particularly on limiting the number of legal immigrants into the United States, runs counter to many in his own party — who advocate for reforms to the current system to allow more immigrant workers into the United States, both high-skilled and lower-skilled." [Politico, [1/13/15](#)]

**Sessions' Appointment To Federal Judgeship Was Scuttled Over Views On Race, Civil Rights.** According to the New Republic, "Senate Democrats tracked down a career Justice Department employee named J. Gerald Hebert, who testified, albeit reluctantly, that in a conversation between the two men Sessions had labeled the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) 'un-American' and 'Communist-inspired.' Hebert said Sessions had claimed these groups 'forced civil rights down the throats of people.' In his confirmation hearings, Sessions sealed his own fate by saying such groups *could* be construed as 'un-American' when 'they involve themselves in promoting un-American positions' in foreign policy. Hebert testified that the young lawyer tended to 'pop off' on such topics regularly, noting that Sessions had called a white civil rights lawyer a 'disgrace to his race' for litigating voting rights cases. Sessions acknowledged making many of the statements attributed to him but claimed that most of the time he had been joking, saying he was sometimes 'loose with [his] tongue.' He further admitted to calling the Voting Rights Act of 1965 a 'piece of intrusive legislation,' a phrase he stood behind even in his confirmation hearings." [New Republic, [12/30/02](#)]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE, SCIENCE, AND COMPETITIVENESS & SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD - TED CRUZ & MARCO RUBIO**

Sen. Marco Rubio chairs the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's Subcommittee Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard. Sen. Ted Cruz chairs the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness.

**Sens. Cruz And Rubio Lead Subcommittees That Oversee The Agencies That "Manage The Nation's Weather Satellites."** According to the Washington Post, "With Republicans taking control of the Senate this month, two climate-change skeptics became heads of the subcommittees that oversee the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) chairs the Senate subcommittee on oceans, atmosphere, fisheries, and Coast Guard, is responsible for NOAA. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) leads the subcommittee on space, science and competitiveness, which covers NASA. Why does that matter? Because both agencies manage the nation's weather satellites, which provide much of the data for studying climate change." [Washington Post, [1/21/15](#)]

### **Sen. Ted Cruz**

*Ted Cruz Is A Climate Change Denier*

**Cruz: Data Does Not Support Case For Climate Change.** According to CNN, "Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, questions whether global warming is real, arguing that the 'data are not supporting what the advocates are arguing.' 'The last 15 years, there has been no recorded warming. Contrary to all the theories that — that they are expounding, there should have been warming over the last 15 years. It hasn't happened,' said Cruz." [CNN, [2/20/14](#)]

**Headline: "Ted Cruz Says Satellite Data Show The Globe Isn't Warming. This Satellite Scientist Feels Otherwise."** [Washington Post, [3/24/15](#)]

- **The Scientist Cited By Cruz To Support His Claim That There Is No Global Warming Disagrees With Cruz's Interpretation And Calls People Who Doubt Climate Change "Denialists."** According to the Washington Post, "So how can Cruz claim that there's been no warming in 17 years? First, he's selectively using one type of data over others. Second, he's starting his analysis with a single warm temperature year — 1998 — rather looking at the aggregate temperatures of multiple years (or decades).[...] When PolitiFact investigated Cruz's '17 years' claim, it reported that Cruz spokesman Phil Novack supported the claim by referring to a blog item by Carl Mears, a physicist and senior scientist at Remote Sensing Systems. [...] But if you look at Mears's blog post, while he agrees there has been a slowdown in the 'rate of warming' — which, again, is not at all the same thing as 'zero warming' — he disagrees that this undermines global warming concerns. 'Does this slow-down in the warming mean that the idea of anthropogenic global warming is no longer valid?' Mears asks. 'The short answer is "no.'" Indeed, Mears uses the term 'denialists' to refer to climate skeptics in his post." [Washington Post, [3/24/15](#)]



## *Both NASA And NOAA Believe Climate Change Is Real And Happening*

**NASA: “The Current Warming Trend Is Of Particular Significance Because Most Of It Is Very Likely Human-Induced And Proceeding At A Rate That Is Unprecedented In The Past 1,300 Years.”** According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Global Climate Change website, “The Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era — and of human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth’s orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives. The current warming trend is of particular significance because most of it is very likely human-induced and proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented in the past 1,300 years.” [Climate.NASA.gov, Accessed [2/27/15](#)]

- **NASA: “Ninety-Seven Percent Of Climate Scientists Agree That Climate-Warming Trends Over The Past Century Are Very Likely Due To Human Activities, And Most Of The Leading Scientific Organizations Worldwide Have Issued Public Statements Endorsing This Position.”** According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Global Climate Change website, “Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities, and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.” [Climate.NASA.gov, Accessed [2/27/15](#)]

**NOAA: “Across The Country, The Places We Live, Visit, And Value Are Threatened By A Changing Climate.”** According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s website, “Across the country, the places we live, visit, and value are threatened by a changing climate. NOAA delivers regionally relevant climate information to decision makers and works with them to develop and implement action plans for reducing risks and minimizing climate impacts.” [NOAA.gov, Accessed [2/27/15](#)]

**Cruz Told NASA Administrator Charles Bolden That NASA’s Increased Budget For Earth Sciences Is Inappropriate Because NASA Should Only Focus On Exploring Space.** According to the National Journal, “Cruz didn't seem pleased with the ‘Earth environment’ part of [NASA administrator Charles] Bolden's answer. ‘Almost any American would agree that the core function of NASA is to explore space,’ he said. ‘That's what inspires little boys and little girls across this country ... and you know that I am concerned that NASA in the current environment has lost its full focus on that core mission.’ [...] Cruz then pointed to a chart behind him titled ‘Focus Inward or Focus Outward? Refocusing NASA's Core Priorities’ that compared NASA's budget in 2009 with the current request. He said that since 2009, funding for Earth sciences has seen a 41 percent increase, while funding for exploration and space operations, what Cruz ‘would consider the core function of NASA,’ has seen a 7.6 percent decrease. ‘In my judgment, this does not represent a fair or appropriate allocation of resources, that it is shifting resources away from the core functions of NASA to other functions,’ Cruz said. ‘Do you share that assessment?’” [National Journal, [3/12/15](#)]

- **NASA Administrator Charles Bolden: “We Can't Go Anywhere If The Kennedy Space Center Goes Underwater” Because Of Climate Change, “It Is Absolutely Critical That We Understand Earth Environment.”** According to the National Journal, “We can't go anywhere if the Kennedy Space Center goes underwater and we don't know it—and that's understanding our environment,’ Bolden said, alluding to the risk that climate change poses to the low-elevation state of Florida. ‘It is absolutely critical that we understand Earth environment because this is the only place that we have to live.’”

## *Cruz Funded By Oil And Gas Industry*

**Cruz Received \$946,568 From The Oil & Gas Industry Between 2011 And 2014.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Sen. Ted Cruz’s campaign committee received a total of \$946,568 from individuals and PACs associated with the Oil & Gas industry between 2011 and 2014. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [2/27/15](#)]

## *Cruz Led Efforts To Shut Down The Government*

**Politico: Cruz Led The Effort To Shut Down The Government In 2013.** According to Politico, “Texas Sen. Ted Cruz told conservative activists in a speech Thursday that his vigorous attempts to derail Obamacare — including leading the effort to shut down the government — were being vindicated in the wake of the health reform plan’s botched roll-out.” [Politico.com, [12/5/13](#)]

- **Cruz’s “Support For Shutting Down The Government As Part Of A Fight To Defund The Health Care Reform Law Drew Deep Ire From Not Only Democrats But Also Some Fellow Republicans.”** According to Politico, “Texas Sen. Ted Cruz told conservative activists in a speech Thursday that his vigorous attempts to derail Obamacare — including leading the effort to shut down the government — were being vindicated in the wake of the health reform plan’s botched roll-out. [...] The senator’s support for shutting down the government as part of a fight to defund the health care reform law drew deep ire from not only Democrats but also some fellow Republicans this fall. Cruz was blamed for diverting the public’s attention from Obamacare to the 16-day closure, which took a deep toll on the GOP in polls.” [Politico.com, [12/5/13](#)]

## **Sen. Marco Rubio**

### *Marco Rubio Is A Climate Change Denier*

**Rubio: Humanity Activity Is Not Contributing To Climate Change.** According to the Los Angeles Times, “Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a GOP star and possible 2016 presidential contender, does not believe human activity is causing climate change, he said Sunday. ‘I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it,’ Rubio said on ABC’s ‘This Week.’ ‘I do not believe that the laws that they propose we pass will do anything about it, except it will destroy our economy,’ he added.” [Los Angeles Times, [2/27/15](#)]

### *Rubio Funded By Oil And Gas Industry*

**Rubio Received \$307,108 From The Oil & Gas Industry Between 1989 And 2014.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Sen. Marco Rubio’s campaign committee received a total of \$307,108 from individuals and PACs associated with the Oil & Gas industry between 1989 and 2014. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [2/27/15](#)]

### *Rubio Supported Efforts To Shut Down The Government*

**PolitiFact Rated Rubio’s Claim That He “Never Favored A Government Shutdown And Voted To Fully Fund The Government” As “Mostly False.”** According to PolitiFact, “Rubio appears to be making the case that he would have liked to have achieved his goals without having to shut down the government, and that he would have been happy to fund the government fully if doing so was paired with provisions defunding or delaying Obamacare. He may have felt that way, but both of the specific claims he makes are problematic. His claim that ‘I never was in favor of shutting down the government’ is undercut by two separate comments in which he supported a strategy of opposing Obamacare even if that meant rejecting a bill that would have kept the government open. And on the question of whether he ‘voted to fund the government fully,’ he arguably may have done so once, but took the opposite position nine times. Given the political realities of the budget battle, Rubio’s words and actions suggest he wanted Obamacare defunded more than he wanted to keep the government open. As we noted, where responsibility for the shutdown is concerned, it takes two to tango. But in this case, there’s very little to support Rubio’s twin claims. We rate his claim Mostly False.” [PolitiFact.com, [10/23/15](#)]

- **Rubio On Strategy To Defund Obamacare In Appropriations Bill: “There Are Some Issues That Are So Fundamental That We Have To Be Willing To Go All The Way On Them... I Think Obamacare Is One Of Them.”** According to The Washington Times, “Sen. Marco Rubio said Wednesday that Republican opposition President Obama’s health care law is so integral to the party’s principles that his colleagues should be ready to reject any spending bills that fund the reforms. ‘The argument I’ve made to my colleagues is that there are some issues that are so fundamental that we have to be willing to go all the way on them,’ the Florida Republican and rising GOP star said. ‘I think Obamacare is one of them.’ [...] Mr. Rubio acknowledged the pushback within his own party, but argued that principle mattered more. ‘I’m not trying to put anybody on the spot, but here’s the bottom line — you can’t say you’re against Obamacare if you’re voting to fund it,’ Mr. Rubio said. He also said Republicans shouldn’t take the heat if the dispute brings Washington’s fiscal house to the brink, with a government shutdown a possibility.” [Washington Times, [7/24/13](#)]

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The extreme Tea Party agenda continues to dominate the House of Representatives in the new session of Congress. Although Trey Gowdy’s increasingly partisan Select Committee on Benghazi may have garnered much of the media attention during the first few weeks of the

114<sup>th</sup> Congress, there are plenty of other extreme happenings on the House side. Not to be outdone by the Senate, Energy and Finance chair Fred Upton (R-MI) also denies climate change while enjoying a cozy relationship with the oil and gas industry. Judiciary Committee chair Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), who has jurisdiction over immigration policy, believes that President Obama's executive actions on immigration are unconstitutional, and called a plan to unite legal American residents with their children living in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador a "government-sanctioned border surge." With his controversial statements on immigrants, 9/11, DC autonomy, etc., Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) is following in Rep. Issa's partisan footsteps as chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Rep. John Kline (R-PA) - chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee – received the most money in Congress from the for-profit education industry and has rewarded the industry with favorable legislation.

## Budget - Tom Price

Rep. Tom Price took over as chair of the House Budget Committee in the 114<sup>th</sup> session of Congress. Previously Price served as chair of the House Republican Policy Committee and of the Republican Study Committee. Before his career in the House of Representatives, Price served in the Georgia State Senate and became the first Republican Majority Leader in Georgia's history.

### PRICE'S GOALS AS CHAIR OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Price Wanted To Attach Any Raising Of The Debt Ceiling To "An Equal Decrease In Spending."** According to the Marietta Daily Journal, "If the debt ceiling has to be raised in the coming legislative session, Price said, it should be balanced with cuts in spending. 'What we hope to do is be able to make it so that any increase in the debt ceiling is met with an equal decrease in spending elsewhere so that we keep, from a percent of debt, we keep that as level as possible,' Price said. 'It was a principle that we utilized four years ago that proved very, very positive from an economic standpoint, and I think it's a principle that would be wise to continue.'" [Marietta Daily Journal, 12/21/14]

#### **Price Wants To Repeal Obamacare And Replace It With His Own Bill, "The Empowering Patients First Act."**

According to the Marietta Daily Journal, "The Affordable Care Act should be replaced by a 'patient-centered' model, Price said. He's been promoting a bill for the last three congressional sessions called the Empowering Patients First Act. 'It's a bill that solves the insurance challenges, makes sure that everybody has the financial feasibility and wherewithal to be able to purchase coverage that they want for themselves and for their family, not (coverage) that Washington forces them to buy.'" [Marietta Daily Journal, 12/21/14]

- **Price Has Pushed His Obamacare Alternative Since 2009 But It Has Never Come Up For A Vote.** According to the National Journal, "Also on Wednesday, Rep. Tom Price plugged an Obamacare alternative he's been pushing since 2009, but which has never come up for a vote. In fact, no "replace" proposal has ever come up for a vote in the House, despite four years of GOP control. The party has never seriously gotten behind any one proposal, and that's unlikely to change now." [National Journal, [11/12/14](#)]
- **Price's Bill Would Let Insurance Companies Continue To Discriminate Against People With Pre-Existing Conditions.** According to the National Journal, "It's not the first ACA alternative the GOP has produced. In June, Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga. introduced the Empowering Patients First Act. It would provide insurance-premium tax credits based on income, similar to the ACA, but wouldn't outlaw discrimination against people with preexisting conditions. It has been referred to committee. If the legislation sounds familiar, it's because Price sponsored it in the last two Congresses. It did not make it out of committee in either session." [National Journal, [9/22/13](#)]

### PRICE INVESTIGATED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FINANCIAL INDUSTRY DURING VOTE TO REGULATE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY

**Price Was One Of Eight Lawmakers Investigated For Soliciting "Large Contributions From Financial Institutions Even As They Were Debating The Landmark Regulatory Bill."** According to the New York Times, "The Office of Congressional Ethics has sent corporate donors and fund-raising hosts more than three dozen requests for documents involving eight members who solicited and took large contributions from financial institutions even as they were debating the landmark regulatory bill, according to lawyers involved in the inquiry. [...] Representative Tom Price, a Georgia Republican on the Financial Services Committee, scheduled what he called a 'Financial Services Luncheon' at the Capitol Hill Club, as part of a fund-raising push that netted him nearly \$23,000 in contributions from the industry in a two-month period around the vote." [New York Times, [7/14/10](#)]

**A “Fund-Raising Push” By Price “Netted Him Nearly \$23,000” From The Financial Industry In The Period Around The Vote On Amendments “That Would Have Imposed Tougher Restrictions On Wall Street.”** According to the New York Times, “For example, on Dec. 10, one of the lawmakers under investigation, Representative Joseph Crowley, a New York Democrat who sits on the Ways and Means Committee, left the Capitol during the House debate to attend a fund-raising event for him hosted by a lobbyist at her nearby Capitol Hill town house that featured financial firms, along with other donors. After collecting thousands of dollars in checks, Mr. Crowley returned to the floor of the House just in time to vote against a series of amendments that would have imposed tougher restrictions on Wall Street. That same day, Representative Tom Price, a Georgia Republican on the Financial Services Committee, scheduled what he called a ‘Financial Services Luncheon’ at the Capitol Hill Club, as part of a fund-raising push that netted him nearly \$23,000 in contributions from the industry in a two-month period around the vote.” [New York Times, [7/14/10](#)]

**After The Preliminary Inquiry, Price Was One Of Three Lawmakers That House Investigators Recommended Be Further Investigated.** According to the Associated Press, “House investigators have recommended that three lawmakers be further investigated to determine whether political contributions were improperly linked to votes on the huge financial overhaul bill. The independent House Office of Congressional Ethics recommended that the member-run House ethics committee pursue potential rules violations by Republicans John Campbell of California and Tom Price of Georgia and Democrat Joseph Crowley of New York. All three lawmakers referred for further investigation had fundraisers last December, around the time of crucial House votes.” [Associated Press, [8/31/10](#)]

## **PRICE CONSIDERED CHALLENGING GOP LEADERSHIP**

**In 2012 Price Was Considered The Most Likely Representative To “Challenge John Boehner For The Speaker’s Gavel.”** According to National Review Online, “Should a debt deal go sour, the buzz is that Tom Price, a 58-year-old physician from Georgia, may challenge John Boehner for the speaker’s gavel. ‘Price is the person we’re all watching,’ says an aide close to House leadership. ‘We know he’s frustrated, but we don’t know much else.’” [National Review Online, [12/10/12](#)]

**Price Was “Slowly Building An Informal Coalition” Of Conservative Members And Had “Huddled With Grover Norquist.”** According to National Review Online, “‘Tom has spoken with me about his concerns,’ says a veteran House Republican. ‘He says he doesn’t want conservatives to get burned.’ A second House Republican, who was elected in 2010, says Price is slowly building an informal coalition and chatting frequently with a tight circle of conservative members. In recent days, Price has also huddled with Grover Norquist, the anti-tax activist, at Norquist’s office.” [National Review Online, [12/10/12](#)]

**Price Refused Boehner’s Offer Of “A Ceremonial Leadership Post,” Because It Was Conditioned On Him “Pledging Unwavering Support To The Speaker.”** According to the National Review Online, “Yet the Price question continues to nag. Price has not ruled out anything, and he has rebuffed leadership’s attempts to woo him. For example, when Price began to mount his leadership campaign, Boehner urged him to consider dropping out of the race, and offered him a ceremonial leadership post. But the offer had a caveat, sources say. Price had to pledge unwavering support to the speaker. Price declined. He thought he could win, regardless of Boehner’s muscle. Ryan, fresh off his vice-presidential run, endorsed him, along with a slew of other House Republicans, such as Representative Jeb Hensarling (R., Tex.) and Representative Mike Pence (R., Ind.). FreedomWorks, RedState, and other conservative activists also backed him.” [National Review Online, [12/10/12](#)]

**Price Has “Broken To The Right Of The GOP Leadership,” And Disagreed In An Interview With “Boehner’s View That Obamacare Is ‘The Law Of The Land’ And Republicans Should Abandon Efforts To Repeal It.”** According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “Price has publicly broken to the right of the GOP House leadership at times. He said Sunday on Fox News, for example, that he disagreed with House Speaker John Boehner’s view that the Affordable Care Act, often called “Obamacare,” is “the law of the land” and Republicans should abandon efforts to repeal it. But he has not always differed. Price voted for last year’s debt-ceiling compromise when many House conservatives refused.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [11/14/12](#)]

**In The Election For GOP Conference Chair, Price Was Endorsed By FreedomWorks And “Influential RedState Blogger” Erick Erickson.** According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “If [Tom] Price becomes conference chairman, the fourth-ranking spot in leadership, in a closed-door vote today, it would be a clear sign of strength for House Republicans’ conservative wing in their first post-election ballot test, as negotiations get under way on the year-end ‘fiscal cliff.’ [...] His willingness to advocate vociferously for the right has earned him endorsements for conference chairman from Freedom Works, a tea party-related activist group, and influential RedState blogger Erick Erickson, of Macon. ‘Let’s not go wobbly,’



Erickson wrote last week. 'We know our ideas work. We know Tom Price knows our ideas work.' In an email to the AJC, Erickson added that Price 'maintains the credibility to continue the fight against Obamacare.'" [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 11/14/12]

## PRICE SPONSORED NUMEROUS PIECES OF ANTI-WORKER LEGISLATION

**Price Introduced An Amendment To Defund The National Labor Relations Board.** According to the Huffington Post, "Sixty House Republicans joined with every Democrat to beat back an anti-union amendment on Thursday that would have defunded the National Labor Relations Board, a New Deal-era independent agency that arbitrates labor disputes. The sixty defections come as the Midwest GOP governors in Wisconsin and Ohio are launching direct assaults on public employee unions.[...] The amendment had been introduced by Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) and was beaten back by a 250 to 176 tally." [Huffington Post, [2/17/11](#)]

**Price Sponsored A Bill To Quash A Decision By The NLRB Allowing "Some Workplace Employees To Unionize Without The Rest Of The Business."** According to The Hill, "A bill being introduced in both chambers by Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) and Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) would combat 'micro-unions,' a standard they say was created by a 2011 National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) decision that allows some workplace employees to unionize without the rest of the business. That would allow unions to encroach on a business in a piecemeal fashion and 'makes it nearly impossible for employers to manage such fragmentation of their workforce,' Isakson said in a statement. Their bill, the Representation Fairness Restoration Act, would nix that NLRB decision and require unions be organized around workers with similar wages, skills and functions." [The Hill, [6/13/13](#)]

**Price Sponsored "The Employee Rights Act."** According to a press release from the office of Rep. Tom Price, "Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06), introduced the Employee Rights Act (H.R. 3485) today which empowers American workers and shields them from unfair treatment in the workplace. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. Senate. 'Employees are entitled to the right to a secret ballot, to see their paycheck used as they intended and to join a labor union only if they want to do so,' Congressman Price said. 'According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 7 percent of private-sector union members voted for the union in their current workplace. This has left countless workers without a choice. Our plan would empower America's workers and increase the options available to them.'" [Tom Price Press Release, [11/14/13](#)]

- **"The Employee Rights Act" Would Make A Secret Ballot Election Before Forming A Union "Virtually Mandatory" Even If Employees Don't Ask For One.** According to MSNBC, "Opponents of EFCA said that it made workers more vulnerable to union intimidation, whereas its supporters called the current election process needlessly unwieldy and heavily slanted in favor of the boss. (Currently, after a majority of workers sign cards expressing their desire for a union, employers have the right to demand a secret ballot election.) The Employee Rights Act (ERA) promoted in CUP's Super Bowl commercial would go even further than that, amending the National Labor Relations Act to make secret ballot elections virtually mandatory. The revised language would make it so that employees' bargaining representatives would necessarily be "selected by secret ballot in an election conducted by the Board." [MSNBC, [2/4/13](#)]
- **It Would Also Require A Secret Referendum On Whether To Dismantle The Union Every Three Years, Restrict How Unions Could Use Dues And "Could Make It Easier" To Find Unions, Not Employers "Guilty Of Unfair Labor Practices."** According to MSNBC, "It doesn't stop there. Every three years, a private organization "chosen by agreement between the employer and the labor organization" would have to oversee a secret ballot referendum over whether or not to dismantle the union. The ERA would also restrict how unions are allowed to use employee dues, and add language which could make it easier for unions—but not employers—to be found guilty of unfair labor practices." [MSNBC, [2/4/13](#)]
- **Sunlight Foundation: The "Employee Rights Act" Was Backed By The "Anti-Union Group" The Center For Union Facts, Which Ran Ads In Support Of It During The Super Bowl.** According to the Sunlight Foundation, "Despite a disappointing showing on-field, Super Bowl XLVIII succeeded where it really matters: attracting 111 million pairs of eyeballs to TV screens on Feb. 2. While most fans associate the Big Game with ads for beer and car companies, groups with a political message are increasingly using football's biggest stage to pitch their ideas. Case in point: For the second year in a row, anti-union group the Center for Union Facts ran a Washington area ad aimed at bolstering support for the Employee Rights Act, FCC filings tracked by Sunlight's Political Ad Sleuth show. The group paid \$57,000 for one 30 second ad slot that ran before kickoff on local Fox affiliate WTTG. The Employee Rights Act — sponsored by Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, in the Senate and Tom Price, R-Ga., in the House — would mandate that all workforce votes on whether or not to unionize be done by secret ballot, rather than publicly, as is the current practice." [Sunlight Foundation, [2/4/14](#)]

- **The Center For Union Facts Is Run By Richard Berman.** According to the Sunlight Foundation, “The Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization run by consultant Richard Berman out of his firm Berman and Co's Washington office. CUF describes itself on its ‘About Us’ page as an organization ‘that fights for transparency and accountability in America’s labor movement.’ Berman himself has faced scrutiny from MSNBC and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) for his role in dozens of similar nonprofit groups, which are not required to reveal their sources of funding.” [Sunlight Foundation, [2/4/14](#)]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Koch Industries Donated \$31,500 To Tom Price.** According to OpenSecrets, Koch Industries donated \$11,000 to Tom Price in 2006, \$10,500 in 2012, and \$10,000 in 2014. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/5/15](#)]

**Price Was A Guest At An Event Hosted By AFP In Tampa Florida During The 2012 Republican National Convention, Which Was Also Attended By David Koch And Art Pope.** According to CNN, “Billionaire industrialist David Koch, who critics accuse of bankrolling a fierce and costly campaign against President Obama, offered a rare rebuttal to Democratic attacks against him on Thursday. Koch rarely speaks to the press. But at an event near the site of the Republican National Convention in Tampa, he responded to a CNN question regarding the Obama campaign's targeting of him as a prime political opponent. The event - a private reception - was sponsored by the conservative group Americans for Prosperity, a prime supporter of the tea party movement. CNN was the only television network allowed to attend. The event was titled, ‘A Salute to Entrepreneurs Building America.’ Besides Koch, also in attendance were AFP Chairman Art Pope and Republican lawmakers Jon Kyl, the Arizona senator, Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, Arkansas Sen. John Boozman, and Georgia Rep. Tom Price. Hundreds of grassroots activists also attended.” [CNN, [8/30/12](#)]

**A Letter Sent From Charles Koch To Invite New Participants To The Kochs’ 2011 Meeting In Rancho Mirage, California Cited Tom Price In A List Of Previous Guests To Encourage Attendance.** According to the New York Times, “With a personalized letter signed by Charles Koch, the invitation to the four-day Rancho Mirage meeting opens with a grand call to action: ‘If not us, who? If not now, when?’ [...] To encourage new participants, Mr. Koch offers to waive the \$1,500 registration fee. And he notes that previous guests have included Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court, Gov. Haley Barbour and Gov. Bobby Jindal, Senators Jim DeMint and Tom Coburn, and Representatives Mike Pence, Tom Price and Paul D. Ryan.” [New York Times, [10/19/15](#)]

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**Price’s Biggest Contributor Is “Health Professionals,” And He Received More Than \$3 Million From Them.** According to OpenSecrets, Rep. Tom Price’s top donor is Health Professionals and he has received \$3,159,259 from professional in the health industry since his first campaign in 2004. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/5/15](#)]

**Price Has Received \$324,383 From The Securities And Investment Industry And \$229,075 From Commercial Banks.** According to OpenSecrets, Rep. Tom Price received \$324,383 from the securities and investment industry, and \$224,075 from commercial banks since his first campaign in 2004. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/5/15](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS

**Price: “There’s Not One” Woman “Who Has Been Left Behind” Because They Can’t Afford Contraception.**

According to an interview with Rep. Tom Price by ThinkProgress, “[ThinkProgress reporter Scott] Keyes: ‘Obviously one of the main sticking points is whether or not contraception coverage is going to be covered health insurance plans and at hospitals and whether or not they’re going to be able to pay for it, especially for low-income women. Where do we leave these women if this rule is rescinded?’ Price: ‘Bring me one woman who has been left behind. Bring me one. There’s not one. The fact of the matter is, this is a trampling of religious freedom and religious liberty in this country. The president does not have the power to say that your First Amendment rights go away. That’s wrong.’” [ThinkProgress, [2/10/12](#)]

**Price Tried To Keep The Democratic Women's Caucus From Making Arguments On The House Floor On Health Bill's Benefits To Women, By Repeatedly Interrupting And Yelling “I Object! I Object!”** According to the Huffington Post, “On Saturday morning, a group of House Republicans -- led by Rep. Tom Price (R-Georgia) -- attempted to stop the Democratic Women's Caucus from making their arguments about how the health bill would benefit women by screaming over them. Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.) only had time to say ‘Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to--,’ before Price shouted ‘I

object.' The presiding chair, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) made gestures to maintain control, declaring that 'the request is not yet before the House' and that Price was 'out of order,' to little effect. Capps attempted to go on, but Price continued shouting 'I object! I object! I object!'" [Huffington Post, [3/18/10](#)]

## Energy And Finance – Fred Upton

Rep. Fred Upton has been chair of the House Energy and Finance Committee since 2010. Upton has been in Congress since 1987, before his career in Congress Upton worked for the Office of Management and Budget under Ronald Reagan.

### UPTON'S TRANSFORMATION INTO A CLIMATE DENIER

**Upton Advocated For Reducing Emissions Before Republicans Retook Control Of House.** According to Mother Jones, "In the past, Upton—the incoming chair of the House energy and commerce committee—has advocated taking action on global warming. 'I strongly believe that everything must be on the table as we seek to reduce carbon emissions,' he once stated on his website. But that statement recently vanished from his site—along with, it seems, his concern about global warming. Following a tea party-aided Republican takeover of the House and a heated fight for the chairmanship of the powerful committee, Upton's position on climate change has veered closer to those of his global-warming-denying caucus-mates. And he's now vowing to use his new role to thwart efforts to cut emissions." [Mother Jones, [1/4/11](#)]

**Upton Took Heat From Conservative Movement For Supporting Efficient Light Bulbs.** According to Politico, "Rep. Fred Upton's support for eco-friendly light bulbs could leave him in the dark in his bid to chair the Energy and Commerce Committee. Conservatives on and off Capitol Hill are waging a campaign to show that the Michigan Republican isn't conservative enough to chair the powerful committee that will be in the center over fight on health care and energy policy next year. [...] Upton's support for the 2007 light bulb regulation is also highlighted on an unsigned document circulating on Capitol Hill that questions his conservative voting record. Staff for former Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton – Upton's most vocal challenger for the post – is behind the document, GOP sources told POLITICO." [Politico, [11/12/10](#)]

**In 2014 Upton Said He Was Now Not Sure If Climate Change Caused By Humans: "I Don't Know That Climate Scientists Can Really Predict Where We're Headed."** According to the Kalamazoo Gazette, "Upton said in an interview with the Kalamazoo Gazette Editorial Board he has talked to some funders of the PAC who contributed six figures to it under the illusion that the PAC would work on eliminating dysfunction in politics. [...] 'We've experienced climate change for a long time, highs and lows. We had the coldest winter ever last winter. There was a report out that the Great Lakes are six degrees below what they were a year ago. I don't know that climate scientists can really predict where we're headed.' Upton said temperatures have gone higher and lower for some time, and mentioned that the Great Lakes are six degrees below what they were a year ago. He said he has not made a stand on whether climate change is caused by man." [Kalamazoo Gazette, [10/17/14](#)]

**Upton Hired An Energy Lobbyist To Serve As His Senior Aide.** According to the National Journal, "House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich., has tapped a top natural gas lobbyist to be the committee's senior aide on energy and environment issues. Tom Hassenboehler, vice president of policy development and legislative affairs at America's Natural Gas Alliance will be chief counsel for the Energy and Power Subcommittee, which has primary jurisdiction over controversial issues like environmental regulations. [...] Hassenboehler has been leading ANGA's legislative lobbying efforts since he joined the trade group in January 2011. Before that, he spent a decade on Capitol Hill, which included stints as counsel for Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., on the Environment and Public Works Committee and also the Energy and Commerce Committee." [National Journal, [12/6/12](#)]

### UPTON OPPOSES NET NEUTRALITY; WARNED THAT GOVERNMENT WILL BE PUT IN CHARGE OF THE INTERNET

**Upton Opposed Net Neutrality, Referred To Possible FCC Action As "Chicago-Style Politics."** According to a press release from Rep. Fred Upton's office, "Congressman Fred Upton (R-Michigan), senior member and former chairman of the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet, made the following statement in regard to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski's expressed intention to regulate the Internet. 'The relentless push towards net neutrality reveals this administration and the FCC remain tone deaf to the will of the American

people. First it was cap-and-trade, then health care, and now they have launched an all out assault to regulate the Internet. We have all grown sick and tired of the Chicago-style politics to ram through job-killing measures at any cost, regardless of the consequences or damage to our economy. Rather than put a gun to the heads of our largest economic engines, now is the time for the FCC to cease and desist. The FCC does not have authority to regulate the Internet, and pursuing net neutrality through Title I or reclassification is wholly unacceptable. Our new majority will use rigorous oversight, hearings and legislation to fight the FCC's overt power grab.” [Fred Upton Press Release, [12/1/10](#)]

**Upton Welcomed Verizon’s Court Case Challenging Proposed FCC Action On Net Neutrality.** According to a press release from Rep. Fred Upton’s office, “Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, joined Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Lee Terry (R-NE), Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, respectively, in releasing the following statement upon Verizon's court challenge against the Federal Communications Commission's effort to regulate the Internet: ‘We welcome the decision by Verizon, and hopefully others, to demand their day in court to block the FCC's misguided attempt to regulate the Internet. At stake is not just innovation and economic growth, although those concerns are vital. Equally important is putting a check on an FCC that is acting beyond the authority granted to it by Congress. Between our legislative efforts and this court action, we will put the FCC back on firmer ground.’” [Fred Upton Press Release, [1/20/11](#)]

**Upton: Actions Proposed By FCC Are “Harmful Policies To Put Government In Charge Of The Web.”** According to a press release from the Energy & Commerce Committee, “House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) today responded to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler’s announcement that the commission will be reviving network neutrality regulations. ‘No matter how many times the court says ‘no,’ the Obama administration refuses to abandon its furious pursuit of these harmful policies to put government in charge of the web. These regulations are a solution in search of a problem, and with the many issues on its plate, including implementation of the spectrum incentive auctions, it would be wise for the commission to focus on fostering economic growth, job creation, and competition,’ said Upton and Walden.” [Energy & Commerce Committee Press Release, [2/19/14](#)]

**Upton Blasted White House Involvement On Net Neutrality: “White House Needs To Get Its Hands Off The FCC.”** According to the New York Times, “Meanwhile, Republicans like Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., and Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., accused the White House of bullying the independent regulatory agency when President Barack Obama called on the FCC to apply Title II to Internet service. ‘The White House needs to get its hands off the FCC,’ Upton declared Thursday in a statement.” [New York Times, [2/5/15](#)]

### **As FCC Designation Looked Likely, Upton Introduced Own Net Neutrality Bill**

**Upton Proposed His Own Net Neutrality Legislation In An Effort To Block Title II Designation.** According to the New York Times, “Republicans in Congress are trying to drum up support for a bill that would counter the FCC's upcoming new rules. The Obama administration's comments, while not entirely rebuffing the legislative effort, could make some Democrats wary of joining it. [...] Republican chairmen of the Senate and House commerce committees, John Thune and Fred Upton, have been working to strike a legislative deal with Democrats that would adopt some of the same net neutrality principles but without resorting to Title II.” [New York Times, [1/15/15](#)]

- **The Section Of Communications Law Known As Title II, Would Treat ISPs “More Like Public Utilities.”** According to the New York Times, “At stake is what rules should govern how Internet service providers (ISPs) manage web traffic on their networks to ensure they treat all Internet content fairly. At the heart of the latest phase in the debate over the rules is what legal authority should guide regulations. Obama has urged the FCC to regulate ISPs more strictly under a section of communications law known as Title II, which would treat them more like public utilities. Broadband companies adamantly oppose the plan, saying the added regulatory burden would reduce investment and stifle innovation.” [New York Times, [1/15/15](#)]

**New York Times Editorial: “Companies Like Comcast And Verizon Would Feel Almost No Effect” Of Upton Net Neutrality Bill.** According to an editorial by the New York Times, “Republicans and large telecommunications companies are natural allies in opposing government regulations. Now, two Republican lawmakers, Senator John Thune of South Dakota and Representative Fred Upton of Michigan, have proposed a bill that they claim would achieve neutrality on the Internet without the kind of regulation the F.C.C. is expected to approve next month. But the legislation has such large loopholes that powerful cable and phone companies like Comcast and Verizon would feel almost no effect.” [Editorial - New York Times, [1/29/15](#)]



- **Comcast Was Upton's Largest Donor In Recent Election Cycle.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Comcast Corporation gave Upton \$41,200 in the 2014 election cycle. The Company was Upton's largest funder. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]
- **Verizon Gave \$30,400 To Upton In Most Recent Election Cycle.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Verizon Communications gave \$30,400 to Fred Upton in the 2014 election cycle. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

## **Upton Flip-Flopped On Municipal Broadband**

**Upton Was Lead Sponsor On Municipal Broadband Legislation But Later Opposed Helping FCC To Allow Municipalities To Set Up Their Own Broadband Services.** According to the National Journal, "And Republican Rep. Fred Upton, now the head of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, was a lead sponsor of the legislation's House counterpart in 2007. At the time, the Republicans argued that the municipal Internet projects could boost competition and spur economic growth. Those days are over. Virtually every House Republican—including Upton—voted in July to block the Federal Communications Commission from striking down state laws that prevent municipalities from setting up their own broadband services. The provision is now attached to the House's version of a 2015 funding bill for the FCC and other agencies. [...] When Upton introduced his bill, he said that tearing down barriers to municipal broadband would 'foster even more competition and choices for consumers across the nation.'" [National Journal, [8/26/14](#)]

**A Bill Sponsored By Upton That Was Designed To Block The FCC From Classifying ISPs Under Title II, Could Also "Seriously Hinder" Its Ability To "Boost Municipal Broadband Projects."** According to Politico, "The bill from Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune and House Energy and Commerce leadership Reps. Fred Upton and Greg Walden would reinstate — and even boost — the FCC's 2010 rules, but some Democrats are worried that the bill puts harsh limits on the agency's authority to regulate broadband. The bill is designed to keep the FCC from going forward with its plans to reclassify broadband as a Title II service under the Communications Act, but it would also keep the FCC from using its authority under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act, which could seriously hinder the agency's — and Obama's — plans to boost municipal broadband projects across the country." [Politico, [1/20/15](#)]

**Upton's Legislation Would Strip FCC Of Ability To Help Local Municipalities Build Broadband.** According to the New York Times, "Thune and Upton have drafted legislation that would enforce basic open Internet rules, but would strip the FCC of other authority including its ability to help local municipalities to build their own broadband. That's considered a non-starter for Democrats and would be vetoed by Obama." [New York Times, [2/5/15](#)]

## **UPTON "ALIGNED" WITH THE KOCHS**

**Upton Coauthored Anti-EPA Op-Ed With Americans For Prosperity President Tim Phillips.** According to Mother Jones, "Late last week, Upton coauthored a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed with Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group that has opposed action on climate change. In it, the pair wrote that a new EPA regulation to curb greenhouse gas emissions, which took effect on Sunday, 'presumes that carbon is a problem in need of regulation. We are not convinced.' They also decried the carbon rules as 'an unconstitutional power grab that will kill millions of jobs.'" [Mother Jones, [1/4/11](#)]

- **Upton "Not Convinced" That "Carbon Is A Problem In Need Of Regulation."** According to a Wall Street Journal op-ed co-written by Fred Upton and Tim Phillips, "For the last year or so, some in Congress have considered mandating that the EPA delay its greenhouse-gas regulations by two years. But that delay is arbitrary -- it was selected because a handful of Democrats needed political cover. There is no way to know whether two years will be sufficient time for the courts to complete their work. Moreover, the principal argument for a two-year delay is that it will allow Congress time to create its own plan for regulating carbon. This presumes that carbon is a problem in need of regulation. We are not convinced." [Wall Street Journal, [12/28/10](#)]

**Los Angeles Times: Upton Is An Important Koch Ally And "Has Made A Point Of Publicly Aligning Himself" With Americans For Prosperity.** According to the Los Angeles Times, "Perhaps the Kochs' most surprising and important ally on the committee is its new chairman, Rep. Fred Upton. The Republican from Michigan, who was once criticized by conservatives for his middle-of-the-road approach to environmental issues, is now leading the effort to rein in the EPA. Upton received \$20,000 in donations from Koch employees in 2010, making them among his top 10 donors in that cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. In recent months the congressman has made a point of publicly aligning himself with

the Koch-backed advocacy group [Americans for Prosperity], calling for an end to the 'EPA chokehold.' Last week the chairman released a draft of a bill that would strip the EPA of its ability to curb carbon emissions. The legislation is in line with the Kochs' long-advocated stance that the federal government should have a minimal role in regulating business. The Kochs' oil refineries and chemical plants stand to pay millions to reduce air pollution under currently proposed EPA regulations." [Los Angeles Times, [2/6/11](#)]

**Americans For Prosperity Applauded Upton For Signing Its "No Climate Tax Pledge."** According to a press release from Americans for Prosperity's Michigan chapter, "The Michigan chapter of the grassroots free market group Americans for Prosperity (AFPMI) today applauded U.S. Congressman Fred Upton (6th District) for signing the group's 'No Climate Tax Pledge.' Upton joins more than 325 legislators and candidates on the federal, state and local levels pledging to 'oppose legislation relating to climate change that includes a net increase in federal revenue.'" [AFP-Michigan Press Release, [1/26/10](#)]

## Homeland Security – Mike McCaul

Rep. Michael McCaul was elected to Congress in 2004 and has been chair of the House Administration committee since 2013. Miller is also chair of the U.S.-Mexico Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG) and is co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional High Tech Caucus and the Cybersecurity Caucus. Prior to his political career McCaul worked as the chief of Counterterrorism and National Security for Texas's branch of the US Attorney's office and as Texas's deputy attorney general.

### MCCAUL IS THE SECOND WEALTHIEST LAWMAKER IN CONGRESS

**McCaul Was The Second-Richest Member Of Congress In 2014.** According to Roll Call, "[Rep. Michael] McCaul may be, according to his financial disclosure, the second-richest member of Congress, but he didn't list a single asset in his name — not even a bank account worth at least \$1,000. Instead, McCaul's wealth is entirely connected to his wife, Linda McCaul, the daughter of Clear Channel Communications founder Lowry Mays." [Roll Call, [1/6/15](#)]

**McCaul's Net Worth In 2014 Was \$117.54 Million.** According to Roll Call, Rep. Michael McCaul's net worth in 2014 was \$117.45 million. [Roll Call, [1/6/15](#)]

**However, McCaul "Didn't List A Single Asset In His Name," All His Wealth "Is Entirely Connected To His Wife, Linda McCaul."** According to Roll Call, "[Rep. Michael] McCaul may be, according to his financial disclosure, the second-richest member of Congress, but he didn't list a single asset in his name — not even a bank account worth at least \$1,000. Instead, McCaul's wealth is entirely connected to his wife, Linda McCaul, the daughter of Clear Channel Communications founder Lowry Mays." [Roll Call, [1/6/15](#)]

**Roll Call: "Exactly How Much Money McCaul And His Wife Have Is A Mystery."** According to Roll Call, "Exactly how much money McCaul and his wife have is a mystery. Several of the holdings in his wife's name are in the broad spousal asset category of \$1 million or more. On his 2011 disclosure, McCaul listed many of those same assets as being worth at least \$50 million — the highest category. In that year, his wealth was estimated to be at least \$305 million, and even though his wealth has been calculated closer to \$100 million for the past two years, there's no reason to believe he has any less money now than he did in 2011." [Roll Call, [1/6/15](#)]

**McCaul Saw "His Fortunes Sextuple," Between His First Election In 2004 And 2010.** According to Roll Call, "But McCaul's form displays no information for more than 60 accounts that appear to have purchases or sales, beginning with Exxon Mobil Corp. and continuing through Western Union Co. The Texas lawmaker, who will rank sixth on Roll Call's upcoming annual survey of the richest Members of Congress with a minimum net worth of \$73.75 million, has seen his fortunes sextuple since he filed his first financial disclosure report, which was for the 2004 calendar year." [Roll Call, [9/13/10](#)]

**Roll Call Found That McCaul Appeared To Have "Failed To Fully Disclose Dozens Of Stock Transactions Worth Millions Of Dollars" On His 2008 And 2009 Disclosure Reports.** According to Roll Call, "Rep. Michael McCaul, one of the richest Members of Congress, appears to have failed to fully disclose dozens of stock transactions worth millions of dollars on his annual financial disclosure reports for 2008 and 2009." [Roll Call, [9/13/10](#)]

**Roll Call's Analysis Found That McCaul Left Out Details On "The 2008 Sale Of Clear Channel Stocks Owned By His Spouse."** According to Roll Call, "A Roll Call analysis of McCaul's annual reports found the Texas Republican did not

fully detail the 2008 sale of Clear Channel stocks owned by his spouse, including the date of the transaction. A McCaul spokesman said the lawmaker believes he has filed accurate forms.” [Roll Call, [9/13/10](#)]

**“McCaul Also Indicated His Spouse Sold Or Purchased Dozens Of Stocks, But He Failed To Detail The Transactions, Including The Dates Or Values Of The Dealings.”** According to Roll Call, “According to his most recent financial disclosure form, which covers the 2009 calendar year, McCaul also indicated his spouse sold or purchased dozens of stocks, but he failed to detail the transactions, including the dates or values of the dealings.” [Roll Call, [9/13/10](#)]

**Following The Roll Call Report On “Inconsistencies” In McCaul’s Disclosure Reports, McCaul “Filed Amendments...To Correct Several Mistakes.”** According to Roll Call, “Rep. Michael McCaul has filed amendments to his annual financial disclosure forms to correct several mistakes, including a printing error that omitted tens of millions of dollars in transactions, which he blamed on his accountant. The Texas Republican filed amendments to both his calendar year 2008 and 2009 forms Thursday, following a Roll Call report on inconsistencies in his disclosure reports for those years.” [Roll Call, [9/22/10](#)]

**McCaul “Undervalued His Family’s Sale Of Several Portions Of Clear Channel Stock At \$1 Million To \$5 Million,” And Corrected It To “\$5 Million To \$25 Million.”** According to Roll Call, “On his 2008 report, McCaul stated that his spouse owned multiple stakes in Clear Channel Communications Inc., the media conglomerate founded by her father, Lowry Mays. In an amendment to his 2008 report, McCaul acknowledged that his disclosure form undervalued his family’s sale of several portions of Clear Channel stock at \$1 million to \$5 million, stating it should have been listed at \$5 million to \$25 million.” [Roll Call, [9/22/10](#)]

## **MCCAUL’S SUPPORT AND MONEY FOR GOP LEADERSHIP HELPED HIS CAREER**

**Houston Chronicle: “McCaul Became A Go-To-Guy For Boehner And Other GOP House Leaders.”** According to the Houston Chronicle, “McCaul became a go-to-guy for Boehner and other GOP House leaders. Campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission show McCaul donated more than \$60,000 to at least 49 Republican congressional candidates for the 2012 campaign. Contributions ranged from \$500 to \$2,000.” [Houston Chronicle, [12/2/12](#)]

**McCaul Donated “More Than \$60,000” All Together To “At Least 49 Republican Congressional Candidates” In The 2012 Campaign Cycle.** According to the Houston Chronicle, “McCaul became a go-to-guy for Boehner and other GOP House leaders. Campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission show McCaul donated more than \$60,000 to at least 49 Republican congressional candidates for the 2012 campaign. Contributions ranged from \$500 to \$2,000.” [Houston Chronicle, [12/2/12](#)]

**AEI Congressional Scholar Norm Ornstein: McCaul’s Fundraising May Have Given Leadership An Incentive To Name Him Chair Of The Homeland Security Committee Instead Of Rep. Candice Miller.** According to the Houston Chronicle, “Houston-area Congressman Michael McCaul faced long odds in his quiet, determined quest to become chairman of the high-profile House Committee on Homeland Security. [...] One of the contenders, Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich, had a different advantage: She was the lone woman in contention for one of the 19 premier House chairmanships. [...] Taking a prominent role in campaign fundraising historically contributes to House members moving up the political ladder, said Norm Ornstein, a congressional scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. ‘The leadership is often criticized for it but sometimes they bypass seniority to get to whoever raised more money for the party,’ said Ornstein. ‘I think that’s something they had in mind with McCaul.’” [Houston Chronicle, [12/2/12](#)]

- **Austin American-Statesman: “McCaul Edged Out Rep. Candice Miller, A Republican From Michigan, Who Had Sought To Be The First Female Chair Of The Powerful Committee.”** According to the Austin American-Statesman, “McCaul edged out Rep. Candice Miller, a Republican from Michigan, who had sought to be the first female chair of the powerful committee. Though Miller won’t get the top position, Republican leaders are ‘painfully aware’ of the gender gap, with women voters favoring President Barack Obama by 11 points and men favoring Republican Mitt Romney by 7 points, said Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University. ‘They’ll look to see what they can do to make sure Candice Miller is not displeased,’ Jillson said.” [Austin American-Statesman, 11/28/12]

## **MCCAUL’S EXTREME IMMIGRATION BILL WAS CONSIDERED “UNWORKABLE” OPPOSED BY BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT**

**McCaul Introduced A Bill He Claimed Was “The Toughest Crackdown On Illegal Immigration Border Crossings Ever,” But Instead Of “Bolstering His Party’s Credibility,” It “Ran Into Fierce Conservative Opposition.”** According to McClatchy, “Rep. Mike McCaul, R-Texas, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, thought he had a sure-fire winning bill to secure the border at the start of the congressional session. It isn’t turning out that way. McCaul got the bill, which he said was the toughest crackdown on illegal immigration border crossings ever, through his committee at lightning speed. It would set deadlines for federal officials to stop the flow to get ‘operational control’ of the border and add 27 miles of fencing and enhanced technology to aid patrolling. But instead of bolstering his party’s credibility on immigration, McCaul’s bill, which passed his committee on a party line vote, ran into fierce conservative opposition. It was pulled just before its scheduled vote Wednesday on the House floor.” [McClatchy, [1/30/15](#)]

**McClatchy: McCaul “Frantically Tried To Convince” Sen. Jeff Sessions To Support The Bill.** According to McClatchy, “Conservatives, led by Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said they don’t want a bill that takes partial steps to combat illegal immigration and they don’t think the bill is as tough as McCaul claims. [...] McCaul frantically tried to convince Sessions, new chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, who has influence over many House conservatives, that his bill was viable. The Texan even went over to the Senate side of the Capitol complex to talk to Sessions.” [McClatchy, [1/30/15](#)]

**Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson Called McCaul’s Border Security Bill “Extreme To The Point Of Being Unworkable.”** According to Politico, “Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on Thursday ripped a border-security bill poised for a House floor vote next week, calling the legislation ‘extreme to the point of being unworkable.’ House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) is sponsoring legislation that aims to completely secure the U.S.-Mexico border within five years. The bill cleared his committee on a party-line, 18-12, vote on Wednesday night.” [Politico, [1/22/15](#)]

**Johnson: McCaul’s Legislation “Would Leave The Southern Border Less Secure,” Tie The Hands Of DHS Officials Trying To Respond To Threats, And Set Requirements For Border Security That Are “Impossible To Achieve.”** According to Politico, “But Johnson, whose agency would be charged with implementing much of the border-security crackdown called for by McCaul, said the legislation was ‘not a serious effort at legislating border security – and its authors know it.’ Johnson contended that the McCaul legislation would leave the southern border less secure, while tying the hands of DHS officials to respond to threats while setting requirements for border security that are ‘impossible to achieve.’” [Politico, [1/22/15](#)]

**The Bill Would Have Penalized DHS Employees If The Department Had Not Blocked Or Turned Back All Attempted Border Crossings Within Five Years.** According to the Guardian, “Democrats have echoed such statements and are especially critical of a provision that calls for penalties to be enacted against the DHS if it fails to put the border under ‘operational control’ in five years. The bill defines ‘operational control’ as blocking or turning back all attempted border crossings. Under such penalties, politically appointed DHS officials would not be allowed to travel in government vehicles, would not be reimbursed for nonessential travel and would not be eligible for bonuses or pay increases. Along with the ‘operational control requirement’, the bill seeks to add and replace fencing along the border, build new roads and create more bases for border patrol agents.” [Guardian, [1/27/15](#)]

**McCaul Wanted To Use Military Spy Blimps That Had Been Used In Afghanistan To Guard The Southern Border.** According to the Washington Times, “Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said Friday that he wants to redeploy U.S. military spy blimps in Afghanistan to America’s southern border. The plan to repurposing of the large tethered blimps, known as aerostats, is part of Mr. McCaul’s \$1 billion blueprint to secure the porous borders and stop the flow of illegal immigrants, contraband and possibly terrorists into the United States.” [Washington Times, [10/10/14](#)]

## **MCCAUL WAS HAPPY TO USE EARMARKS TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR HIS DISTRICT UNTIL THE DEMOCRATS TOOK CHARGE**

**McCaul Claimed In His 2008 Campaign That He “Said No To Earmarks,” Even Though He “Used To Say Yes To Them.”** According to the Austin American-Statesman, “U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul says in a television campaign commercial that he ‘said no’ to earmarks, the pet local projects that members of Congress tuck into annual spending bills. What McCaul doesn’t say is that he used to say yes to them. McCaul, R-Austin, did not request any earmarks for his district this year. He



said he wanted to reform the often-criticized earmark process, and he didn't think seeking them at the same time would help that cause.” [Austin American-Statesman, 10/21/08]

**McCaul Helped To Secure \$20 Million Worth Of Earmarks In 2007, “Including \$1.7 Million That He Sponsored By Himself.”** According to the Austin American-Statesman, “But McCaul, who has been in Congress since 2005 and is trying to fend off Democratic challenger Larry Joe Doherty , has sought earmarks before. McCaul worked with other members of Congress last year to secure \$20 million worth of earmarks, including \$1.7 million that he sponsored by himself, according to the watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense. Because of reforms passed early in 2007, last year was the first time lawmakers had to disclose which earmarks they sponsored. In fact, McCaul sent out news releases seven months ago touting earmarks that he helped secure for Huston-Tillotson University and the Austin Police Department.” [Austin American-Statesman, 10/21/08]

**Seven Months Before Claiming To Be Against Earmarks McCaul “Sent Out News Releases Touting Earmarks That He Helped Secure For Huston-Tillotson University And The Austin Police Department.”** According to the Austin American-Statesman, “McCaul worked with other members of Congress last year to secure \$20 million worth of earmarks, including \$1.7 million that he sponsored by himself, according to the watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense . Because of reforms passed early in 2007, last year was the first time lawmakers had to disclose which earmarks they sponsored. In fact, McCaul sent out news releases seven months ago touting earmarks that he helped secure for Huston-Tillotson University and the Austin Police Department.” [Austin American-Statesman, 10/21/08]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS

**In His 2004 Campaign, McCaul Falsely Claimed That He Had Been Endorsed By The Texas Mortgage Bankers Association When It Actually Endorsed His Opponent.** According to the Austin American-Statesman, “On Thursday, McCaul had to back-pedal to disavow an endorsement he falsely claimed two days earlier. At two Tuesday events, McCaul said he was endorsed by the Texas Mortgage Bankers Association. At a debate, McCaul questioned [Ben] Streusand's business ethics and said, ‘Perhaps that's why the Texas Mortgage Bankers Association endorsed me yesterday.’ ‘I submit to you that ethics is important, that honesty is important, that truth is important,’ McCaul said. Truth is that the Texas Mortgage Bankers Association endorsed Streusand, a mortgage company owner and chairman of the association's state government relations committee.” [Austin American-Statesman, 3/26/04]

**Houston Chronicle’s Geoff Berg: In Response To A Lawsuit Falsely Claiming That The VA Banned Prayer At Veterans’ Funeral Services, McCaul Called For The Firing Of The Local VA’s Cemetery Director.** According to an opinion by columnist Geoff Berg for the Houston Chronicle, “Houston-area Congressmen John Culberson, Ted Poe, Michael McCaul and Pete Olson have all called for the firing of local Veteran Administration’s Cemetery Director Arleen Ocasio. None of them have the facts, but all sense an opportunity to exploit the sympathy most people would feel if it were true that prayer had been banned at services honoring our veterans. It isn’t true by the way, but this group hasn’t let that stop them. The Representatives’ calls for firing were made after the Dallas-based Liberty Institute filed a lawsuit against the VA. [...] After filing suit, LI alleged that ‘Veterans Affairs Bans Mention of God at Funerals for Vets.’ That’s just patently false; nobody is going around the cemetery and telling people not to pray.” [Geoff Berg - Houston Chronicle, [6/6/11](#)]

**McCaul Said Allowing Some Of The Estimated 4 Million Children, Women And Men Fleeing Violence In Syria Into The United States As Refugees Would Be A “Huge Mistake.”** According to ABC News, “‘It's clearly a population of concern,’ the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Nicholas Rasmussen, told the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday. Committee Chairman Mike McCaul, R-Texas, went further, saying it would be a ‘huge mistake’ to bring refugees from the conflict to the U.S. – even as an estimated 4 million children, women and men have been forced to flee Syria and another 7 million have been displaced from their homes there, unable to leave.” [ABC News, [2/12/15](#)]

## Administration – Candice Miller

Rep. Candice Miller was elected to Congress in 2002 and has been chair of the House Administration committee since 2013. Miller is also vice-chair of the Homeland Security committee and chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security. Before her career in Congress, she served two terms as Michigan’s secretary of state.

# MILLER WAS THE ONLY WOMAN SELECTED TO CHAIR A HOUSE COMMITTEE

**Candice Miller Is The Only Female Lawmaker In The 114th Republican-Run Congress To Chair A Congressional Committee.** According to Bloomberg News, “Candice Miller has a special status in the new Republican-run U.S. House: She’s the only female lawmaker in the party to head a congressional committee. Her domain? House Administration, a panel known more for tending to granular details – overseeing federal elections, parking lots and cafeterias – than grabbing headlines.” [Bloomberg, [1/12/15](#)]

**Bloomberg: Miller Was Selected To Head The Administration Committee, Which Is “Known More For Tending To Granular Details – Overseeing Federal Elections, Parking Lots And Cafeterias – Than Grabbing Headlines.”**

According to Bloomberg News, “Candice Miller has a special status in the new Republican-run U.S. House: She’s the only female lawmaker in the party to head a congressional committee. Her domain? House Administration, a panel known more for tending to granular details – overseeing federal elections, parking lots and cafeterias – than grabbing headlines.” [Bloomberg, [1/12/15](#)]

**Head Of Rutgers University’s Center For American Women And Politics: Debbie Walsh: “I Don’t Want To Diminish Her Position But It’s Not Ways And Means...It’s Much More Administrative.”** According to Bloomberg News, “‘I don’t want to diminish her position but it’s not Ways and Means, it’s not the Budget Committee,’ said Debbie Walsh, head of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. ‘It’s much more administrative.’” [Bloomberg, [1/12/15](#)]

**Walsh: “It Is Shocking...Republicans Had An Opportunity To Put Women In Leadership Positions On Committees And Have Made A Conscious Choice Not To Do So.”** According to Bloomberg News, “Even as Republicans seek to attract more female voters and fend off attacks from Democrats on women’s issues, the lack of women heading the House’s 22 committees shows the party has a long way to go to catch up to the minority party, Walsh said. ‘It is shocking to think there is only one woman in the entire House that holds a committee chair,’ Walsh said. ‘Republicans had an opportunity to put women in leadership positions on committees and have made a conscious choice not to do so.’” [Bloomberg, [1/12/15](#)]

**Bloomberg: “It’s Less Common For A Female Republican To Get A Committee Gavel Than It Is For A Woman To Run A Major U.S. Corporation.”** According to Bloomberg News, “Indeed, it’s less common for a female Republican to get a committee gavel than it is for a woman to run a major U.S. corporation. Miller’s lone chairmanship means that 4.5 percent of the 22 Republican women serving in the House will head panels during the congressional session that began last week. That compares with 25, or 5 percent, of Fortune 500 company chief executive officers who are women.” [Bloomberg, [1/12/15](#)]

## Miller Was First Named To The Position In 2012, Even Though She Was Not Even A Member Of The Committee

**Miller First Became Head Of The House Administration Panel In 2013 – The Only Woman To Head A Committee In That Congress, Too.** According to Bloomberg News, “Miller, 60, first became head of the House Administration panel in 2013 – the only woman to head a committee in that Congress, too – after losing a bid to run the Committee on Homeland Security. She was defeated by Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, although Miller, a Michigan lawmaker now starting her seventh term in the House, had been in Congress two years longer than he had.” [Bloomberg News, [1/12/15](#)]

- **Miller Was Not A Member Of The Administration Committee Before Being Named Its Chair.** According to the Huffington Post, “After taking heat for stacking House committee chair posts with all white men in the next Congress, House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) appears to have found his binder full of women. Boehner announced Friday that Rep. Candice Miller (R-Mich.) will chair the House Administration Committee -- a committee that Miller wasn't even on until now.” [Huffington Post, [11/30/12](#)]
- **Rep. Gregg Harper Was The Most Senior Republican Member Of The House Administration Committee, And “Was Next In Line To Become Chair” Until Miller Was Named.** According to the Huffington Post, “In terms of seniority, Rep. Gregg Harper (R-Miss.) was next in line to become chair of the House Administration Committee, which means Miller will skip over him to take the helm. The committee's current chairman, Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.), lost in the November election. A Harper spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. Miller had previously gunned for chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, but that post ended up going to Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas).” [Huffington Post, [11/30/12](#)]

**Miller Took The Administration Committee Position After Losing A Bid To Run The Homeland Security Committee To Rep. Michael McCaul, Even Though She Had Been In Congress Two Years Longer Than He Had.** According to Bloomberg News, “Miller, 60, first became head of the House Administration panel in 2013 – the only woman to head a committee in that Congress, too – after losing a bid to run the Committee on Homeland Security. She was defeated by Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, although Miller, a Michigan lawmaker now starting her seventh term in the House, had been in Congress two years longer than he had.” [Bloomberg, [1/12/15](#)]

### **Miller’s Retirement Could Leave Only Male Committee Chairs**

**Miller Announced That She Will Not Run For Reelection In 2016.** According to Politico, “Rep. Candice Miller (R-Mich.) said Thursday that she won’t run for reelection in 2016 — another blow to the Wolverine State delegation, which lost more than a century of seniority and experience in the last election. ‘This is the community that I love, that I call home, and at the conclusion of my current term in office, I will be coming home,’ Miller, currently in her seventh term in the House, said in a statement.” [Politico, [3/5/15](#)]

- **GOP Leadership “Scrambling” To Find Another Woman Chair To Avoid “Poor Optics.”** According to The Hill, “When House Administration Committee Chairwoman Candice Miller retires and hands over her gavel next year, GOP leaders will be facing a familiar quandary: finding another female lawmaker to lead a committee. Miller, a Michigan Republican, is the only woman among the 21 GOP committee chairs. And leadership — cognizant of the poor optics of a potential all-white, male lineup — will be scrambling to replace her. ‘If we don’t have a woman chairman, that will be a big problem,’ said a former GOP leadership aide.” [The Hill, [3/12/15](#)]
- **Former GOP Leadership Aide: “If We Don’t Have A Woman Chairman, That Will Be A Big Problem.”** According to The Hill, “When House Administration Committee Chairwoman Candice Miller retires and hands over her gavel next year, GOP leaders will be facing a familiar quandary: finding another female lawmaker to lead a committee. Miller, a Michigan Republican, is the only woman among the 21 GOP committee chairs. And leadership — cognizant of the poor optics of a potential all-white, male lineup — will be scrambling to replace her. ‘If we don’t have a woman chairman, that will be a big problem,’ said a former GOP leadership aide.” [The Hill, [3/12/15](#)]

### **MILLER WANTED TO BLOCK UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS FROM BEING COUNTED WHEN DETERMINING CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION**

**Miller Sponsored A Bill “To Amend The Constitution So The Number Of U.S. Citizens, Instead Of All People, Would Be Used To Determine The Number Of House Members Each State Has After Every Census.”** According to the Detroit Free Press, “Today, in an effort to appease Republicans who are angry about what they call President George W. Bush’s lax immigration policy, the U.S. House will vote on a bill to toughen rules for detainment and expulsion of illegal immigrants. It would also increase the number of border patrol agents. But Miller wants more. She has collected 29 cosponsors for a bill to amend the Constitution so the number of U.S. citizens, instead of all people, would be used to determine the number of House members each state has after every census.” [Detroit Free Press, 12/14/05]

**Miller Claimed That After The 2000 Census Michigan And Eight Other States Lost One Member Of Congress While California Picked Up Six, “Largely Because Noncitizens Were Included” In The Count.** According to the Detroit Free Press, “She says Michigan and eight other states lost one member of Congress after the 2000 census, while California picked up six seats, largely because noncitizens were included. Michigan has been losing House seats for decades. In the 1970s, the state had 18 representatives. Today, it has 15.” [Detroit Free Press, 12/14/05]

**Miller: “I Don’t Mind Losing A Seat Because American Citizens Have Moved Somewhere...But To Lose A Congressional Seat Because Of Illegal Immigrants Is Outrageous.”** According to the Detroit Free Press, “The battle over immigration could be risky for Miller, who quickly rose in the GOP House hierarchy after she was elected in 2002. Last year, she chaired Bush’s presidential campaign in Michigan. Many Republicans wanted her to run next year against either Sen. Debbie Stabenow or Gov. Jennifer Granholm. ‘I don’t mind losing a seat because American citizens have moved somewhere,’ said Miller, whose district includes the northern two-thirds of Macomb County and much of the Thumb. ‘But to lose a congressional seat because of illegal immigrants is outrageous.’” [Detroit Free Press, 12/14/05]

**Miller: “It’s The Ultimate Slap In The Face That Illegal Immigrants Have The Same Rights As A United States Citizen.”** According to the Detroit Free Press, “Miller’s cosponsors in the Michigan delegation are Republicans Dave Camp of Midland, Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids, Peter Hoekstra of Holland, Mike Rogers of Brighton, Joe Schwarz of Addison

and Fred Upton of St. Joseph. Still, Miller has a near-impossible task. Amending the Constitution takes a two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress and the approval of 38 states. [...] 'I plan to press it,' Miller said of her amendment. 'It's the ultimate slap in the face that illegal immigrants have the same rights as a United States citizen.'" [Detroit Free Press, 12/14/05]

**Director Of Cato Institute's Center For Trade Policy Studies, Dan Griswold, Criticized Miller's Proposed Amendment And Called It "Risky And Unworkable."** According to the Detroit Free Press, "'This is an issue that deeply divides the Republican Party,' said Dan Griswold, director of the center for trade policy studies at CATO Institute. Griswold, who supports Bush's immigration policy, called Miller's amendment 'risky and unworkable.'" [Detroit Free Press, 12/14/05]

**A Letter On Miller's Website Calling For Change To The Census Bureau Was Pulled "Because Of Ethics Concerns, Only Hours After It Had Been Posted."** According to The Hill, "Rep. Candice Miller had a letter pulled off her House and campaign websites yesterday, apparently because of ethics concerns, only hours after it had been posted. The letter calling for change at the Census Bureau could be read on the website Monday but was gone yesterday morning" [The Hill, [12/7/05](#)]

**The Letter "Appeared On Both Miller's House And Campaign Websites," Indicating "That Time And Money Officially Slated For Federal Business Had Been Channeled Into Political Activity."** According to The Hill, "It raised two possible problems, knowledgeable sources said: First, the fact that it appeared on both Miller's House and campaign websites indicates that time and money officially slated for federal business had been channeled into political activity. Second, and less important, the same sources said, the letter - posted under the headline 'Letter of support of HJ Res 53 to your representative' - called for grassroots lobbying of other House members. Miller's press assistant, Katherine Miller, explained that it was removed after questions were raised about it." [The Hill, [12/7/05](#)]

**The Letter Also "Called For Grassroots Lobbying Of Other House Members."** According to The Hill, "It raised two possible problems, knowledgeable sources said: First, the fact that it appeared on both Miller's House and campaign websites indicates that time and money officially slated for federal business had been channeled into political activity. Second, and less important, the same sources said, the letter - posted under the headline 'Letter of support of HJ Res 53 to your representative' - called for grassroots lobbying of other House members. Miller's press assistant, Katherine Miller, explained that it was removed after questions were raised about it." [The Hill, [12/7/05](#)]

**The Letter On The Website "Argues That The Census Bureau Should Not Count Illegal Immigrants."** According to The Hill, "In the letter in question, Miller argues that the Census Bureau should not count illegal immigrants. 'Every Election Day,' the letter states, 'non-citizens dilute proper and proportional representation for American citizens due to the wording of the 14th Amendment, which states, "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state. ..." H.J. Res. 53 would correct this language by replacing the word "persons" with the word "citizens."'" [The Hill, [12/7/05](#)]

**The Letter Asks For Support For H.J. Res 53 To Change The Word 'Persons' To 'Citizens' In The Sentence In The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, "Representatives Shall Be Apportioned Among The Several States...Counting The Whole Number Of Persons In Each State."** According to The Hill, "In the letter in question, Miller argues that the Census Bureau should not count illegal immigrants. 'Every Election Day,' the letter states, 'non-citizens dilute proper and proportional representation for American citizens due to the wording of the 14th Amendment, which states, "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state. ..." H.J. Res. 53 would correct this language by replacing the word "persons" with the word "citizens."'" [The Hill, [12/7/05](#)]

## **MILLER'S "ADMONISHMENT" BY HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**The House Ethics Committee "Admonished" Miller And Majority Leader Tom Delay For Suggesting That Their Support For The Candidacy Of Rep. Nick Smith's Son Would Depend On Smith's Vote For The Medicare Drug Bill.** According to the Associated Press, "For House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, admonished by the House ethics committee for acting improperly by trying to persuade a Michigan Republican to change his vote on a Medicare prescription drug bill, could face another investigation by the panel. The committee on Thursday approved an investigative report that serves as 'a public admonishment' against DeLay, R-Texas, Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich., and the lawmaker they were trying to influence, Rep. Nick Smith. The committee found after its six-month investigation that DeLay and Miller linked a favorable vote by Smith to support of the House candidacy of Smith's son." [Associated Press, [9/30/04](#)]

**House Ethics Committee: "Representative Smith Fairly Interpreted Representative Miller's Statements To Him During The Vote As A Threat Of Retaliation Against Him For Voting In Opposition" To The Medicare Drug Bill.** According to the Associated Press, "[Candice] Miller made a statement to [Nick] Smith 'that referenced the congressional



candidacy' of Smith's son, the committee said. 'Representative Smith fairly interpreted Representative Miller's statements to him during the vote as a threat of retaliation against him for voting in opposition to the [Medicare prescription drug] bill.' 'Miller recalled that she said something like, 'Well, I hope your son doesn't come to Congress, or I'm not going to support your son, or something to that effect.'" [Associated Press, [9/30/04](#)]

**Miller's Staff Denied A Report By BuzzFeed That Her Office Had Removed A Section On The House Ethics Committee's Reprimand Of Miller From Her Wikipedia Page.** According to BuzzFeed, "An aide to Rep. Candice Miller of Michigan, a Republican, denied that her office had removed that she had been admonished by the House Ethics Committee from her page. A review of edits from the House of Representatives' shared IP address showed seven edits had been made to Miller's page since 2006 with two of removing that she had been admonished. 'Rep. Candice Miller does not look at Wikipedia and has never authorized anyone to make any edits,' Miller's office said in a statement." [BuzzFeed, [7/13/12](#)]

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**Miller's Biggest Contributor Is The Automotive Industry.** According to OpenSecrets, Rep. Candice Miller's top donor is the automotive industry and she has received \$415,050 from the industry since her first campaign in 2002. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/23/15](#)]

## House Education And Workforce Committee – John Kline

Rep. John Kline was elected to Congress in 2002 and has been chairman of the House Education and Workforce committee since 2011. Before his political career Kline served for 25 years in the Marine Corps.

**The Education And Workforce Committee Was Named The Education And Labor Committee, The Word "Labor" Was Removed When Republicans Took Over.** According to the Wall Street Journal, "Congress is off for the Christmas holidays, but when lawmakers come back some will be laboring on a newly renamed committee. It's the Education and the Workforce Committee, previously known in the just-concluded Congress as the Education and Labor Committee. [...] Now it's the Republicans' turn to control the House. And they're changing the name back to Workforce. 'Education and the Workforce was the name selected by Republicans more than a decade ago to reflect the committee's broad jurisdiction over policies that affect American students, workers, and retirees,' explained Alexa Marrero, a spokeswoman for committee Republicans." [Wall Street Journal, [12/24/10](#)]

## KLINE'S COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOR-PROFIT EDUCATION INDUSTRY

**Center For Responsive Politics: The For-Profit Education Industry "Accounted For Almost One Quarter" Of Rep. John Kline's "Substantial Fundraising In 2013's Second Quarter."** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, "The for-profit education industry, however, accounted for almost one quarter of his substantial fundraising in 2013's second quarter. [Rep. John] Kline raised \$482,000 in the second quarter, according to FEC reports filed today. Of that sum, at least \$116,000 came from PACs operated by for-profit universities or top executives at those companies." [Center For Responsive Politics, [7/15/13](#)]

**Of The \$482,000 Raised By Kline In Just The Second Quarter Of 2013, "At Least \$116,000 Came From PACs Operated By For-Profit Universities Or Top Executives At Those Companies."** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, "The for-profit education industry, however, accounted for almost one quarter of his substantial fundraising in 2013's second quarter. [Rep. John] Kline raised \$482,000 in the second quarter, according to FEC reports filed today. Of that sum, at least \$116,000 came from PACs operated by for-profit universities or top executives at those companies." [Center For Responsive Politics, [7/15/13](#)]

**Executives At ITT Education Services, The Company That Owns ITT Tech, Gave Kline \$13,400 And Apollo Group, Which Owns University Of Phoenix Gave \$11,600.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, "Executives at ITT Education Services, the company that owns the large chain of for-profit technical schools ITT Tech, combined to give Kline \$13,400 over the three month period. Executives from the Apollo Group, which owns University of Phoenix, gave \$11,600;

Full Sail University, \$10,400; Globe University, \$10,000; and Grand Canyon University, gave \$9,500.” [Center For Responsive Politics, [7/15/13](#)]

**The For-Profit Education Industry Was Kline’s “Top Industry Donor For The Quarter, By Far.”** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “PACs operated by another 29 for-profit education groups, and/or individuals who work for them, also chipped in, including a \$5,000 donation from the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities. That makes it Kline’s top industry donor for the quarter, by far. Not a single individual who self-identified as a student, faculty or staff member of a nonprofit university contributed any money to his campaign. Based on an analysis of his filing, the only other donation from an education-related organization or individual was a \$5,000 donation from the PAC of Sallie Mae, the student loan company.” [Center For Responsive Politics, [7/15/13](#)]

**Kline “Saw A Dramatic Upsurge In Campaign Contributions From For-Profit Colleges” At The Same Time He Began “Pushing Legislation That Would Help The Industry Preserve Its Access To Federal Student Loans.”**

According to USA Today, “House Education Committee Chairman Rep. John Kline, who saw a dramatic upsurge in campaign contributions from for-profit colleges in recent months, is pushing legislation that would help the industry preserve its access to federal student loans. The measure, ‘Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act,’ was introduced July 10 by the Minnesota Republican and two other members of the education panel and would bar the Obama administration from moving forward with rules to cut off federal student aid to schools whose graduates have high debt ratios and low repayment rates. Kline’s committee approved the bill Wednesday.” [USA Today, [7/24/13](#)]

- **The Bill “Would Bar The Obama Administration From Moving Forward With Rules To Cut Off Federal Student Aid To Schools Whose Graduates Have High Debt Ratios And Low Repayment Rates.”** According to USA Today, “The measure, ‘Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act,’ was introduced July 10 by the Minnesota Republican and two other members of the education panel and would bar the Obama administration from moving forward with rules to cut off federal student aid to schools whose graduates have high debt ratios and low repayment rates. Kline’s committee approved the bill Wednesday.” [USA Today, [7/24/13](#)]

**USA Today: “Kline Raised \$138,350 From April 1 Through June 30” From The PACs, Employees And Lobbyists Of For-Profit Schools “For His Reelection Campaign And His Leadership PAC.”** According to USA Today, “A USA TODAY analysis of newly filed campaign reports shows Kline raised \$138,350 from April 1 through June 30 from the political action committees, employees and lobbyists of for-profit schools for his reelection campaign and his leadership PAC. That’s nearly one-quarter of his total receipts and up from \$20,700 that the industry gave to Kline during the first three months of the year.” [USA Today, [7/24/13](#)]

**USA Today: That Amount Is “Nearly One-Quarter Of His Total Receipts And Up From \$20,700 That The Industry Gave To Kline During The First Three Months Of The Year.”** According to USA Today, “A USA TODAY analysis of newly filed campaign reports shows Kline raised \$138,350 from April 1 through June 30 from the political action committees, employees and lobbyists of for-profit schools for his reelection campaign and his leadership PAC. That’s nearly one-quarter of his total receipts and up from \$20,700 that the industry gave to Kline during the first three months of the year.” [USA Today, [7/24/13](#)]

**Center For Investigative Reporting: “Legislation Designed To Prevent For-Profit Colleges From Gaming The Federal Aid System And Exploiting Veterans” Was “Quashed” By Kline, “Within 15 Minutes Of Being Introduced.”** According to the Center for Investigative Reporting, “Legislation designed to prevent for-profit colleges from gaming the federal aid system and exploiting veterans died within 15 minutes of being introduced earlier this month. U.S. Rep. John Kline of Minnesota, the Republican chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, quashed the bill by ruling it nongermane to the topic of financial aid being discussed at his July 10 hearing.” [Center for Investigative Reporting via the Daily Beast, [7/24/14](#)]

**The Legislation Was Attempting To Close A Loophole Which Incentivized For-Profit Colleges “To Aggressively Target Veterans” So They Can “Draw Additional Federal Funding.”** According to the Center for Investigative Reporting, “At issue was the so-called 90/10 rule, which bans for-profit schools from receiving government funding if they draw more than 90 percent of their revenue from federal student aid programs. The rule excludes tuition assistance from the GI Bill for veterans and from the Department of Defense, which funds education for active-duty military. Critics say the loophole leads for-profit schools to aggressively target veterans to draw additional federal funding. Many analysts believe closing it would push some for-profit college chains over the 90 percent cap, gutting their support system. The University of Phoenix, for instance, receives 83 percent of its funds from federal programs, according its most recent filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. That figure doesn’t include the nearly \$1 billion the company received from the post-9/11 GI Bill over

the last five years. ‘We have a great concern now in the country,’ Rep. Susan Davis, a San Diego Democrat, said in offering a measure to close the loophole at the House education committee hearing.” [Daily Beast, [7/24/14](#)] [Center for Investigative Reporting via the Daily Beast, [7/24/14](#)]

**“Kline Receives More Campaign Funds Than Any Other Member Of Congress” From The Apollo Education Group, The Parent Company Of The University Of Phoenix.** According to the Center for Investigative Reporting, “Kline receives more campaign funds than any other member of Congress from the parent company of the University of Phoenix, a for-profit education giant. In an email, Kline’s spokesman, Brian Newell, said the \$48,100 in contributions from the Apollo Education Group since 2011 did not influence the congressman’s decision. ‘Rep. Kline has long championed policies that encourage a diverse higher education system, and it’s not surprising that organizations that share his views offer their support,’ Newell said.” [Center for Investigative Reporting via the Daily Beast, [7/24/14](#)]

**“Since 2011, When Kline Became Chairman Of The Education Committee, Apollo Has Been His Largest Campaign Contributor.”** According to the Center for Investigative Reporting “Since 2011, when Kline became chairman of the education committee, Apollo has been his largest campaign contributor, according to the nonprofit, nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. ‘It’s enough money to make an impression,’ said Viveca Novak, communications director for the group. As Kline made his procedural ruling against tightening the 90/10 rule, he also spoke against the substance of the reform, saying it would limit veterans’ education options improperly.” [Center for Investigative Reporting via the Daily Beast, [7/24/14](#)]

**Center for Responsive Politics: Kline’s “Campaign Committee Has Received More Than \$395,000 From For-Profit Education Companies Over The Course Of His Career.”** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “The first signature on the letter (see below) is that of Rep. John Kline (R-Minn.), chairman of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, whose campaign committee has received more than \$395,000 from for-profit education companies over the course of his career. So far in the 2014 cycle alone, Kline has received \$187,000 from individuals and PACs in the education industry — almost all of it from those in the for-profit sector. His leadership PAC has picked up another \$20,000 from the for-profits’ PACs. An OpenSecrets.org analysis of all donations from the industry to all politicians in our databases show Kline is the second biggest recipient of its cash, behind only former Rep. Robert Andrews (D-N.J.) who resigned recently.” [Center for Responsive Politics, [5/30/14](#)]

**Out Of All Other Federal Lawmakers, Kline Receives The Most Money From The For-Profit Education Industry.** According to OpenSecrets, Kline tops the list of the top 20 members of Congress who directly received the most money from the for-profit education industry, at \$455,758 since his election. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

**Kline Introduced A Bill Allowing Interest Rates On Student Loans “To Fluctuate From Year-To-Year” And Go As High As 8.5 Percent.** According to the Minnesota Daily, “The main bill moving through the House, authored by Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., would set market-based interest rates for loans, allowing the rate to fluctuate from year-to-year with the government’s cost of borrowing. The plan, which caps interest rates at 8.5 percent, passed the U.S. House on May 23, but President Barack Obama’s administration said he won’t sign the measure if it reaches his desk.” [Minnesota Daily, [6/5/13](#)]

## **KLING’S REFORMS TO NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND WERE OPPOSED BY BUSINESSES, CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS, AND UNIONS**

**Kline “Rebuffed Obama’s Call For A Sweeping Reform Bill” To Fix No Child Left Behind.** According to the Star Tribune, “When President Obama called for overhauling the No Child Left Behind act before the next school year, the task of pouring cold water on the idea was handed to one Republican: Rep. John Kline. Kline, who took over as chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee this year, said he wouldn’t rush in fixing the education law. He also rebuffed Obama’s call for a sweeping reform bill. Instead, Kline plans to draft legislation in small chunks in the coming months.” [Star Tribune, [2/7/12](#)]

**In 2012 “A Coalition Of 38 Business And Civil Rights Organizations, Unions And Reform Groups Banded Together To Oppose Kline’s Efforts To Revamp The No Child Left Behind Law.** According to the Star Tribune, “‘No Child Left Behind, left as it is, is not working,’ said [John] Kline, the dean of Minnesota’s four Republicans in the U.S. House. ‘Everybody wants to change the law.’ Broad support has given way to broad opposition. Minnesota is among a first wave of states seeking waivers to escape the law’s key demands. [...] Last week a coalition of 38 business and civil rights organizations, unions and reform groups banded together to oppose Kline’s latest efforts to revamp the law. The group said the proposed changes would shortchange minorities, low-income students, English-language learners and students with disabilities. Another group --

the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Coalition -- has also attacked Kline's legislation, saying it would devalue science education.” [Star Tribune, [2/7/12](#)]

**“Opposing Kline's Bills Are The NAACP, National Council Of La Raza, U.S. Chamber Of Commerce And 50CAN, The 50-State Campaign For Achievement Now.”** According to the Star Tribune, “Opposing Kline's bills are the NAACP, National Council of La Raza, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and 50CAN, the 50-state Campaign for Achievement Now -- the model for Minnesota-based school reform group MinnCAN. ‘The students we represent cannot withstand the risk of Congress allowing states to return to old habits -- aiming low and abandoning children deemed too difficult or inconsequential to educate,’ their Jan. 24 letter read, in part.” [Star Tribune, 2/7/12]

## **KLINE WAS HAPPY TO USE EARMARKS TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR HIS DISTRICT UNTIL THE DEMOCRATS TOOK CHARGE**

**Star Tribune: Kline Only Took A Stand Against All Earmarks “After The Democrats Took Charge.”** According to the Star Tribune, “As Congress lurches toward a budget showdown before Christmas, Minnesota Rep. John Kline is at the center of an ideological food fight over the role of pork-barrel ‘earmarks.’ The Lakeville Republican calls the system of special funding for pet projects a ‘corrupting’ influence in Congress, and says he won't take any. That has left officials in his rapidly growing suburban district wanting federal dollars to complete projects from the Cedar Avenue Transitway to the expansion of Hwy. 212 in Carver County. While some appreciate the principle of his stand, others note that he only became pure on pork after the Democrats took charge. Moreover, they say, Kline worked the trough when the GOP was writing the bills.” [Star Tribune, [12/10/07](#)]

**Dakota County Commissioner Will Branning: “It’s Shocking And Disturbing” That Kline Won’t Help Local Projects.** According to the Star Tribune, “So this year, at the beginning of his third term, Kline put local officials on notice that he would not sponsor special spending requests for his district, leaving it to state and federal bureaucrats, or to other members of Congress. Kline is one of only a dozen out of 435 House members to do so. The reviews have been mixed so far. ‘It's shocking and disturbing,’ said Dakota County Commissioner Will Branning, who heads a partnership working on the Cedar Avenue transit project, which was looking for about \$6 million from Congress this year. ‘For one congressman to do it, it puts us in a box.’” [Star Tribune, [12/10/07](#)]

**Star Tribune: “Until Last Year, Kline Seemed Happy To Bring Home The Bacon...He Obtained - And Took Public Credit For - Millions Of Dollars In Major Projects In His District.”** According to the Star Tribune, “Until last year, Kline seemed happy to bring home the bacon. In recent years, he obtained - and took public credit for - millions of dollars in major projects in his district. Among the highlights: \$2.4 million in safety upgrades for Hwy. 13 in Burnsville and Savage; \$3.25 million for improvements at the intersection of County Road 42 and Hwy. 52; and at least \$10 million for the Cedar Avenue project. In the past, he has also helped secure money to expand Hwy. 212, one of the state's main east-west arteries.” [Star Tribune, [12/10/07](#)]

**But In 2007 Kline Refused To Help The Chaska City Council Obtain Funding To Complete A Widening Of The Road Between Chaska And Norwood Young America.** According to the Star Tribune, “A But this year, when the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition approached him for \$3 million to complete a widening of the road between Chaska and Norwood Young America, members were told no dice. ‘I was a bit surprised,’ said Chaska City Council Member Bob Lindall, who heads the coalition. ‘I recognize that it's his prerogative, but it's unfortunate that our project should go unrepresented in Congress.’” [Star Tribune, [12/10/07](#)]

**Kline Claimed He Supports All The Funding For Projects In His District But “Feels Duty-Bound To Take A Stand Against” The Earmark System.** According to the Star Tribune, “Kline said he supports the 35W bridge money, as well as all of the transportation projects in his district. But he said he feels duty-bound to take a stand against a system that rewards seniority and personality at the expense of merit. ‘If I'm in there fighting for my projects on the merits and I get \$7 million, and somebody who's been here longer gets \$200 million, that's not a program I want to participate in. It's a program I want to change,’ he said.” [Star Tribune, [12/10/07](#)]

**The Money Kline Is Giving Up Is Not Being Saved, It Just Goes To Other Projects.** According to the Star Tribune, “Kline's effort is widely seen as symbolic, since the money he gives up isn't being saved. ‘If the money doesn't go to Minnesota for Minnesota projects, it will go to other states for their projects,’ said Margaret Donahoe of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance.” [Star Tribune, [12/10/07](#)]



## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS

**Kline Added A Provision To The Federal Budget Bill That Would Cut Pensioners Retirement Plans, And Which “Primarily Affects Major Unions.”** According to the Star Tribune, “Dave Erickson of Isanti, Minn., believed his pension benefits were guaranteed when he contributed a fixed portion of his pay into the Teamsters Central States Pension Fund. On Wednesday, Erickson learned that those benefits might be cut under a provision that Minnesota Rep. John Kline aims to tack onto the new federal budget bill. The measure, which would allow multi-employer pension plans that are underfunded to significantly cut benefits to retirees under age 75, is an attempt to prevent such plans from running out of money. But Kline’s push to get it into the omnibus budget bill that Congress must pass to keep the government running enraged retirees like Erickson. The provision, which primarily affects major unions’ retirement plans, has never been introduced into the House or Senate on its own.” [Star Tribune, [12/11/14](#)]

- **Minneapolis Resident And “64-Year-Old Retired Truck Driver Jeff Brooks Said He Felt Betrayed” By Kline.** According to the Star Tribune, “At his home in south Minneapolis, 64-year-old retired truck driver Jeff Brooks said he felt betrayed. Brooks spent 39 years driving, including 20 as a Teamster. He believes there was time to debate solutions to the Central States Fund problems without ramming through reform. What Kline is doing ‘seems like a shabby way to handle this,’ he said.” [Star Tribune, [12/11/14](#)]

**Kline Has “One Of The Most Conservative Voting Records In Congress.”** Although U.S. Rep. John Kline has compiled one of the most conservative voting records in Congress, he is being challenged from the right for the Republican Party endorsement in 2014. David Gerson of South St. Paul on Monday formally launched his campaign for GOP backing in the 2nd District, saying at a Capitol news conference that he would be true to conservative principles while Kline has built a ‘moderate bordering on progressive voting record.’” [St. Paul Pioneer Press, [12/8/13](#)]

**During His 2006 Campaign, Kline’s District Director Was Filmed Yelling A Racial Slur Targeted At People Driving Japanese Cars.** According to the Star Tribune, “Just when you thought the congressional campaign between John Kline and Coleen Rowley couldn't get any weirder, a video appeared on a Minnesota political blog showing Kline's district director screaming about ‘another Jap car.’ It was posted by DFL activists who taped a small GOP protest. It happened at a visit by Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., a Marine turned anti-war hero who was in Rosemount on Sunday stumping for Rowley in the Second Congressional District race. Kline's Minnesota director, former state Rep. Mike Osskopp, was seen repeatedly chiding people who arrived in foreign-made cars at the Murtha event at a local VFW hall.” [Star Tribune, 9/20/06]

- **Kline On His Campaign Aide Using A Racial Slur: That Used To Be Acceptable, But Its “Unacceptable Now.”** According to the Star Tribune, “But this time the controversial remark was uttered by a campaign aide, and Kline was quick to condemn it. ‘That's unacceptable now,’ Kline said. ‘We've all seen the John Wayne movies about World War II, and then it was acceptable. Now it's not, and [Osskopp] knows that.’” [Star Tribune, 9/20/06]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Koch Industries Has Given Kline \$66,800.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Rep. John Kline has received \$66,800 from Koch Industries since he was elected in 2003. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/18/15](#)]

## Judiciary – Bob Goodlatte

Rep. Bob Goodlatte has been chair of the House Judiciary Committee since 2012. Goodlatte has served in Congress since 1993 and chaired the House Agriculture Committee from 2003 to 2007. Goodlatte also co-chairs the Congressional Internet Caucus and the International Creativity and Theft-Prevention Caucus and is chair of the House Republican Technology Working Group.

## GOODLATTE’S EXTREME RECORD ON IMMIGRATION

**Goodlatte: Obama’s Executive Action On Immigration Is “Unconstitutional.”** According to a column written by Goodlatte and posted on his House website, “President Obama has embarked on some of the biggest executive power grabs in American history by unilaterally rewriting our nation’s immigration laws. These actions ignore the will of the American people, threaten the separation of powers between Congress and the Executive branch, and violate the President’s obligation to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. In response to these unconstitutional actions, the House approved the

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill this week, which funds enforcement of our immigration laws and processing of visa applications. As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, I worked closely with other Members to draft five amendments to the bill that would defund and end the President's executive amnesty programs." [Goodlatte.House.gov, [1/16/15](#)]

**Goodlatte Called Plan To Unite Legal American Residents With Their Children Living In Guatemala, Honduras And El Salvador, A "Government-Sanctioned Border Surge."** According to the New York Times, "The U.S. government will launch a program in December to grant refugee status to some people under the age of 21 who live in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador and whose parents legally reside in the United States. U.S. officials say parents can ask authorities free of charge for refugee status for their children in the Central American countries, which are plagued by poverty and vicious gang violence. The program does not apply to minors who have arrived in the U.S. illegally. [...] House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., criticized the plan, which he described as 'government-sanctioned border surge' if Obama acts as expected. 'The policy announced today could open Pandora's box, allowing potentially even more people to come to the United States. This is bad policy and undermines the integrity of our immigration system,' Goodlatte said in a news release." [New York Times, [11/14/14](#)]

**Goodlatte: Immigration Reform Advocates Holding Reform "Hostage" By Backing Path To Citizenship.** According to an opinion by New York Times Editorial Board member Lawrence Downs for the New York Times, "And United States Representative Bob Goodlatte, the Virginia Republican who heads the House Judiciary Committee, told a town hall meeting in Verona, Va., that he opposes the immigration bill that passed the Senate because it contains what he calls a 'special path' to citizenship. 'The folks who want to have a path to citizenship have held everything else hostage,' Mr. Goodlatte said. 'Now we want to say, 'Look, we understand what you want, but we think a legal status in the United States but not a special path to citizenship might be appropriate.'" [Lawrence Downs – New York Times, [8/30/13](#)]

**Goodlatte: Administration Providing Lawyers To Unaccompanied Minors "Encouraging More Illegal Immigration In The Future."** According to the Associated Press, "The Obama administration is spending \$4 million on lawyers for unaccompanied immigrant children in deportation proceedings, a move an influential Republican lawmaker says is illegal and will fuel an increase in illegal immigration. [...] House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Virginia, said the funding violates federal law 'and only makes the problem worse by encouraging more illegal immigration in the future.'" [Associated Press, [9/30/14](#)]

## **GOODLATTE HAS WAGED CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION**

**Goodlatte Tried To Strip Funding For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup.** According to the New York Times, "Money for a far-reaching pollution control plan for Chesapeake Bay would be stripped from this year's federal budget under a proposed amendment to an important House spending bill. The amendment, filed on Monday by Representative Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, takes aim at an Environmental Protection Agency program to reduce the flow of several major pollutants into the bay by roughly a quarter by 2025. Called a 'pollution diet' by federal regulators, the plan was deemed necessary after the E.P.A. determined that states were moving too slowly to curb polluted runoff from farms and cities into the bay. In an interview, Mr. Goodlatte called the E.P.A. plan a 'power grab' that exceeded its authority under the Clean Water Act and said that the agency had failed to calculate the program's impact on jobs and the region's economy." [New York Times, [2/16/11](#)]

**Goodlatte's Position At Odds With Fellow Virginia Republicans Whose Districts Border The Chesapeake.** According to the Washington Post, "Doug Siglin, the director of federal affairs at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, notes that lawmakers whose districts sit on the bay or on the Potomac or Rappahannock rivers — such as Wittman, Wolf and Rigell — tend to look more favorably on cleanup efforts. [...] On the other side of the debate stands Goodlatte, the vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, who represents a farm-laden slice of western Virginia. He thinks the EPA's Chesapeake cleanup plan — which puts the bay on a 'pollution diet' by setting limits on the 'total maximum daily load' of chemicals that can flow into it — is not only bad policy, but also violates clean water law by usurping authority that belongs to the states." [Washington Post, [7/28/11](#)]

**Goodlatte Urged Federal Court To Block Chesapeake Cleanup Plan That Was Supported By His Own State.** According to the Associated Press, "A group of 39 lawmakers is urging a federal court to block the Obama administration's plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay watershed, describing it as an unjustified power grab. The filing in the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia puts the lawmakers alongside 21 attorneys general who already oppose the cleanup, a case testing the Environmental Protection Agency's authority under the Clean Water Act. The filing was submitted late last week.

Republican Sens. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and David Vitter of Louisiana, the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, signed onto the opposition brief, as well as Rep. Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary and Rep. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. [...] Among the states that agreed to the Chesapeake plan, West Virginia is now opposing the cleanup. Pennsylvania and New York are staying silent in the litigation, while Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia signed briefs in support.” [Associated Press, [6/24/14](#)]

**American Farm Bureau Opposed EPA Limits On Pollutants In Chesapeake Waterway.** According to a press release, “The American Farm Bureau Federation this week asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to reverse a Sept. 2013 federal court ruling that upheld the Environmental Protection Agency’s total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The court will decide whether EPA exceeded its Clean Water Act authority by mandating how nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff should be allocated among farms, construction and development activities, as well as homeowners and towns throughout the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay watershed.” [American Farm Bureau Press Release, [1/28/14](#)]

- **Goodlatte Was Given “Golden Plow Award” From American Farm Bureau.** According to a press release from Goodlatte’s office, “Today, Congressman Bob Goodlatte received the Golden Plow award for his continued support of America’s farmers and ranchers. The Golden Plow award is the highest honor bestowed on Members of Congress by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Congressman Goodlatte was presented the award during a ceremony at Twin Oaks Farm by AFBF President Bob Stallman and Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne Pryor. ‘I am honored to receive the Golden Plow award,’ said Congressman Goodlatte. ‘The agriculture industry has a significant impact on America’s economy and is at the center of many communities throughout the nation – including the Sixth District. Farming and ranching are essential to our prosperity.’” [Bob Goodlatte Press Release, [4/13/12](#)]

**Goodlatte’s Committee Passed A Bill That Allowed 500,000 Temporary Farm Workers To Come To The U.S., But Withholds Portion Of Their Wages To Encourage Them To Leave.** According to Agri-Pulse, “The House Judiciary Committee today approved the Agricultural Guestworker ‘AG’ Act in a vote of 20-16. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., sponsored the bill, which replaces the existing H-2A agricultural visa program with a new H-2C program. The bill proposes to allow up to 500,000 temporary agricultural laborers into the United States per year. The visa would allow workers to stay in the US for up to 18 months, as opposed to the maximum of one year issued to H-2A visa holders. It provides further incentive for workers to honor the visa expiration after 18 months by withholding 10 percent of their earnings that can be retrieved when they return to their home countries.” [Agri-Pulse, [6/19/13](#)]

**Goodlatte Has Gotten Over \$425,000 From Farm And Agriculture Interests.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Goodlatte has gotten \$425,750 from agriculture interests during his career. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [2/13/15](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Goodlatte Wanted To Ban All Travel From Ebola-Impacted Regions.** According to the Associated Press, “Some members of Congress have urged President Barack Obama to ban all travel from West Africa. Tuesday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., praised the expansion of airport screening but again urged Obama to halt all travel from the region. ‘President Obama has a real solution at his disposal under current law and can use it at any time to temporarily ban foreign nationals from entering the United States from Ebola-ravaged countries,’ Goodlatte said.” [Associated Press, [10/21/14](#)]

**Goodlatte Helped Pass Ban On Internet Gambling But Put In Exemption For Horse Racing.** According to the Associated Press, “The House passed legislation Tuesday that would prevent gamblers from using credit cards to bet online and could block access to gambling Web sites. The legislation would clarify and update current law to spell out that most gambling is illegal online. But there would be exceptions — for state-run lotteries and horse racing — and passage isn’t a safe bet in the Senate, where Republican leaders have not considered the measure a high priority. [...] Reps. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., and Jim Leach, R-Iowa sponsored the bill. They successfully beat back an amendment to strip out exemptions in the legislation for the horse racing industry and state lotteries. Goodlatte called that ‘a poison pill amendment,’ aimed at defeating the larger bill.” [Associated Press, [7/11/06](#)]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Americans For Prosperity President Tim Phillips Was Goodlatte's Chief Of Staff.** According to the Americans for Prosperity website, "Tim [Phillips] is a veteran political strategist and one of the nation's premier grassroots organizers with 28 years of experience, including presidential, gubernatorial and congressional races, as well as, state legislative, local and issue-advocacy campaigns. In 1992, Tim managed U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte's (R-VA) first congressional campaign and later served as Rep. Goodlatte's chief of staff on Capitol Hill for four years." [AmericansForProsperity.org, Accessed [2/12/15](#)]

## Oversight And Government Reform – Jason Chaffetz

Rep. Jason Chaffetz took over as chair of the House Oversight And Government Reform Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Chaffetz was elected to Congress in 2008. Previously he was campaign manager for Jon Huntsman during the 2005 election for governor of Utah and served as his chief of staff for a short period of time. Chaffetz spent most of his career before that time as a spokesman for the nutritional supplement maker Nu Skin, his only other campaign experience was as a Utah co-chair for Michael Dukakis's 1988 campaign for president. Chaffetz is also currently the president of the marketing business Maxtera Utah Inc.

### CHAFFETZ HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR "POWER PLAYS"

**One Of Chaffetz's First Acts As Chair Of Oversight Committee Was To Remove The Portraits Of Former Chairmen, Including The Most Recent Chair Darrell Issa.** According to The Hill, "It appears new House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) really doesn't want to sit in the shadow of his predecessor and fellow Republican, Darrell Issa (Calif.). At least, that's what his critics are saying. One of the Utah Republican's first acts since taking over the Oversight panel gavel: removing portraits of Issa and other past chairmen from the walls of the Oversight Committee hearing room, committee sources told The Hill." [The Hill, [1/15/15](#)]

- **Former Committee Staffer: "Only Someone With A Massive Inferiority Complex Would Go To The Extreme And Somewhat Unprecedented Step Of Having Every Former Chairman's Portrait Removed."** According to The Hill, "Some former committee staffers are steamed, pointing out that Chaffetz's campaign platform for chairman last year was that he was the most 'anti-Issa' candidate. 'Only someone with a massive inferiority complex would go to the extreme and somewhat unprecedented step of having every former chairman's portrait removed — especially when the obvious intent is to avoid having Chairman Issa's portrait hanging over his shoulder for the next few years,' said one former committee staffer. 'It's both childish and extremely disrespectful.'" [The Hill, [1/15/15](#)]

**In 2005, Chaffetz's "First Real Public Action" As Then-Governor Of Utah Jon Huntsman's Chief Of Staff "Was To Gather A Number Of Veteran Employees...Into A Room And Fire Them."** According to an opinion by columnist Paul Rolly for the Salt Lake Tribune, "And if Chaffetz is being accused of letting his newfound power go to his head, just hark back a decade ago to his stint in Utah government. Chaffetz fell into the chief-of-staff position under then-Gov. Jon Huntsman almost by accident. [...] Chaffetz's first real public action was to gather a number of veteran employees of the governor's economic-development office into a room and fire them. He had them escorted out by armed guards. Huntsman took some heat, but administration officials blamed Chaffetz for how the shake-up went down." [Paul Rolly – Salt Lake Tribune, [1/26/15](#)]

- **"The Firings Left Many Former Employees Angry, They Said, Because The Terminations Were Disrespectful, Cold And 'Corporate.'"** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, "Starting a house-cleaning that likely will play out in many state departments, Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s staff fired 32 economic development employees Thursday. The firings left many former employees angry, they said, because the terminations were disrespectful, cold and 'corporate.' Huntsman Chief of Staff Jason Chaffetz, however, described the process as "standard operating procedure" during a gubernatorial transition." [Salt Lake Tribune, [1/7/05](#)]
- **"People Shown The Door Were Asked First To Attend A Group Meeting With Chaffetz, During Which A State Trooper Was Stationed Outside The Door And The Workers' State Computer Access Was Immediately Blocked."** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, "The workers, who as a group had been asked to sign resignations, received word by e-mail Thursday whether their "resignation had been accepted." Those fired constituted the majority of 56 "at will" employees not covered by civil-service protection. People shown the door were asked first to attend a group



meeting with Chaffetz, during which a state trooper was stationed outside the door and the workers' state computer access was immediately blocked.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [1/7/05](#)]

## **CHAFFETZ PROPOSED IMPRISONING UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN “TENT CITIES SURROUNDED BY BARBED-WIRE”**

### **Chaffetz Came “Under Fire” For His Position That Undocumented Immigrants Who Have Committed Crimes Or Who “Don't Return To Their Countries Of Origin,” Should Be “Held In Tent Cities Surrounded By Barbed-Wire.”**

According to the Deseret News, “Chaffetz has been under fire lately for his position that illegal immigrants who have committed crimes should be held in tent cities surrounded by barbed-wire fences. His immigration policy also would detain undocumented immigrants in those facilities if they don't return to their countries of origin.” [Deseret News, [10/10/08](#)]

**Chaffetz Advocated For Holding Undocumented Immigrants “In Military-Style Tent Facilities.”** According to a press release from Jason Chaffetz, “The unanimously adopted Western Governors Association resolution which was sponsored by Governors Janet Napolitano (AZ-D) and Jon Huntsman, Jr. (UT-R) calls for facilities ‘to house criminal aliens who have been apprehended and convicted in state criminal justice systems.’ [...] Jason Chaffetz endorses this specific provision of the resolution. Although such facilities would be costly, Chaffetz believes the government could cut costs by following the example of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio in Arizona. Arpaio has dramatically cut prison costs by housing prisoners in military-style tent facilities. ‘If it's good enough for our soldiers in Iraq,’ Chaffetz said, ‘it's good enough for our criminals.’” [Jason Chaffetz Press Release, 9/5/08]

**Chaffetz Cited Joe Arpaio's Plan For Undocumented Immigrants At The State Republican Convention: “He Put Up Tents. He Put Barbed Wire Around Them.”** According to the Deseret News, “Chaffetz tied his idea to a proposal by the WGA, which includes Huntsman, who is his former boss, and Richardson. ‘What did (Sheriff) Joe Arpaio do in Maricopa County (Arizona)?’ Chaffetz said at the state Republican convention. ‘He put up tents. He put barbed wire around them. Now this isn't some wild Jason Chaffetz plan, this is a concurrent resolution — a joint resolution — between Republican and Democratic governors.’” [Deseret News, [10/10/08](#)]

**NM And UT Governors “Distanced Themselves From Jason Chaffetz's Claim That His Idea To Detain Illegal Immigrants In Tent Cities Surrounded By Barbed-Wire Fences Came From The Western Governors' Association.”** According to the Deseret News, “Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson have distanced themselves from Jason Chaffetz's claim that his idea to detain illegal immigrants in tent cities surrounded by barbed-wire fences came from the Western Governors' Association.” [Deseret News, [10/10/08](#)]

**Chaffetz, Said He “Only Regrets Using The Word ‘Tent.’”** According to the Deseret News, “Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson have distanced themselves from Jason Chaffetz's claim that his idea to detain illegal immigrants in tent cities surrounded by barbed-wire fences came from the Western Governors' Association. Chaffetz, the Republican nominee for Utah's 3rd District seat in the U.S. House, only regrets using the word ‘tent.’” [Deseret News, [10/10/08](#)]

### **Gov. Jon Huntsman On The Western Governors Plan For Immigrants: “We Talked About A Regional Correctional Facility To Handle Some Of The Overload...Nobody Talked About Tent Cities With Barbed-Wire Fences.”**

According to the Deseret News, “Huntsman, who has endorsed Chaffetz, recently told radio journalist Doug Fabrizio that Chaffetz's suggestion of a tent city was ‘extreme’ and different from the WGA proposal. ‘I heard somebody reference the Western Governors' model,” Huntsman said on the live broadcast. ‘I was involved with drafting that with (Arizona Gov.) Janet Napolitano. We talked about a regional correctional facility to handle some of the overload that the states can't handle. Nobody talked about tent cities with barbed-wire fences around (them).’” [Deseret News, [10/10/08](#)]

**Chaffetz Said His Idea Was “A Cheaper Alternative To The WGA's Call For Federal Correctional Facilities In The West,” Suggesting A Company That “Makes Quality Tents For The Military And Correctional Facilities.”** According to the Deseret News, “Chaffetz said Thursday his idea is simply a cheaper alternative to the WGA's call for federal correctional facilities in the West. ‘We agree on the need and the function if not the form,’ Chaffetz said. ‘I recognize the word ‘tent’ is sensational.’ Chaffetz said a company in the 3rd District, Sprung, makes quality tents for the military and correctional facilities that are a far cry from those available at Cabela's. Images of the tents can be found at [sprung.com](#) by clicking on ‘Industry Gallery’ near the bottom of the home page and then clicking on ‘Correctional Facilities.’” [Deseret News, [10/10/08](#)]

**Democrat Rep. Mike Honda, Who Was Imprisoned In A Japanese Internment Camp During World War II, Called Chaffetz's Plan An “Odious Reminder” Of A “Disgraceful Chapter In U.S. History.”** According to the Salt Lake

Tribune, “A Democratic congressman who was imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp during World War II unleashed on Utah Republican Jason Chaffetz's plan to detain undocumented immigrants in tent cities, calling it an ‘odious reminder’ of a shameful period of the past. ‘Jason Chaffetz's comments are more than just offensive and embarrassing to all Americans; they demonstrate a blatant disregard of the need to be vigilant in remembering the lessons learned from a disgraceful chapter in U.S. history,’ California Rep. Mike Honda said Friday in a statement.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [9/6/08](#)]

## CHAFFETZ HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

**Chaffetz’s Biggest Contributor is The Pharmaceutical/Health Products Industry.** According to OpenSecrets, Jason Chaffetz’s top donor is Pharmaceuticals/Health Products and he has received \$180,109 from the industry since his first campaign in 2008. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

**In 2009, Chaffetz “Collected About \$30,500 From Supplement Makers And Distributors, With About Half Coming From A Company That Has Repeatedly Locked Horns With Federal Regulators.”** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “Rep. Jason Chaffetz likes the dietary supplement industry and his latest campaign finance report shows the feeling is mutual. Since the beginning of July, Chaffetz, a Utah Republican, collected about \$30,500 from supplement makers and distributors, with about half coming from a company that has repeatedly locked horns with federal regulators.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/19/09]

- **Chaffetz Received \$2,400 “From Six People Involved In The Leadership Of Basic Research, Just Three Weeks After The...Company Filed Suit” Against The FTC “Over An Advertising Dispute.”** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “The congressman received the maximum contribution -- \$2,400 -- from six people involved in the leadership of Basic Research, just three weeks after the Salt Lake City-based company filed suit against the Federal Trade Commission over an advertising dispute. ‘Basic Research has no political giving program and company leadership was unaware of these contributions,’ the spokesman said in a statement. ‘These individuals were making personal donations to the congressman.’ But Chaffetz's campaign disclosure indicates that six of the company executives donated in the same amount on the same day -- Sept. 29. The spokesman said Basic Research has never asked Chaffetz to lobby federal regulators.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/19/09]
- **Basic Research Paid A \$3 Million To The FTC Over False Marketing Of Weight Loss Products: “Eat All You Want And Still Lose Weight.”** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “The company and the FTC have been at odds for about five years over the marketing of weight loss products. In an earlier agreement, Basic Research accepted a \$3 million fine for making claims about supplements that were not backed by scientific evidence and for implying a person in an advertisement was a doctor when he wasn't. Basic Research says it now has scientific studies backing its claims that with a product called Akāvar you can ‘Eat all you want and still lose weight.’ But the FTC disagrees.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/19/09]

**Chaffetz Was Co-Chairman Of The Dietary Supplement Caucus In Congress And He “Worked For More Than A Decade As A Spokesman For Nu Skin, One Of The State's Most Prominent Supplement Makers.”** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “Hatch helped draft the federal regulations overseeing supplements and his son is a lobbyist for the industry. But Chaffetz has his own ties. He is the co-chairman of the dietary supplement caucus in Congress. Previously, he worked for more than a decade as a spokesman for Nu Skin, one of the state's most prominent supplement makers.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/19/09]

**Supplement Lobbyists Held A Fundraiser For Chaffetz During His 2008 Campaign And In His 2010 Campaign.** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “While working there, he met the Washington lobbying team of Dennis DeConcini, a former senator from Arizona, and Romano Romani, who represents a supplement trade association. The lobbyists held a fundraiser for him in the last election and again this year.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/19/09]

**Chaffetz “Has Collected More Than \$80,000 In Total Donations From The Supplement Industry Since First Running For Congress In 2007, Making It One Of His Major Funding Sources.”** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “Between these [supplement] trade groups, Nu Skin and Basic Research, Chaffetz has collected more than \$80,000 in total donations from the supplement industry since first running for Congress in 2007, making it one of his major funding sources. He expects more in the months and years to come. ‘It is an industry I could and should continue to do well with,’ he said.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/19/09]

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND WEALTH

**Commercial Banks Are Chaffetz's Third Biggest Contributor And The Oil And Gas Industry Is His Sixth Biggest Contributor.** According to OpenSecrets, Jason Chaffetz's third top donor is Commercial Banks at \$136,251 since his first campaign in 2008 and his seventh top donor is Oil & Gas at \$95,850 since his first campaign. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [3/26/15](#)]

**In 2008 Chaffetz Had "A Net Worth Of Up To \$5.6 Million."** According to the Deseret News, "Utah's 3rd Congressional District Republican candidate Jason Chaffetz has a net worth of up to \$5.6 million, slightly less than incumbent Rep. Chris Cannon, R-Utah, whom he defeated Tuesday. By law, Senate and House members, as well as candidates, must file annual reports listing assets, liabilities and income." [Deseret News, [6/26/08](#)]

- **"Chaffetz Listed A Net Worth Of Between \$1.2 Million And \$5.6 Million, The Bulk Of Which Is From His Personal Residence, Listed With A Value Between \$1 Million And \$5 Million."** According to the Deseret News, "Chaffetz listed a net worth of between \$1.2 million and \$5.6 million, the bulk of which is from his personal residence, listed with a value between \$1 million and \$5 million, although the report specifically says to not include a primary residence. Without the house, Chaffetz has assets between \$220,000 and \$691,000, including a Marriott Vacation Club in Hawaii, retirement accounts, savings accounts and investments, based on the estimates in the report." [Deseret News, [6/26/08](#)]

**Chaffetz Said He Resigned From His Position As Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s Chief Of Staff Because His \$115,000 Salary Was Not Enough And He "Decided To Make Some Money."** According to the Deseret Morning News, "Jason Chaffetz, Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s chief of staff, will leave his job next month to re-enter private business, Chaffetz said Monday. [...] Chaffetz said he simply 'decided to make some money.' As Huntsman's campaign manager all through 2004 he was making \$4,000 a month. His chief of staff job pays more than \$115,000 a year, but even that "was considerably less than I was making in the private sector" with NuSkin, he said. Earlier this summer, one of Huntsman's newly appointed department heads resigned, saying his state salary was too low." [Deseret Morning News, 10/11/05]

## CHAFFETZ HAS TRIED TO BLOCK DC LAWS

**As Chair Of The Oversight Committee Chaffetz Has Jurisdiction Over The District Of Columbia.** According to The Hill, "When the 114th Congress begins its first session in January, Washington residents will have two new chairmen at the top of committees with jurisdiction over the District. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, won a four-way contest for the Oversight and Government Reform gavel on Nov. 18. Two days later, he met briefly with Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., to lay the groundwork for a working relationship." [The Hill, [12/4/14](#)]

**Rep. Jason Chaffetz Tried To Block A DC Law Allowing Same-Sex Marriage.** According to the Deseret News, "Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, introduced a bill Wednesday that seeks to overturn a new District of Columbia ordinance allowing gay marriage, but he predicts Democratic leaders will not allow it to come to a vote. 'I think they are afraid they will lose,' he told the Deseret News. 'I wish it would come up for a vote, because I think traditional marriage would win. But with the Democrats controlling the House, the Senate and the presidency, I can't imagine that this would make it through the process.' So, he said, the bill is 'more symbolic than it is realistic.'" [Deseret News, [1/28/10](#)]

**Chaffetz Opposed Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton's Bill "To Give D.C. A Congressional Vote, Opposed Her Bill To Give D.C. More Autonomy, And Filed A Bill To Force A Gay Marriage Referendum On D.C."** According to the Washington City Paper, "Chaffetz's elevation would represent quite a change. In just under two years here, Chaffetz has opposed [Rep. Eleanor Holmes] Norton's bill to give DC. a congressional vote, opposed her bill to give D.C. more autonomy, and filed a bill to force a gay marriage referendum on D.C. And in a Republican House, Chaffetz would have reinforcements, ideological allies who wave the U.S. Constitution like members of the Red Guard used to wave quotations from Chairman Mao." [Washington City Paper, [10/1/10](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Salt Lake Tribune: Chaffetz Seemed "To Indicate" That The Conspiracy Theory That The September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks Were A "False Flag" Attack "Was Worthy Of Investigation."** According to the Salt Lake Tribune, "Chaffetz never said he supported the group We Are The Change, which believes that the World Trade Center collapsed because of explosives planted at the base of the buildings, not because of the airlines crashing into the towers. But he did seem to indicate the issue was worthy of investigation. During the exchange, a man asked Chaffetz if he had 'given much thought to the possibility it was a

false flag terrorist attack on 9/11?' He replied: 'Well, I know there's still a lot to learn about what happened and what didn't happen. We should be vigilant and continue to investigate that, absolutely.'" [Salt Lake Tribune, 2/9/10]

**Chaffetz Said He "Talked With Retired Brigham Young University Professor Steven Jones, Who Supports The 9/11 Truther Movement And That Jones Has Done 'Interesting Work.'" According to the Salt Lake Tribune, "The congressman also said he has talked with retired Brigham Young University professor Steven Jones, who supports the 9/11 truther movement and that Jones has done 'interesting work.' [...] The next day, Chaffetz released a statement on his congressional Web site attempting to clarify his comments, saying the Sept. 11 attacks deserve constant study, though he doesn't believe a conspiracy occurred."** [Salt Lake Tribune, 2/9/10]

**Chaffetz Said He Resigned From His Position As Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s Chief Of Staff Because His \$115,000 Salary Was Not Enough And He "Decided To Make Some Money."** According to the Deseret Morning News, "Jason Chaffetz, Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s chief of staff, will leave his job next month to re-enter private business, Chaffetz said Monday. [...] Chaffetz said he simply 'decided to make some money.' As Huntsman's campaign manager all through 2004 he was making \$4,000 a month. His chief of staff job pays more than \$115,000 a year, but even that "was considerably less than I was making in the private sector" with NuSkin, he said. Earlier this summer, one of Huntsman's newly appointed department heads resigned, saying his state salary was too low." [Deseret Morning News, 10/11/05]

**After Chaffetz Announced His Committee Would Investigate Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton's Personal Email Use While In Office, It Was Discovered He Listed His Personal Email On His House Business Card.** According to ABC News, "A business card obtained by ABC News shows that Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, lists his Gmail address on his official House card. After it was revealed on Tuesday that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton conducted all of her government business from personal email accounts, personal email has been the topic du jour, and Chaffetz is at the forefront. Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, announced Tuesday that his panel would join in an investigation of Clinton's email use." [ABC News, [3/4/15](#)]

## Financial Services – Jeb Hensarling

Rep. Jeb Hensarling has chaired the House Financial Services Committee since 2012. Before that post he chaired the House GOP Conference. A "protégé" of former Republican senator Phil Gramm, Hensarling previously worked as finance chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee. Before his career in politics, Hensarling became a corporate success, mostly through his relationship with the hedge fund managers and Republican donors Sam and Charles Wylie.

### **HENSARLING HAS BEEN HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY BUSINESS INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY AHEAD OF BECOMING CHAIR OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE**

**Hensarling Led "The GOP Assault" On The 2010 Dodd-Frank Law.** According to the Houston Chronicle, "He is leading the GOP assault on the business bête noire, the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, which brought new oversight and regulation to Wall Street and created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Hensarling insists Dodd-Frank did not end the prospect of 'too big to fail' bailouts, even as former committee chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., last month said the law provides for 'death panels' that allow failing financial institutions to be 'terminated.'" [Houston Chronicle, 8/4/14]

**Dallas Morning News: In 2012 Hensarling Raised \$2.9 Million During His Reelection Campaign, "Reflecting The Wide-Spread Expectation" That He Would Chair The House Financial Services Committee.** According to the Dallas Morning News, "Rep. Jeb Hensarling has raised \$2.9 million for his re-election effort, reflecting the wide-spread expectation that he will chair the House committee that oversees banking and Wall Street next year." [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

**Despite The Fact That He Was Rated As The "Least Vulnerable" Incumbent, Campaign Donations "Flowed Hensarling's Way, Much Of It From Insurance Companies, Securities Brokers, Investment Firms And Banks."** According to the Dallas Morning News, "Hensarling, R-Dallas, is a heavy favorite in his race against Democratic challenger Linda S. Mrosko and Libertarian Ken Ashby. The Cook Political Report, a nonpartisan Washington newsletter, rates Hensarling as the 'least vulnerable' incumbent among Texas' large congressional delegation. Even so, campaign money has flowed Hensarling's way, much of it from insurance companies, securities brokers, investment firms and banks. Together, employees of those industries or their political action committees have donated \$630,447 to his campaign, according to the Center for Responsive Politics." [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]



**“Hensarling’s Fundraising Haul” Was “66 Percent More Than He Received In 2010.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Hensarling’s fundraising haul this year is 66 percent more than he received in 2010, when Republicans surged to win control of the House. He serves as chairman of the House Republican Conference, making him the fourth-ranking Republican in the chamber.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

**Dallas Morning News: “Hensarling Aides Said His Fundraising Prowess Shows The Trust That Stakeholders Have In His Devotion To Free Markets.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “But next year, Hensarling is expected to seize the gavel of the Financial Services Committee. He favors less regulation and has vowed to try to overturn parts of the Dodd-Frank regulation law enacted after the 2008 financial crisis and to privatize the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Hensarling aides said his fundraising prowess shows the trust that stakeholders have in his devotion to free markets.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

**“The Single Largest Source Of Donations To Hensarling’s Campaign” Was IBC Bank.** According to the Dallas Morning News, “The single largest source of donations to Hensarling’s campaign is Laredo-based IBC Bank, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Other top contributors are Rent-A-Center, Visa Inc., and New York Life.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

- **IBC Bank Chief Executive On Hensarling: “His Vision For The Banking Industry Aligns With Our Own.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “‘His vision for the banking industry aligns with our own,’ said Dennis E. Nixon, chief executive of IBC. ‘Regardless of possible future positions, Congressman Hensarling has proven himself a friend to community banks.’” [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

**“Other Top Contributors” To Hensarling Included “Rent-A-Center, Visa Inc., And New York Life”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “The single largest source of donations to Hensarling’s campaign is Laredo-based IBC Bank, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Other top contributors are Rent-A-Center, Visa Inc., and New York Life.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

**JPMorgan Chase Was “The Largest Source Of Donations To Hensarling’s Leadership PAC” And Other Major Donors Included “Hedge Fund Mason Capital Management And Bank Of America.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Separately, Hensarling has raised \$967,421 for his political action committee, another source of money to donate to Republicans. JPMorgan Chase is the largest source of donations to Hensarling’s leadership PAC. Other major donors include hedge fund Mason Capital Management and Bank of America.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/31/12](#)]

**Hensarling And His Political Action Committee Raised About \$5.7 Million Between 2007 And 2012.** According to the Bond Buyer, “Hensarling and his political action committee have raised a total of some \$5.7 million in campaign contributions since 2007, including donations from at least two Texas-based muni dealer firms, according to documents filed with the Federal Elections Commission.” [Bond Buyer, 9/26/12]

**Bond Buyer: Hensarling “Received Campaign Contributions From Executives For At Least Two Texas-Based Muni Dealer Firms And A Host Of Major Financial Institutions.”** According to the Bond Buyer, “He has received campaign contributions from executives for at least two Texas-based muni dealer firms and a host of major financial institutions. Hinojosa and others at his firm contributed \$12,000 during the period, and Hill A. Feinberg, chief executive officer of Dallas-based First Southwest Co., contributed \$6,000. Feinberg did not respond to a request for comment.” [Bond Buyer, 9/26/12]

**“Also During The Five-Year Period Bank Of America Corp.’s Political Action Committee And The Firm’s Staff Donated \$25,155 To Hensarling.”** According to the Bond Buyer, “Also during the five-year period Bank of America Corp.’s political action committee and the firm’s staff donated \$25,155 to Hensarling, Blackrock Capital Management Inc.’s PAC gave \$6,900, Citigroup’s PAC do-nated \$14,000, Goldman, Sachs & Co.’s PAC gave \$21,000 and JPMorgan Chase & Co. donated \$12,500.” [Bond Buyer, 9/26/12]

**“Citigroup’s PAC Donated \$14,000, Goldman, Sachs & Co.’s PAC Gave \$21,000 And JPMorgan Chase & Co. Donated \$12,500.”** According to the Bond Buyer, “Also during the five-year period Bank of America Corp.’s political action committee and the firm’s staff donated \$25,155 to Hensarling, Blackrock Capital Management Inc.’s PAC gave \$6,900, Citigroup’s PAC do-nated \$14,000, Goldman, Sachs & Co.’s PAC gave \$21,000 and JPMorgan Chase & Co. donated \$12,500.” [Bond Buyer, 9/26/12]

**“The Investment Company Institute’s PACs Donated \$20,500, The American Bankers Association’s PAC And Its Staff Gave \$30,500, The American Financial Services Association’s PAC Donated \$22,500.”** According to the Bond Buyer, “The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association’s PAC contributed \$9,500 during the period, the Investment

Company Institute's PACs donated \$20,500, the American Bankers Association's PAC and its staff gave \$30,500, the American Financial Services Association's PAC donated \$22,500 and the Financial Services Roundtable's PAC gave \$9,500." [Bond Buyer, 9/26/12]

## **HENSARLING WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE TEA PARTY TO CHALLENGE HOUSE LEADERSHIP**

**Houston Chronicle: Hensarling "Considered Competing For A House Leadership Position After Former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor Lost His Primary Bid."** According to the Houston Chronicle, "In pushing his agenda, Hensarling finds himself on uncertain terrain. An ambitious sixth-term lawmaker who considered competing for a House leadership position after former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor lost his primary bid, Hensarling might lose all hope of advancement if he compromises." [Houston Chronicle, 8/4/14]

**Washington Examiner: "Frustrated House Conservatives," Encouraged By Outside Activists, Looked To Hensarling As A "Formidable Candidate Who Could Shake Up The Their Conference's Senior Leadership Team."** According to the Washington Examiner, "A small band of frustrated House conservatives -- with encouragement from outside activists and talk radio hosts -- are looking to Hensarling as a formidable candidate who could shake up the their conference's senior leadership team. In Hensarling, a Texas Republican and chairman of the influential Financial Services Committee, conservative insurgents see a committed conservative who is simpatico with the Tea Party but capable of broadening support for their limited-government agenda." [Washington Examiner, [6/3/14](#)]

**Washington Examiner: "In Hensarling...Conservative Insurgents See A Committed Conservative Who Is Simpatico With The Tea Party But Capable Of Broadening Support For Their Limited-Government Agenda."** According to the Washington Examiner, "A small band of frustrated House conservatives -- with encouragement from outside activists and talk radio hosts -- are looking to Hensarling as a formidable candidate who could shake up the their conference's senior leadership team. In Hensarling, a Texas Republican and chairman of the influential Financial Services Committee, conservative insurgents see a committed conservative who is simpatico with the Tea Party but capable of broadening support for their limited-government agenda." [Washington Examiner, [6/3/14](#)]

## **HENSARLING SUPPORTED BY HEDGE FUND MANAGERS SAM AND CHARLES WYLY, WHO WERE INVESTIGATED FOR "TAX HAVEN ABUSES"**

**Dallas Morning News: Before Running For Congress Hensarling "Landed A Job With A Hedge Fund Managed By Sam And Charles Wyly, The Dallas Brothers And Loyal GOP Donors."** According to the Dallas Morning News, "Jeb Hensarling was a career political aide when he decided it was time to leave politics for business. Fresh from eight years with Sen. Phil Gramm, Hensarling quickly landed a job with a hedge fund managed by Sam and Charles Wyly, the Dallas brothers and loyal GOP donors. The young politico hitched his financial future to the entrepreneurial duo, investing his own wealth in the hedge fund and several other Wyly-owned companies." [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**Hensarling's Relationship With The Wyls "Helped Him Launch A Consulting Business And Achieve A Level Of Corporate Success That Would Make Him An Attractive Candidate When He Ran For Congress In 2002."** According to the Dallas Morning News, "Despite a working relationship that spanned nearly a decade, Hensarling has rarely touted his work for the Wyls. The relationship was mostly a profitable one for Hensarling, whose experience with the Wyls helped him launch a consulting business and achieve a level of corporate success that would make him an attractive candidate when he ran for Congress in 2002." [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**The SEC Accused The Wyls Of "Insider Trading And Using Offshore Entities To Hide \$550 Million In Trading Profits."** According to the Dallas Morning News, "But those ties may become a liability for the Dallas congressman. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission accused the Wyls on July 29 of insider trading and using offshore entities to hide \$550 million in trading profits that should have been disclosed to investors." [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**"Two Of The Wyly Companies For Which Hensarling Worked - Maverick Capital And Green Mountain Energy - Were Tied To The Improper Trading Scheme Described By The SEC."** According to the Dallas Morning News, "Two of the Wyly companies for which Hensarling worked - Maverick Capital and Green Mountain Energy - were tied to the improper trading scheme described by the SEC. In an interview, Hensarling withheld judgment about the Wyls and said he knew nothing about their off-shore system when he worked for them." [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**The Wyls Were “Important Sponsors Of Hensarling's Political Career,” And The Wyly Family Contributed \$107,200 To His Campaigns From 2002 To 2010.** According to the Dallas Morning News, “The Wyls have also been important sponsors of Hensarling's political career. Over eight years, the Wyly family - including Sam and Charles and their grown children - has contributed \$107,200 to Hensarling's campaigns, according to a Dallas Morning News review of campaign finance data.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**Hensarling Was Hired By The Wyls In 1963 To Market Their Investment Fund, Maverick Capital, “To Institutional Investors And Wealthy Individuals.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Hensarling, 53, first joined the Wyls in 1993, when Sam Wyly was expanding the family investment fund, Maverick Capital, to outside investors. Hensarling was hired as a vice president in charge of marketing the fund to institutional investors and wealthy individuals. Michael C. French, a Dallas lawyer who also was sued by the SEC last month, was hired as a fund manager.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**When Hensarling Left Maverick To Start His Own Firm, San Jacinto Venture, “The Wyls Became His First Clients, Giving The Business An Early Boost.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Within 15 months, Hensarling took a leave of absence from Maverick to run Gramm's foundering 1996 presidential campaign. When he returned a year later, his job had been filled, but the Wyls allowed him to stay on and explore a new role. When that didn't work out, Hensarling left Maverick to start his own consulting firm, San Jacinto Ventures. The Wyls became his first clients, giving the business an early boost.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**Dallas Republican Operative Jim Francis: Hensarling Worked For The Wyls As A Consultant, “He Had A Relationship With The Wyls And Was An Adviser, At Least, And Maybe More.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “‘He approached them to work for them as a consultant,’ said Jim Francis, a Dallas Republican operative who shared an office with Hensarling during the 1990s. ‘He was trying to be a political adviser to business people’ he said. ‘He had a relationship with the Wyls and was an adviser, at least, and maybe more to the Wyls.’” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**In 1999 Hensarling “Mothballed” San Jacinto In 1999 And Went To Work For A Start-Up Acquired By The Wyls Called Green Mountain.** According to the Dallas Morning News, “San Jacinto was short-lived, however. He mothballed the company in 1999 to work for Green Mountain, a start-up utility the Wyls had acquired two years earlier.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**“A Senate Investigation Into Tax Haven Abuses Reported In 2006 That The Wyls' Offshore Entities Financed Most Of The Initial \$30 Million The Wyls Put Into Green Mountain.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “A Senate investigation into tax haven abuses reported in 2006 that the Wyls' offshore entities financed most of the initial \$30 million the Wyls put into Green Mountain. By 2003, the offshore corporations had invested \$200 million in the utility, according to the investigation, which was led by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**“In 2003, Hensarling Valued His Green Mountain Stock At Between \$250,000 And \$500,000...At Least Some Of That Was Financed By A Green Mountain Loan, Worth Between \$100,000 And \$250,000.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “The Wyls planned to take Green Mountain public. Hoping to profit, Hensarling increased his ownership stake in the company. In 2003, Hensarling valued his Green Mountain stock at between \$250,000 and \$500,000, according to a personal financial disclosure that lawmakers file under federal law. At least some of that was financed by a Green Mountain loan, worth between \$100,000 and \$250,000.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**“Hensarling Didn't Lobby For Green Mountain But Advised Sam Wyly On Political Matters,” Including The Financing Of An Ad “Attacking George W. Bush's Presidential Primary Opponent, Sen. John McCain.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Hensarling didn't lobby for Green Mountain but advised Sam Wyly on political matters. That included a campaign ad that Sam Wyly financed in 2000 attacking George W. Bush's presidential primary opponent, Sen. John McCain, in New York. Hensarling was opposed to a negative ad but helped Wyly find people to create it. The ads - attributed to ‘Republicans for Clean Air’ - attacked McCain's voting record on clean energy, and wound up creating useful publicity for Green Mountain.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**“In 2003, Nearly 40 Percent Of Hensarling's Investments Were In Companies Controlled Or Formerly Controlled By The Wyls.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Hensarling left Green Mountain in 2000, and he eventually lost money on his investment when Sam Wyly cashed out minority investors in 2006, according to aides. The business never went public. But over the years, Hensarling had bought into other Wyly-controlled firms. In 2003, nearly 40 percent of Hensarling's investments were in companies controlled or formerly controlled by the Wyls, according to his personal financial disclosure.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**In 2006 The Wyllys Sold Michaels Stores Inc To Bain Capital And The Blackstone Group, Hensarling Disclosed That He Had Profits Of Between \$100,000 And \$1 Million From His Share Of The Sold Stock.** According to the Dallas Morning News, “In 2006, Hensarling disclosed a profit on his sale of stock in Michaels Stores Inc. of between \$100,000 and \$1 million. The Wyllys sold the business in July 2006 to private equity firms Bain Capital LLC and Blackstone Group.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**The Wyly Brothers “Reduced Their Political Donations” Since The Senate Investigation, But “The Wyllys’ Sons And Sons-In-Law Have Continued Supporting Hensarling.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “The brothers have reduced their political donations since the Senate investigation's disclosure of how the Wyllys directed the offshore corporations - theoretically independent entities - to trade stocks, initiate investments in Wyly-controlled companies, and buy property and art for the Wyllys. However, the Wyllys' sons and sons-in-law have continued supporting Hensarling.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

**“David S. Matthews, A Dallas Hedge Fund Manager And Son-In-Law Of Sam Wyly, Has Donated \$10,100 To Hensarling’s Campaigns Since 2006.”** According to the Dallas Morning News, “David S. Matthews, a Dallas hedge fund manager and son-in-law of Sam Wyly, has donated \$10,100 to Hensarling's campaigns since 2006. Matthews was a director of insurance firm Scottish Re Group Ltd., another company whose shares were traded by the offshore corporations but not properly disclosed, according to the SEC.” [Dallas Morning News, 8/12/10]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**Koch Industries Has Donated \$50,500 To Hensarling From 2004 To 2014.** According to OpenSecrets, Koch Industries has donated \$50,500 to Rep. Jeb Hensarling since he was elected in 2004. [OpenSecrets, Accessed [2/12/15](#)]

**Hensarling Delivered A Keynote Address At A Conference Titled “After Dodd Frank: The Future Of Financial Markets,” Hosted By The Cato Institute And The Mercatus Center.** According to the Cato Institute website, the Cato Institute and the Mercatus Center hosted “After Dodd-Frank: The Future of Financial Markets...Featuring Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman, House Financial Services Committee; Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC), Member, House Financial Services Committee; Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; Richard Kovacevich,” from July 16th to 17th, 2014, with a keynote address on July 16th by Jeb Hensarling. [Cato.org, Accessed [2/12/15](#)]

- **Hensarling Said In His Speech “Rarely Does A Week Go By” That A Cato Or Mercatus Scholar Does Not Testify In Front Of The Financial Services Committee, “My Staff Has Joked About Giving Them Office Space.”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “It’s an honor to be here speaking at this event sponsored by two of the nation’s most prestigious and highly-regarded free market think tanks: the Mercatus Center and the Cato Institute. I especially want to thank Dan Butler and Lydia Mashburn with Mercatus, and John Allison and Mark Calabria with Cato, for putting this event together. Rarely does a week go by that the Financial Services Committee does not benefit from the testimony of one their scholars. They appear so often before the committee that my staff has joked about giving them office space in the Rayburn Building.” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]
- **Hensarling: At Meetings I Have “Daydreamed Of Banging Down On The Table My Personal Copies Of Hayek’s The Road To Serfdom And Friedman’s Capitalism And Freedom And Shouting, ‘This Is What We Believe!’”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “I’ll admit, more than once I have wanted to channel Maggie. Many of you know I spent last Congress as Chairman of the House Republican Conference where I presided over Conference meetings. On too many occasions I was subjected to some colleague with a tremble in his voice telling the rest of us what principled positions we must drop or we would risk losing our majority. I daydreamed of banging down on the table my personal copies of Hayek’s The Road to Serfdom and Friedman’s Capitalism and Freedom and shouting, ‘This is what we believe!’ And then reminding them of a rhetorical question posed by my dear friend and mentor Phil Gramm: ‘Why would anyone want a fake Democrat when they could have the real thing?’” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]
- **Hensarling: “We Can Never, Ever Accept A Dodd-Frank World, Nor Should We.”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “We can never, ever accept a Dodd-Frank world, nor should we. And the pathway to a post-Dodd-Frank world is emblazoned with the names Hayek and Friedman. This is what we believe.” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]



- **Hensarling: “When The Left Runs Out Of Logic...They Will Typically Begin The Name-Calling. It Usually Begins With Something Like ‘Tea Party Ideologue’ And Ends With Them Playing The Race Card.”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “It has become fashionable for the Left to dismiss those of us who speak of principles as ‘ideologues.’ When the Left runs out of logic, facts, proof or persuasion (and that usually doesn’t take long), they will typically begin the name-calling. It usually begins with something like ‘Tea Party ideologue’ and ends with them playing the race card. You can almost set your watch by it. But when we principled conservatives say that free enterprise has lifted more people out of poverty than all the government anti-poverty programs combined, the claim is not based on ideology or theory. It is based on history and evidence.” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]
- **Hensarling: “Dodd-Frank Stands As A Monument To The Arrogance And Hubris Of Man In That Its Answer To Incomprehensible Complexity Is Yet More Incomprehensible Complexity.”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “With all due respect to its authors and admirers, Dodd-Frank stands as a monument to the arrogance and hubris of man in that its answer to incomprehensible complexity is yet more incomprehensible complexity. The 400-plus regulations required by Dodd-Frank generally fall into two categories: those that create economic uncertainty and those that create certain economic harm.” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]
- **Hensarling: “The Orwellian-Named ‘Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’...Represents An Assault On The Fundamental Economic Liberties Of The American Consumer.”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “I know you have heard of them all day, but permit me to mention just a few of the ways Dodd-Frank assaults our freedom and prosperity. One of the most glaring examples is the creation of the Orwellian-named ‘Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’ – Orwellian because the CFPB represents an assault on the fundamental economic liberties of the American consumer. Arguably, it is the most powerful and least accountable government agency in the history of our Republic. Consumers want and deserve control over their economic decision-making. They want more choices for themselves and their families.” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]
- **Hensarling: “Our Committee Will Also Soon Take Legislative Action To End Dodd-Frank’s Bailout Fund.”** According to the transcript of Rep. Jeb Hensarling’s speech at the July 2014 Cato and Mercatus hosted conference, “Our Committee will also soon take legislative action to end Dodd-Frank’s bailout fund and bring to an end the reign of those that are too big to fail. To summarize our activities, by the end of this Congress our Committee then would have repealed Dodd-Frank’s greatest sin of omission – its failure to do anything about housing finance reform – and its greatest sin of commission – enshrining bailouts into law. And day-in and day-out, you can rest assured we will continue working to relieve our economy from the burden of growth-choking and job-killing red tape.” [Jeb Hensarling Press Release, [7/16/14](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS

### **Hensarling: “Obamacare Will Increase Spending By Nearly \$2.6 Trillion And Help Cause Our Debt To Triple During This Decade...Repealing The Health Care Law Would Reduce The National Deficit By \$700 Billion.”**

According to the Jacksonville Daily Progress, “Congressman Jeb Hensarling (Texas District 5) visited Rusk Wednesday to discuss the national deficit, one year to date after President Barack Obama’s Health Care bill was passed into law. ‘Obamacare will increase spending by nearly \$2.6 trillion and help cause our debt to triple during this decade,’ Hensarling said. Repealing the Health Care law would reduce the national deficit by \$700 billion, Hensarling said.” [Jacksonville Daily Progress, 3/23/11]

### **Hensarling: “In The 20th Century, The Red Menace Was Communism. The Red Menace For The 21st Century Is Our Public Debt.”**

According to the Jacksonville Daily Progress, “The national deficit is more than \$14 trillion. The government is spending 42 cents on every dollar it spends, Hensarling said. National security is threatened by the deficit, he said. ‘In the 20th century, the red menace was communism. The red menace for the 21st century is our public debt,’ Hensarling said.” [Jacksonville Daily Progress, 3/23/11]

**Hensarling Advocated For A Flat Tax System.** According to the Athens Daily Review, “Marsha Head asked why the oil companies were not taxed to a greater degree when they are making huge sums of money each year. ‘I’m happy to take our tax code. I’m happy to take the deductions, the tax expenditures, the loopholes and the tax expenditures out of the tax code -- throw it away, and move to a flat tax system,’ Hensarling said. Hensarling also fielded a question about American jobs being shipped overseas, or given to foreigners who come to work here.” [Athens Daily Review, 7/1/11]

**Hensarling Led A Campaign To Eliminate The Export-Import Bank Of The United States.** According to the Dallas Morning News, “Jeb Hensarling of Dallas is leading a campaign that could put the Export-Import Bank of the United States out of business after 80 years of strong, bipartisan support. The fight pits the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee against many of the Republican Party's most stalwart supporters, from big banks to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Gov. Rick Perry supports the bank and so do most members of Congress.” [Dallas Morning News, 7/7/14]

- **Houston Chronicle: “Business Interests Are Particularly Incensed Over Hensarling's Bid Not To Reauthorize The Export-Import Bank.”** According to the Houston Chronicle, “Nevertheless, parts of Hensarling's agenda have put him at odds with Big Business - the GOP's traditional ally. Business interests are particularly incensed over Hensarling's bid not to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which supports \$37 billion in exports and more than 200,000 American jobs through loans and loan guarantees to foreign states and enterprises purchasing American products.” [Houston Chronicle, 8/4/14]
- **“Since 2007, Ex-Im Has Financed \$22 Billion In Texas Exports, With Noble Drilling Corp., Whose U.S. Headquarters Is In Sugar Land, Being The Top Beneficiary.”** According to the Houston Chronicle, “Since 2007, Ex-Im has financed \$22 billion in Texas exports, with Noble Drilling Corp., whose U.S. head-quarters is in Sugar Land, being the top beneficiary. Ex-Im supported 1,352 Texas exporters in that time, about half of which were small businesses. The bank's defenders say its loan default rate is a minuscule .211 percent and Ex-Im actually is a mon-ey-maker, returning \$1.057 billion last year to the U.S. Treasury through fees and interest payments.” [Houston Chronicle, 8/4/14]

## Ways And Means – Paul Ryan

Rep. Paul Ryan took over as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Previously Ryan served as chair of the House Budget Committee from 2011 to 2014. In 2012, Ryan was picked by Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney to be his running mate in the 2012 election. Ryan is known for his budget proposals recommending drastic cuts to safety nets.

### RYAN PROPOSED DRASTIC CUTS TO SAFETY NET WHILE LOWERING TAXES FOR RICH

**Paul Krugman: Ryan's 2010 Plan Would “Reduce Revenue By Almost \$4 Trillion” And Cause A Deficit Of “Roughly \$1.3 Trillion” By 2020.** According to an opinion by columnist Paul Krugman for the New York Times, “But the budget office has done no such thing. At Mr. Ryan's request, it produced an estimate of the budget effects of his proposed spending cuts — period. It didn't address the revenue losses from his tax cuts. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has, however, stepped into the breach. Its numbers indicate that the Ryan plan would reduce revenue by almost \$4 trillion over the next decade. If you add these revenue losses to the numbers The Post cites, you get a much larger deficit in 2020, roughly \$1.3 trillion.” [Paul Krugman – New York Times, [8/5/10](#)]

**Krugman: The Tax Policy Center Found That “The Ryan Plan Would Cut Taxes On The Richest 1 Percent Of The Population In Half, Giving Them 117 Percent Of The Plan's Total Tax Cuts.”** According to an opinion by columnist Paul Krugman for the New York Times, “And I do mean slash. The Tax Policy Center finds that the Ryan plan would cut taxes on the richest 1 percent of the population in half, giving them 117 percent of the plan's total tax cuts. That's not a misprint. Even as it slashed taxes at the top, the plan would raise taxes for 95 percent of the population.” [Paul Krugman – New York Times, [8/5/10](#)]

**Los Angeles Times: “Under Ryan's Plan...The Internal Revenue Service Would Tax The Wealthiest Americans Less, But Many Of The Poorest Ones More.”** According to the Los Angeles Times, “Rep. Paul D. Ryan's proposed federal budget -- now starring as the centerpiece of the presidential campaign as he joins the Republican ticket -- would reshape American government, achieving long-sought conservative goals and reversing an 80-year path of larger, more expensive federal programs. Under Ryan's plan, which has passed the Republican-controlled House twice in slightly different versions, the Internal Revenue Service would tax the wealthiest Americans less, but many of the poorest ones more; Medicare would be transformed; Medicaid would be cut by about a third; and all functions of government other than those health programs, Social Security and the military would shrink to levels not seen since the 1930s.” [Los Angeles Times, [8/14/12](#)]

### Ryan's Budget Would Privatize Medicare

**Ryan Plan Turned Medicare Into A Voucher Program.** According to ABC News, “Critics have called Ryan’s 2011 proposal the ‘end of Medicare as we know it,’ and that’s true. Until now, Medicare has operated as a ‘fee-for-service’ system; under Ryan’s plan, it would operate more like a voucher system, although Ryan and his aides have resisted this term. Medicare would cease to pay for health services directly, instead operating as a board that approves a menu of health plans for public sale and doles out predetermined lumps of money to people enrolled in Medicare, to help them buy those plans.” [ABC News, [8/11/12](#)]

**Ryan Has Long Planned To Alter Medicare System.** According to the Associated Press, “Most voters in Rep. Paul Ryan’s district in Wisconsin are familiar with his plan to scale back Medicare coverage for senior citizens. He has been talking about it for years as a way to keep the Medicare program solvent. But the possible impact became more real to his friends and neighbors this week when House Republicans declared that they will make the Ryan plan an issue in the 2012 elections. Some voters say they give Ryan credit for tackling the problem. But many also worry senior citizens might not be able to get needed medical treatment without full Medicare coverage.” [Associated Press, [4/9/11](#)]

**Ryan’s Medicare Reform Legislation Would “Double Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Seniors.”** According to the Los Angeles Times, “The Ryan budget plan would cut federal spending on Medicaid, which provides health care for the poor, and begin distributing money by block grant to states. The plan would do away with Medicare’s direct payment for health care for seniors, replacing it with a voucher system in which recipients choose private insurers. The Congressional Budget Office found that part of the plan, which would take effect in 2022, could nearly double out-of-pocket costs for seniors.” [Los Angeles Times, [4/15/11](#)]

### **The Budget Plan Cut Spending On Education But Kept Tax Breaks For Oil Companies**

**Ryan Budget Cut Spending On Education But Kept Tax Breaks For Oil Companies.** According to the Daily Beast, “When House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan unveiled the GOP blueprint for cutting government spending, he asked Americans to make sacrifices on everything from Medicare to education, while preserving lucrative tax subsidies for the booming oil, mining and energy industries.” [Daily Beast, [6/17/11](#)]

- **Ryan Has Financial Interest In Oil Companies That Benefit From Oil Subsidies.** According to the Daily Beast, “The financial disclosure report Ryan filed with Congress last month and made public this week shows he and his wife, Janna, own stakes in four family companies that lease land in Texas and Oklahoma to the very energy companies that benefit from the tax subsidies in Ryan’s budget plan. Ryan’s father-in-law, Daniel Little, who runs the companies, told Newsweek and The Daily Beast that the family companies are currently leasing the land for mining and drilling to energy giants such as Chesapeake Energy, Devon, and XTO Energy, a recently acquired subsidiary of ExxonMobil. Some of these firms would be eligible for portions of the \$45 billion in energy tax breaks and subsidies over 10 years protected in the Wisconsin lawmaker’s proposed budget.” [Daily Beast, [6/17/11](#)]

### **The Budget Plans Were Protested By Catholic Bishops For Being Immoral**

**In 2012, The U.S. Conference Of Catholic Bishops Wrote To Congress To Protest The Cuts In The Ryan Budget Urging Lawmakers For “Moral And Human Reasons” To Not Accept Cuts To Hunger And Nutrition Programs.** According to the Washington Post, “But this spring, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops took the unusual step of repudiating the deep cuts envisioned in Ryan’s budget proposal as out of keeping with the teachings of Jesus. One of a series of their letters to congressional committees read in part: ‘I write to urge you to resist for moral and human reasons unacceptable cuts to hunger and nutrition programs [that would] hurt hungry children, poor families, vulnerable seniors and workers who cannot find employment. These cuts are unjustified and wrong.’” [Washington Post, [8/11/12](#)]

**The Bishops Renewed Their Protests When Ryan Reintroduced His Plan For 2014, And Warned It Would “Drastically Cut” Programs For The Poor And Vulnerable.** According to The Hill, “Ryan’s fiscal 2014 budget cuts spending by \$5.7 trillion while reducing the top tax rate to 25 percent with the goal of reaching a balanced budget in 10 years. The bishops said the revamped plan would ‘drastically cut’ spending by \$800 billion over 10 years. ‘This figure is very concerning, since 70 percent of the spending in this budget category goes for programs to help poor and vulnerable people,’ they wrote. The bishops warned the Ryan budget would likely slash safety net programs like Pell Grants, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, school lunches and the Earned Income Tax Credit, among others. Ryan first drew the ire of the bishops last year when he said his Catholic faith helped shape his budget plan.” [The Hill, [3/20/13](#)]

### **Ryan Wanted “Dynamic Scoring”**

**Ryan Wanted CBO To Do ‘Dynamic Scoring’ To Make Tax Cuts Look More Effective.** According to the Washington Post, “And that's why, in a recent speech at the Financial Services Roundtable, Paul Ryan said he wants to make our budget scorekeepers, more realistically in his view, assume that tax cuts pay for themselves -- at least to some degree. It's part of what economists call ‘dynamic scoring,’ and it would make the math of tax reform much less daunting.” [Washington Post, [10/14/14](#)]

**Scoring Method “Offers A More Favorable View Of Cutting Taxes.”** According to The Hill, “The House on Tuesday adopted a controversial rule to require macroeconomic scoring on major legislation in the new Congress, which opponents say will politicize impartial budget analyses. So-called ‘dynamic scoring’ typically offers a more favorable view of cutting taxes, which is part of why Republicans support the method.” [The Hill, [1/6/15](#)]

**House Republicans “Formally Adopted” Dynamic Scoring In 2015.** According to Politico, “The pick is the latest bid by Republicans to revamp Congress’ budgeting process since they took control of the Senate. Last month, House Republicans formally adopted controversial budgeting rules known as ‘dynamic scoring’ that aim to account for the macroeconomic effects of legislation. Democrats call it fuzzy math.” [Politico, [2/27/15](#)]

## **RYAN OPPOSED REFORMS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS**

**Ryan Voted Against Creating The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.** In June 2010, Ryan voted against the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. According to Congressional Quarterly, the new agency would “oversee consumer financial products.” The vote was on final passage of the conference report, which the House agreed by a vote of 237 to 192. The conference report subsequently passed the Senate and was signed into law by the president. [House Vote 413, [6/30/10](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/30/10](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 4173](#)]

**Ryan Voted To Overhaul The Personal Bankruptcy System By Requiring Debtors Who, Based On A Means Test, Were Deemed Able To Repay Some Or All Of Their Debts, To Do So Instead Of Having Their Debts Discharged.** In April 2005, Ryan voted for a bill that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “create[d] a means test tied to the median incomes of individual states to determine whether personal bankruptcy filers were able to repay some or all of their debts. Those deemed able to pay would be pushed into Chapter 13 bankruptcy, which results in a court-ordered repayment plan; those with insufficient assets would be allowed to file under Chapter 7, which erases debts after the forfeiture of certain assets. The bill [] exempt[ed] disabled veterans from the means test if their debts were incurred primarily when they were on active duty or performing homeland defense duties. It also [] [made] a number of debts non-dischargeable, including student loans, child support, alimony and luxury payments over \$500 made within three months of a bankruptcy filing.” The House passed the bill by a vote of 302 to 126. As the bill had already passed the Senate, it was then sent to the president, who signed it into law. [House Vote 108, [4/14/05](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/14/05](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 256](#)]

- **The Bankruptcy Overhaul Made It More Difficult For Someone To Not Repay Their Debts By Filing For Bankruptcy.** According to Congressional Quarterly, “The House cleared legislation to overhaul the federal bankruptcy code Thursday, providing business groups with a long-sought victory while raising concerns among bankruptcy judges who will have to implement the new rules. ‘We think it’s going to be very difficult,’ said David H. Adams, president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, citing problems that could be created by the most significant changes to the system in decades. [...] Adams said bankruptcy judges will work with the trustees and lawyers’ groups to prepare the bankruptcy court system, but he is convinced the transition will not be easy. ‘There are many new things that could come up that we haven’t seen before,’ Adams said, calling the provisions a ‘drastic change.’ Sponsored by Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, the legislation would make it more difficult for debtors to escape repaying their debts by filing for bankruptcy protection. In addition to increasing fees and paperwork requirements, the bill would grant a number of new legal rights to creditors in the bankruptcy process.” [Congressional Quarterly, [4/14/05](#)]

## **Ryan Voted Against Protecting Consumers From Abusive Credit Card Company Practices**

**2009: Ryan Voted Against Regulating Credit Card Companies By Imposing Restrictions On Their Lending Practices.** In April 2009, Ryan voted against a bill that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “impose[d] restrictions on credit card company lending practices. It [...] restrict[ed] when companies could increase annual percentage interest rates retroactively on an existing balance, require[d] companies to give at least 45 days’ notice before increasing an annual percentage rate or adding fees, and restrict[ed] companies from computing interest charges on balances from more than one billing cycle.



Credit companies [were] not be allowed to use the term ‘fixed rate’ except when referring to a rate that will not change for any reason over a set period and or the term ‘prime rate’ except when referring to the rate published by the Federal Reserve Board. It [...] require[d] the Federal Reserve to establish standards for payment workouts under an open-ended consumer credit plan, collect information on the lending practices of credit card companies and report to Congress annually on its findings.” The House passed the bill by a vote of 357 to 70. The bill passed the Senate and was signed by the president, and became law. [House Vote 228, [4/30/09](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/30/09](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R.627](#)]

**2008: Ryan Voted Against Establishing Restrictions On Credit Card Company Billing Practices.** In September 2008, Ryan voted against a bill that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would [have] prohibit[ed] credit card companies from retroactively increasing interest rates on existing balances in most cases, issuing finance charges on balances for days not included in the most recent billing cycle, charging fees on outstanding balances created only from interest accrued in the previous billing period until the end of the current bill period. The measure also would require companies to send statements at least 25 days before payment is due and give at least 45 days’ notice before increasing rates.” The bill passed the House by a vote of 312 to 112. No other substantial actions were taken. [House Vote 623, [9/23/08](#); Congressional Quarterly, [9/23/08](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 5244](#)]

## **RYAN AGAINST RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE, POOR LACK “WORK ETHIC” AND WANT “A WELFARE STATE”**

**Ryan: Raising Minimum Wage Hurts The Poor.** According to The USA Today, “Republicans already have signaled their opposition to the latest push, raising concerns that a higher minimum wage would force business owners to cut workers’ hours, slash jobs and raise prices. GOP lawmakers – including potential 2016 presidential candidates Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida – have argued that raising the minimum wage could harm more than help America’s poorest.” [USA Today, [2/4/14](#)]

**Ryan: 30 Percent Of Americans “Want The Welfare State.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Mitt Romney and his running mate, Paul Ryan, share a similarly dim view of a very large portion of Americans, according to previously unreported remarks by Ryan. Both believe that many of their fellow citizens are dependent on government and have no motivation to improve their lives -- but they disagree over the precise number. Romney's estimate, famously, is 47 percent. For Ryan, it's 30 percent. ‘Seventy percent of Americans want the American dream. They believe in the American idea. Only 30 percent want the welfare state,’ Ryan said. ‘Before too long, we could become a society where the net majority of Americans are takers, not makers.’” [Huffington Post, [10/2/12](#)]

**Ryan: Residents Of ‘Inner Cities’ Of Have A ‘Real Culture Problem’ And Lack Of Work Ethic.** According to MSNBC, “In his latest remarks on poverty in America, Republican Rep. Paul Ryan accused residents of ‘inner cities’ of having a ‘real culture problem’ and lack of work ethic during an appearance on Bill Bennett’s Morning in America radio show Wednesday. The House Budget Committee Chairman indicated his new policy proposals will include work requirements, saying he plans to ‘re-emphasize work and reform our welfare programs’ as he repeatedly referenced former Pres. Bill Clinton’s 1996 welfare reform efforts. ‘We have got this tailspin of culture, in our inner cities in particular, of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working or learning to value the culture of work, so there is a real culture problem here that has to be dealt with,’ Ryan said.” [MSNBC, [3/12/14](#)]

**Ryan Said That The 60% Of The American Population Who Receive Benefits Were Turning The Country Into A “Majority Of Takers Versus Makers.”** According to Mother Jones, “The GOP vice presidential candidate has repeatedly made statements that suggest he sees America in Ayn Randian terms—that many citizens are just takers, parasites who leech off productive citizens, the makers. As this collection of rarely seen videos shows, this has been a recurrent talking point for Ryan in small gatherings for years. ‘Right now about 60 percent of the American people get more benefits in dollar value from the federal government than they pay back in taxes,’ he said on the June 2010 edition of Washington Watch. ‘So we’re going to a majority of takers versus makers.’ By November 2011, in an address he gave at an American Spectator event, Ryan put the number of takers at 30 percent. (That remark was first reported by Ryan Grim of the Huffington Post.)” [Mother Jones, [10/5/12](#)]

## **RYAN’S EXTREME VIEWS ON SOCIAL ISSUES**

**Bloomberg: Ryan Co-Sponsored “38 Anti-Abortion Measures, Including Some That Make No Allowance For Rape.”** According to Bloomberg, “As a U.S. House member from Wisconsin, Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan has co-

sponsored 38 anti-abortion measures, including some that make no allowance for rape. Ryan's level of support outdoes that of his House colleague Todd Akin, who is under pressure from party leaders to step down as the Republican Senate nominee in Missouri after saying that 'legitimate rape' rarely leads to pregnancy." [Bloomberg, [8/22/12](#)]

**Bloomberg: Ryan's "Level Of Support" For Anti-Abortion Measures Outdid "That Of His House Colleague Todd Akin."** According to Bloomberg, "As a U.S. House member from Wisconsin, Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan has co-sponsored 38 anti-abortion measures, including some that make no allowance for rape. Ryan's level of support outdoes that of his House colleague Todd Akin, who is under pressure from party leaders to step down as the Republican Senate nominee in Missouri after saying that 'legitimate rape' rarely leads to pregnancy." [Bloomberg, [8/22/12](#)]

**Ryan Backed Constitutional Amendment Against Same-Sex Marriage.** According to Politico, "In 2006, Ryan joined nearly all fellow House Republicans to vote for a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as solely between a man and a woman. Ryan also voted to defund Planned Parenthood and has earned a 100 percent vote rating from the anti-abortion group National Right to Life." [Politico, [8/13/12](#)]

**New York Times: Ryan Has "Been An Ardent, Unwavering Foe Of Abortion Rights, Has Tried To Cut Off Federal Money For Family Planning...Opposed Same-Sex Marriage And Has Championed The Rights Of Gun Owners."** According to the New York Times, "Though best known as an architect of conservative fiscal policy, Representative Paul D. Ryan has also been an ardent, unwavering foe of abortion rights, has tried to cut off federal money for family planning, has opposed same-sex marriage and has championed the rights of gun owners. Despite those positions, Mr. Ryan, who was picked over the weekend to be Mitt Romney's vice-presidential running mate, has said he wants to focus on the nation's looming debt crisis, not on social issues, in the coming campaign." [New York Times, [8/12/12](#)]

**Ryan Co-Sponsored A Bill "That Would Define Fetuses As People Entitled To Full Legal Protection," Which Stated, "The Life Of Each Human Being Begins With Fertilization, Cloning, Or Its Functional Equivalent."** According to the New York Times, "He is a co-sponsor of a bill that would define fetuses as people entitled to full legal protection, a proposal that has become the latest focus in the battles over abortion. The bill declares, 'The life of each human being begins with fertilization, cloning, or its functional equivalent, irrespective of sex, health, function or disability, defect, stage of biological development, or condition of dependency, at which time every human being shall have all the legal and constitutional attributes and privileges of personhood.'" [New York Times, [8/12/12](#)]

## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Ryan: Instead Of "Class Warfare," We Should "Make This Country A Tax Shelter For Other Countries."** According to the transcript of an interview of Rep. Paul Ryan with American Business Magazine, "I think we need to have a tax system that makes America a haven for capital formation. Let's make this country a tax shelter for other countries instead of having other countries be a tax shelter for America. This would ultimately raise revenues and promote economic growth. The way we should look at increasing revenues to the government should not be class warfare or a bigger than ever tax increase approach. Economic growth comes from job creation and better economic growth policies that raise revenue through higher growth. Lowering tax rates at a broader base of income brings in more revenues and would help us close our fiscal gap." [American Business Magazine, [8/1/11](#)]

**Ryan Voted Against Lilly Ledbetter Act.** According to CBS News, "Many Republicans oppose the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act because they argue it's about lawsuits - not fair pay. Paul Ryan, Romney's running mate, espoused this position in an interview Wednesday with 'CBS This Morning.' 'Lilly Ledbetter was not an equal pay law. It was about opening up the lawsuits and statute of limitations,' Ryan said. 'It wasn't an equal pay law, and of course, we support equal pay,' he said." [CBS News, [10/18/12](#)]

**Ryan Went To "Bat For A High-Spending GOP Agenda" During Bush Years.** According to Politico, "Paul Ryan rose to the top of the political ranks on his reputation as a conservative budget hawk. But his voting record shows him to be far from a pure fiscal conservative. Ryan voted for the \$700 billion bank bailout, the biggest Medicare expansion in U.S. history, a massive highway bill that included the 'Bridge to Nowhere' and other big-ticket priorities when George W. Bush was president — going to bat for a high-spending GOP agenda that the tea party base now looks on with regret." [Politico, [8/13/12](#)]

**Ryan Voted 5 Times To Raise Debt Limit Under Bush.** According to Politico, "Ryan, like many Republicans, also voted to raise the debt limit at least five times during the Bush administration, when such votes were considered routine and uncontroversial." [Politico, [8/13/12](#)]

## KOCH CONNECTIONS

**US News: Ryan Has “Long Been A Favorite” Of The Koch Brothers.** According to US News & World Report, “The vice presidential nominee's campaign finance record is not without some minor controversy. To begin with, he has long been a favorite of the libertarian billionaires Charles and David Koch. Before entering Congress, Ryan worked with a conservative group that would eventually merge with a Koch brothers' group to become FreedomWorks, a leading sponsor of the Tea Party movement. Their mutual interests in libertarianism could explain why the private energy corporation Koch Industries has given Ryan more than \$65,000 over his career. The Koch brothers have promised to funnel \$400 million through outside groups to defeat President Obama this year.” [US News & World Report, [8/14/12](#)]

**In 2013 Paul Ryan Spoke At A Secret Gathering Hosted By The Kochs Near Albuquerque.** According to Politico, “The Rep. Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez secretly spoke to wealthy donors at the Koch brothers' recently concluded summer gathering on the outskirts of Albuquerque. The 2012 vice presidential candidate and No. 2 House Republican are return participants to the twice-annual seminar, which also drew wealthy donors and conservative nonprofit leaders including American Enterprise Institute President Arthur Brooks.” [Politico, [8/7/13](#)]

**Koch Industries Has Donated \$90,900 To Ryan And Is His Third Largest Donor.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Rep. Paul Ryan has received \$90,900 from Koch Industries, which is listed as his third largest donor, since he was elected in 1998. [Center for Responsive Politics, Accessed [3/6/15](#)]

**Americans For Prosperity Backed The FY 2013 Ryan Budget.** According to AFP's congressional scorecard for the 112th Congress, AFP took a “yes” position on the House vote on House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-WI) proposed budget resolution covering fiscal years 2013 to 2022 which included a proposal to increase the Medicare eligibility age to 67 by 2034. According to the Congressional Research Service, “The budget proposal would gradually increase the Medicare eligibility age to 67. Beginning in 2023, the age of eligibility for Medicare would increase by two months each year until it reached 67 in 2034.” The vote was 2012 House vote 151. [AFP Scorecard for the 112th Congress, [2/1/13](#); CRS Report #R42441, [3/29/12](#)]

**Americans For Prosperity Supported The FY 2012 Ryan Budget.** In 2011, AFP supported converting Medicaid to a block grant and eliminating federal coverage mandates, as part of House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-WI) proposed budget resolution covering fiscal years 2012 to 2021. According to the House Budget Committee, the budget would “convert[] the federal share of Medicaid spending into a block grant tailored to meet each state's needs, indexed for inflation and population growth. [...] States will no longer be shackled by federally determined program requirements and enrollment criteria. Instead, they will have the freedom and flexibility to tailor a Medicaid program that fits the needs of their unique populations.” The vote was on passage; the resolution passed by a vote of 235 to 193. [House Vote 277, [4/15/11](#); House Budget Committee, [4/5/11](#); AFP Scorecard for the 112th Congress, [2/1/13](#); CRS Report #R41767, [4/13/11](#)]

## Select Committee On Benghazi – Trey Gowdy

Rep. Trey Gowdy was selected by House Speaker John Boehner in 2014 to chair the select committee to investigate the attacks in Benghazi. Gowdy also serves as the chair of the Oversight Committee's subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. Before his career in Congress, Gowdy worked as a federal prosecutor and served as South Carolina's 7th Circuit Solicitor.

## GOWDY BROUGHT BIAS TO HIS INVESTIGATION OF BENGHAZI

**In 2014, Gowdy Was Selected To Lead A Special Committee To Investigate The State Department's Handling Of The 2012 Attack In Benghazi, Libya.** According to Roll Call, “Rep. Trey Gowdy will head a special committee tasked with investigating the White House response to the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on a U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio announced Monday. South Carolina Republican Gowdy, a member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, a 49-year-old former federal prosecutor and a beneficiary of the 2010 tea party wave, is known as a sharp and effective communicator. He is well respected among House conservatives.” [Roll Call, [5/5/14](#)]

**Reuters: Gowdy “Was Known For Courtroom Theatrics In His Time As A Prosecutor.”** According to Reuters, “The Republican who will lead an investigation of the 2012 attacks on U.S. diplomatic quarters in Benghazi was known for courtroom theatrics in his time as a prosecutor, portending dramatic hearings on an issue that already has strained partisan civility in Washington. [...] Representative Trey Gowdy, the 49-year-old from South Carolina chosen by House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner to chair the panel, is a Christian conservative elected to Congress in 2010 on the wave of the Tea Party movement.” [Reuters, [5/18/14](#)]

**Washington Times: When Speaking About The Benghazi Committee, Gowdy “Made His First Stumble By Portraying The Investigation As A Trial And The White House As The Defendant.”** According to the Washington Times, “The Benghazi panel will look into the policy and security questions surrounding the September 2012 attack on the U.S. outpost in Libya that resulted in the deaths of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. Mr. Gowdy made his first stumble by portraying the investigation as a trial and the White House as the defendant. He conceded on Fox that perhaps he needed to get out of a 16-year habit of speaking in trial metaphors.” [Washington Times, [5/13/14](#)]

- **Gowdy: I Can't End A Trial Simply Because The Defense Won't Cooperate.** According to the transcript of an interview with Trey Gowdy on MSNBC's Morning Joe, “Well, part of the answer to that depends upon how compliant the administration is with our subpoena. It would be shame on us if we intentionally drug this out for political expediency. On the other hand, if an administration is slow-walking document production, I can't end a trial simply because the defense won't cooperate. [...]I mean, there's a mutual obligation here. The only thing I can tell you is you go back and look at my 16-year career as a prosecutor and you're going to find defense attorneys that say, look, I thought my client was innocent, but the guy gave me a fair trial. And I pride myself on that. You can say whatever else you want -- he's not smart; his suit doesn't match; bad haircut -- no one will tell you I'm not fair. And at the end of this, I think you'll say the same thing.” [MSNBC, Morning Joe, 5/7/14]

**Gowdy: “There Is No Question...There Was A Concerted Effort Shortly After Benghazi To Protect The President's Re-Election Bid, And Right Now There's A Concerted Effort To Insulate And Protect Secretary Clinton.”** According to the transcript of an interview with Rep. Trey Gowdy by Sean Hannity, “Oh, there is no question. Anyone sitting in that committee room today would draw that same conclusion, that there was a concerted effort shortly after Benghazi to protect the President's re-election bid, and right now there's a concerted effort to insulate and protect Secretary Clinton. For once, Congress did its job today. It's our job to provide oversight. There's no statute of limitations when it comes to the truth, and the least we can do for our four murdered fellow Americans who were serving on our stead under our flag is to find out exactly what happened. And we took a big step today. But, Sean, today is just one step. We need to have more hearings with more firsthand eyewitness accounts.” [Fox News, Hannity, 5/8/13]

**Gowdy: “I, Even After Eight Months, Cannot Tell You What The Commander-In-Chief Was Doing When Our People Under Our Flag Were Being Murdered.”** According to the transcript of an interview with Rep. Trey Gowdy by Sean Hannity, “There was nothing brought out today by our colleagues on the other side of the isle that would indicate what the president was doing while this seven-hour long siege took place. So, I want to be fair to him, but the simple fact is I, even after eight months, cannot tell you what the commander-in-chief was doing when our people under our flag were being murdered and under assault on a foreign land. It is sad that a member of Congress after eight months can't answer your question.” [Fox News, Hannity, 5/8/13]

**Gowdy: “Ambassador Stevens Was In Benghazi In Part Because Of Hillary Clinton. She Wanted To Go To Libya. She Wanted A Legacy... Hillary Clinton's Fingerprints Are All Over Benghazi.”** According to the transcript of an interview with Rep. Trey Gowdy on Lou Dobbs Tonight, “Well, what became clear today is that Ambassador Stevens was in Benghazi in part because of Hillary Clinton. She wanted to go to Libya. She wanted a legacy. So he wanted to go to Benghazi and see if that facility was secure. We also learned today that she and she alone can approve the opening or the remaining opening of facilities that don't meet specifications, and the one in Benghazi did not meet specifications. And again, we learned today in that e-mail from Beth Jones, which copied her senior counselor, that they knew this was a terror-related attack on September the 12th, the day after. They knew it had nothing to do with the video. So Hillary Clinton's fingerprints are all over Benghazi!” [Fox Business, Lou Dobbs Tonight, 5/8/13]

**Gowdy: “I Am Not Surprised That The President Of The United States Called This A Phony Scandal” Or “That Secretary Clinton Asked What Difference Does It Make...I'm Just Surprised At How Many People Bought It.”** According to the transcript of a press conference held by Rep. Trey Gowdy and Sen. Lindsey Graham, Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Sen John McCain, and Rep. Jim Jordan, “In conclusion, Congress is supposed to provide oversight, the voters are supposed to provide oversight, and you are supposed to provide oversight. That's why you have special liberties and that's why you have special protections. I am not surprised that the President of the United States called this a phony scandal. I'm not surprised that Secretary Clinton asked what difference does it make. I'm not even surprised that Jay Carney said Benghazi happened a long time ago. I'm just surprised at how many people bought it.” [News Conference on Benghazi, 10/31/13]

**Gowdy Claimed He Did Not Want To Fundraise Off Of Dead Americans But GOP Used Benghazi “As A Cash Grab.”**



**Gowdy Warned Republicans Not To Use Benghazi For Fundraising Off Of “The Backs Of Four Murdered Americans.”** According to Politico, “Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House select committee on Benghazi, said Wednesday that Republicans should not fundraise off Benghazi and ‘the backs of four murdered Americans.’ Appearing on ‘Morning Joe,’ the South Carolina Republican was asked by co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski whether he would ask members of the GOP not to ask supporters for campaign cash by appealing to the September 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.” [Politico, [5/7/14](#)]

- **Gowdy: “There Are Still, Even In A Culture Of Hyper-Partisanship, Certain Things That Ought To Be Above Politics,” He Continued, “Like The Murder Of Our Four Fellow Americans.”** According to Politico, “‘There are still, even in a culture of hyper-partisanship, certain things that ought to be above politics,’ he [Trey Gowdy] continued, ‘like the murder of our four fellow Americans and like whether or not you can trust what any administration — Republican or Democrat — tells you in the aftermath of a tragedy. That, to me, transcends politics.’” [Politico, [5/7/14](#)]

**Politico: Republicans And Conservative Groups Have Used Benghazi “As A Cash Grab.”** According to Politico, “A number of Republican candidates and conservative groups have openly used the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks in Benghazi, Libya, as a cash grab.” [Politico.com, [5/7/14](#)]

- **Benghazi A “Key Part Of The GOP Fundraising And Mobilization Strategy.”** According to Politico, “The 2012 consulate attack and accusations of a White House cover-up are catnip for grassroots donors and activists. And Benghazi — and the select committee assigned to investigate it — is a key part of the GOP fundraising and mobilization strategy.” [Politico.com, [5/7/14](#)]
- **National Republican Congressional Committee Is “Aiming To Raise Money Off Gowdy’s New Position” As Head Of The Benghazi Select Committee.** According to Politico, “This week, the National Republican Congressional Committee rolled out a new fundraising campaign called ‘Benghazi Watchdogs’ — an effort by the aiming to raise money off Gowdy’s new position.” [Politico.com, [5/7/14](#)]

**Gowdy Was Announced As A Speaker At A March 2015 Republican Party Of Virginia Fundraiser Titled “Beyond Benghazi.”** According to Politico, “The chairman of the House committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks will appear at a Republican Party of Virginia fundraiser this month. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) will be the featured speaker at the March 19 fundraiser, titled ‘Beyond Benghazi’ — an appearance that could raise questions about the optics of fundraising off the attacks.” [Politico, [3/9/15](#)]

- **Politico: “His Appearance At The Event Could Raise Questions About The Optics Of Fundraising Off The Attacks.”** According to Politico, “The chairman of the House committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks will appear at a Republican Party of Virginia fundraiser this month. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) will be the featured speaker at the March 19 fundraiser, titled ‘Beyond Benghazi’ — an appearance that could raise questions about the optics of fundraising off the attacks.” [Politico, [3/9/15](#)]
- **The Event Cost \$75-A-Head, Guests Could Also Buy A Table For \$1,250, Or Co-Chair The Event For \$5,000, Including A “VIP” At Their Table.** According to the Washington Post, “Later this month, the Republican Party of Virginia was to host Gowdy at a \$75-a-head reception that, according to the events drop-down menu on the committee’s Web site, is called ‘Beyond Benghazi.’ You can buy a table for 10 for \$1,250 or co-chair the event for \$5,000, which includes the table, a ‘VIP’ at your table and a special shout-out.” [Washington Post, [3/9/15](#)]
- **The Virginia GOP Announced They Were Changing The Name Of The Fundraiser.** According to the Washington post, “David D’Onofrio, communications director for the Virginia GOP, said that they actually just changed the name (how convenient) of the event to take Benghazi out of the title (guess they forgot to change it on the drop-down menu) and that the conversation with Gowdy will be focused on wider implications of the select committee’s work.” [Washington Post, [3/9/15](#)]
- **“After The Washington Post Inquired About The Event, Gowdy’s Spokesman Said It Wasn’t Cleared With Their Office And That He Would Not Be Attending.”** According to the Washington post, “After The Washington Post inquired about the event, Gowdy’s spokesman said it wasn’t cleared with their office and that he would not be attending. ‘The Chairman was unaware that organizers of this event intended to feature or even mention Benghazi,’ Jamal Ware, the Gowdy spokesman, said in an e-mailed statement. ‘He has not raised money using Benghazi, and will not speak about

Benghazi at fundraising events. Having been made aware of this group's plan, he no longer will be participating in the event.” [Washington Post, [3/9/15](#)]

## **GOWDY ACCUSED AMERICANS OF HAVING AN “ENTITLEMENT MENTALITY.”**

**Gowdy In A Campaign Speech: “We've Got To Do Something About The Entitlement Mentality In This Country... The Safety Net Has Turned Into A Trampoline Or A Hammock.”** According to the Union Daily Times, “Union County residents met and conversed with U.S. Congressman Trey Gowdy during the meeting in the USC-Union Auditorium. Gowdy -- who represents South Carolina's Fourth Congressional District -- spoke to those in attendance and supplemented his information with a Powerpoint presentation. Gowdy's speech focused on preparation for the future. He said the US needs to make a distinction between the responsibilities of the government and those of the individual. ‘We've got to do something about the entitlement mentality in this country,’ Gowdy said. He added that having ‘more takers than makers’ threatens American character. ‘The safety net has turned into a trampoline or a hammock,’ he said, as he asked attendees if they realized that 47 percent of U.S. citizens pay no income tax.” [Union Daily Times, 4/23/11]

- **Gowdy Asked Attendees If They Realized That 47 Percent Of U.S. Citizens Pay No Income Tax.** According to the Union Daily Times, “Gowdy's speech focused on preparation for the future. He said the US needs to make a distinction between the responsibilities of the government and those of the individual. ‘We've got to do something about the entitlement mentality in this country,’ Gowdy said. He added that having ‘more takers than makers’ threatens American character. ‘The safety net has turned into a trampoline or a hammock,’ he said, as he asked attendees if they realized that 47 percent of U.S. citizens pay no income tax.” [Union Daily Times, 4/23/11]
- **“Gowdy Also Mentioned He Will Introduce A Bill Which Would Require Audits For Those Receiving Disability Benefits.”** According to the Union Daily Times, “Gowdy also mentioned he will introduce a bill which would require audits for those receiving disability benefits. ‘We need to have consistent audits -- where they're random and triggered by things,’ he said. ‘It's wrong to claim that benefit if you're not entitled to it. If your back is good enough to swing a golf club, it's probably good enough to swing a hammer.’” [Union Daily Times, 4/23/11]

## **GOWDY SUPPORTED A CANDIDATE WHO HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH RAPE AND HAD THE HIGHEST DISMISSAL RATE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES**

### **Gowdy Defended The Candidate For South Carolina AG, John Hawkins, When Allegations He Raped A Woman Resurfaced, But Eventually Resigned From The Campaign**

**Gowdy Resigned From His Position As A Top Official In Sen John Hawkin's Campaign For South Carolina Attorney General After It Was Revealed That Hawkins Was Charged With Rape In College.** According to the Associated Press, “Hawkins said Monday the resignations were to avoid the appearance of a conflict as the Sheriff Bill Coffey and prosecutor Trey Gowdy look into the release of documents related to a 13-year-old sex assault allegation. ‘It has been widely reported that documents purporting to be copies of records the court ordered to be expunged and destroyed 13 years ago have been circulated to the media,’ Hawkins said in his statement. ‘An internal investigation on this matter is now being conducted by the sheriff's office. To avoid any hint of a conflict, Sheriff Coffey, Solicitor Gowdy and I agreed it would be inappropriate for them to continue serving on my campaign committee.’ [...] The documents in question are police files from 1989, when Hawkins was charged with rape. The charge was dismissed when the woman who had accused him failed to appear for a preliminary hearing.” [Associated Press State & Local, 3/12/02]

- **The Charge Was Dismissed When The Woman Who Had Accused Hawkins “Failed To Appear For A Preliminary Hearing.”** According to the Associated Press, “It has been widely reported that documents purporting to be copies of records the court ordered to be expunged and destroyed 13 years ago have been circulated to the media,’ Hawkins said in his statement. ‘An internal investigation on this matter is now being conducted by the sheriff's office. To avoid any hint of a conflict, Sheriff Coffey, Solicitor Gowdy and I agreed it would be inappropriate for them to continue serving on my campaign committee.’ [...] The documents in question are police files from 1989, when Hawkins was charged with rape. The charge was dismissed when the woman who had accused him failed to appear for a preliminary hearing.” [Associated Press State & Local, 3/12/02]

**Gowdy Had Helped Hawkins Respond To The Resurfaced Allegations, And Asked The Press Not To Circulate Information From The File Detailing The Allegation “After It Was Dismissed In A Court Proceeding, It's Over.”**

According to the Greenville News, “Gowdy, who took office in January 2001 as prosecutor for Spartanburg and Cherokee counties, is vice chairman of Hawkins’ campaign for attorney general. ‘John denied the allegations,’ Gowdy said. ‘From a legal standpoint, after it was dismissed in a court proceeding, it’s over. As provided for in the law, the records were expunged and so far as the law is concerned, they do not exist. John Hawkins stood then, as he stands now, innocent under the law.’ Gowdy added that ‘the same system of law provides that victims will be treated with respect and dignity. Unfortunately, the political process does not always have the same respect.’ ‘I’m asking you today, members of the media, as a prosecutor, to show respect for the rule of law and not disseminate these documents. I’m also asking you as a prosecutor and as a person to leave the young lady alone. Enough is enough,’ the solicitor said.” [Greenville News, 3/2/15]

- **Gowdy Held A Press Conference For Hawkins In His Conference Room In The Spartanburg County Judicial Center.** According to the Greenville News, “[Trey] Gowdy and [John] Hawkins asked the press not to publish information copied from the case file that has circulated among political activists. The news conference was held in Gowdy’s conference room in the Spartanburg County Judicial Center.” [Greenville News, 3/2/15]

### **Gowdy Had The South Carolina’s Highest Dismissal Rate Of Criminal Domestic Violence Cases Between 2001 and 2005**

**As A Prosecutor In South Carolina, Gowdy Had The State’s Highest Dismissal Rate Of Criminal Domestic Violence Cases Between 2001 and 2005.** According to The State, “Nearly 4,000 charges of criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature, and third- or subsequent-offense criminal domestic violence were dismissed, a study by The State newspaper found. Those cases accounted for 36 percent of the most serious domestic violence charges brought from July 1, 2001, to April 1. [...] [Trey] Gowdy, who had the state’s highest dismissal rate among prosecutors, said he complies with the order. He said his main reasons for dismissing aggravated, and third- or subsequent-offense criminal domestic violence cases are a lack of physical evidence, the inability to locate the victim or key witnesses for trial, or the victim’s refusal to cooperate.” [The State, 5/15/05]

**In 2001, SC Attorney General Charlie Condon Ordered Prosecutors Not To Drop A Domestic Violence Charge Unless Absolutely Necessary After A Study Found That More Than Half Of Those Types Of Cases Were Dropped.** According to The State, “Some serious criminal domestic violence charges routinely are being dismissed, even though then-Attorney General Charlie Condon in May 2001 ordered prosecutors not to do so unless absolutely necessary. The ‘no-drop’ order was issued after an analysis by The State found 54 percent of 4,351 examined cases were dropped over a five-year period. [...] Attorney General Henry McMaster said the statewide dismissal rate is too high. ‘The figures show we’ve got a big problem at the circuit court level,’ he said. McMaster has maintained Condon’s qualified no-drop order. While dismissal rates remain high, he doesn’t believe the order is being violated on a widespread basis.” [The State, 5/15/05]

**Gowdy “Led All 16 Solicitors In The Number Of Dismissals, 585, And Dismissals Made By Prosecutors, 48 Percent.”** According to The State, “‘Not all dismissals can be laid at the feet of prosecutors,’ said Spartanburg and Cherokee counties Solicitor Trey Gowdy, who led all 16 solicitors in the number of dismissals, 585, and dismissals made by prosecutors, 48 percent. ‘The thing that frustrates prosecutors the most is that when we see CDV (statistics) on a piece of paper, there is no context.’ When dismissals by prosecutors and judges are combined, the 4th Circuit of Darlington, Dillon, Chesterfield and Marlboro counties had the state’s highest rate - 54 percent.” [The State, 5/15/05]

**Gowdy: Not All Dismissals Can Be Laid At The Feet Of Prosecutors... The Thing That Frustrates Prosecutors The Most Is CDV Statistics “On A Piece Of Paper, There Is No Context.”** According to The State, “‘Not all dismissals can be laid at the feet of prosecutors,’ said Spartanburg and Cherokee counties Solicitor Trey Gowdy, who led all 16 solicitors in the number of dismissals, 585, and dismissals made by prosecutors, 48 percent. ‘The thing that frustrates prosecutors the most is that when we see CDV (statistics) on a piece of paper, there is no context.’ When dismissals by prosecutors and judges are combined, the 4th Circuit of Darlington, Dillon, Chesterfield and Marlboro counties had the state’s highest rate - 54 percent.” [The State, 5/15/05]

### **GOWDY USED PUBLIC FUNDS TO PAY TO LOBBYING FOR A BILL THAT ADDED AN EXTRA \$25 FEE TO TRAFFIC TICKETS**

**South Carolina Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Bob Ariail Used Forfeited Bond Money To Pay For A Lobbyist To Help Push Through Legislation That Was Expected To Produce More Than \$9 Million For The 16 State Solicitors**  
According to the Greenville News, “Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Bob Ariail paid a lobbyist group \$25,000 in forfeited bond

money to help push through legislation that's expected to produce more than \$9 million next year for the 16 state solicitors. Ariail said he hired J. Warren Tompkins Inc. because the solicitors had taken a financial beating over the past three years and they wanted to make sure they were heard by the General Assembly. 'We were making no progress as a group in the funding area at the state,' he said. 'We were going backward and we didn't think that was appropriate.' Critics contend Ariail used public money to hire lobbyists in the same year that the governor and House made strides in prohibiting state agencies from lobbying the General Assembly." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**The Firm J. Warren Tompkins Inc. Lobbied The State Legislature For Approval Of An A \$25 Extra Fee On Traffic Tickets, "Money That Will Go To Prosecutors And Other Agencies."** According to the Greenville News, "Ariail said he hired J. Warren Tompkins Inc. because the solicitors had taken a financial beating over the past three years and they wanted to make sure they were heard by the General Assembly. 'We were making no progress as a group in the funding area at the state,' he said. 'We were going backward and we didn't think that was appropriate.' Critics contend Ariail used public money to hire lobbyists in the same year that the governor and House made strides in prohibiting state agencies from lobbying the General Assembly. The Legislature approved a \$25 surcharge on traffic tickets, money that will go to prosecutors and other agencies, including juvenile justice and corrections departments." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**Every Solicitor's Office Receives 20 Percent Of The Money A Defendant Forfeits When He Skips Bond.** According to the Greenville News, "Every solicitor's office receives 20 percent of the money a defendant forfeits when he skips bond. Ariail said he used money from that fund that had accumulated over time. He said it's not public money because it didn't come from the state or the county. Ariail said he first gave the South Carolina Association, which represents all of the solicitors, a chance to contribute but as a group it declined to pay for it. Ariail decided to do it on his own, he said. Five solicitors would later join him and split the \$25,000 according to circuit population, he said." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**Trey Gowdy Used The Money He Had Received From Skipped Bonds And 'Chipped In' To Help Pay J. Warren Tompkins** According to the Greenville News, "Ariail said he would get rid of his lobbyist if everyone else did. 'They shouldn't be kicking me unless they're kicking everyone else,' he said. 'All I'm doing is playing by the same rules that everybody else plays by, whose been taking our money for the last three years. That's all I did.' Solicitors Greg Hembree, Ralph Hoisington, Druanne White and Trey Gowdy were the others who chipped in." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**Gowdy Denied That The Bond Revenue Used To Pay For Lobbying Was Taxpayer Money** According to the Greenville News, "Ariail and Seventh Circuit Solicitor Trey Gowdy deny that the bond revenue is taxpayer money. 'It is very difficult to explain why you are using taxpayer dollars to lobby the general assembly,' Gowdy said. 'I would agree with those who have a difficult time with that.' Ariail and Gowdy said the money is not earmarked for anything specific and in this case was put to good use." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**House Majority Leader Rick Quinn Jr: Money From Forfeited Bonds Is Supposed To Go To Local Government** According to the Greenville News, "This money is taken from these defendants for the purposes of defraying the cost to local government,' Quinn. 'That's \$25,000 more the local taxpayers are going to have to ante up because they wanted to go out and hire a lobbyist.' Ariail said he disagreed with Quinn's interpretation." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**Quinn: "That's \$25,000 More The Local Taxpayers Are Going To Have To Ante Up Because They Wanted To Go Out And Hire A Lobbyist."** According to the Greenville News, "This money is taken from these defendants for the purposes of defraying the cost to local government,' Quinn. 'That's \$25,000 more the local taxpayers are going to have to ante up because they wanted to go out and hire a lobbyist.' Ariail said he disagreed with Quinn's interpretation." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**Gowdy Said Using The Bond Money To Pay For Lobbyists Was Worth It Since The Ticket Surcharge Passed.** According to the Greenville News, "Gowdy, who plans to pay Ariail \$1,300 out of his bond revenues fund, said the move was worth it. 'It's a pretty small investment to make given the fact that the \$25 surcharge passed,' he said." [Greenville News, 7/4/03]

**South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Executive Director And Lobbyist William Bilton: "Every One Of The 16 Solicitors Worked For The \$25 Surcharge."** According to the Greenville News, "I can tell you every one of the 16 solicitors worked for the \$25 surcharge," [South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Executive Director And Lobbyist William] Bilton said. 'Every one of them made telephone calls, wrote letters, sent e-mails, made personal visits to the Legislature. I've never seen a group work so hard this year to get funding for their offices.'" [Greenville News, 7/4/03]



## OTHER CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

**Gowdy Said He Would Have Voted Against Congress's Rebuke Of Joe Wilson.** According to Human Events Online, "Gowdy also believes that Inglis's vote for the rebuke of Joe Wilson definitely hurt the incumbent with the grass roots. 'My view is that when a man offers an apology, as Congressman Wilson does, and it is accepted [as White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel did on behalf of President Obama], that is the end of it. The Democrats in the House pursued this rebuke as a means of making a partisan issue out of it,' Gowdy said. Would Gowdy, had he been in Congress, voted against the rebuke of Wilson? 'Yes--absolutely,' he replied without hesitation." [Human Events Online, [6/22/10](#)]

**Gowdy: "Social Security, Medicare And Medicaid Are Unsustainable."** According to the Union Daily Times, "Trey Gowdy - Republican candidate for the Fourth Congressional District - stopped in Union on Monday during a daylong tour of the district. The purpose of his Union visit was to share his vision for what he calls 'true conservative leadership' in the Fourth District. [...] 'Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are unsustainable,' He said. 'Social Security won't exist as it is now for those 45-years-old and younger.' Gowdy stated national defense is one of the preeminent functions of government." [Union Daily Times, 5/25/10]

**Gowdy Said He Is "Pro-Life Plus" And "Thinks Life Begins At Conception."** According to the Union Daily Times, "Gowdy calls himself 'pro-life plus.' He thinks life begins at conception and believes people should 'put boots to their faith,' and get involved in the decision making. Gowdy proposed the questions, 'Does it mean enough to get involved? Would you agree to adopt a child of a mother considering abortion?' Gowdy was born in Greenville and graduated from Spartanburg High School in 1982. He is married to Terri Dillard Gowdy, who works as a teacher's aid in public school. They have a 17-year-old son and a 13-yearold daughter." [Union Daily Times, 5/25/10]

**Gowdy Cosponsored A Bill Reversing Delayed Deportation For DREAMers.** According to USA Today, "Gowdy opposed the Obama administration's decision to grant deferred deportations to some young illegal immigrants. He co-sponsored a law titled the 'Prohibiting Back-door Amnesty Act' aimed at reversing that decision." [USA Today, [12/18/12](#)]

**Gowdy On Challenging A Member Of His Own Party In His 2010 Election: "The Graveyard Is Full Of People Waiting On Open Seats."** According to the New York Times, "He worked as an assistant United States attorney until 2000, then took on a sitting solicitor and won, continuing to prosecute for the next decade. In 2010, he routed Representative Bob Inglis in the Republican primary, then easily won the seat that fall in his heavily Republican district. For some Republicans, Mr. Gowdy's predilection for picking off members of his own party has made him akin to Inspector Javert in 'Les Miserables' -- devoted to the law but not always to mercy. 'I'm sure he has some rationale for the things he has done,' Mr. Inglis said in a phone interview. Mr. Gowdy responded: 'The graveyard is full of people waiting on open seats. I have this belief that if you are qualified and you believe that you would do a good job doing something, there is no reason you shouldn't run.' He once vowed to retire after two terms. This summer, he officially unretired to run for a third term." [New York Times, [7/9/14](#)]

**Gowdy "Vowed" To Retire After Two Terms But In 2014 "Officially Unretired To Run For A Third Term."** According to the New York Times, "Mr. Gowdy responded: 'The graveyard is full of people waiting on open seats. I have this belief that if you are qualified and you believe that you would do a good job doing something, there is no reason you shouldn't run.' He once vowed to retire after two terms. This summer, he officially unretired to run for a third term." [New York Times, [7/9/14](#)]

## Foreign Affairs – Ed Royce

Rep. Ed Royce took over as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the 114th session of Congress. Royce has served in Congress since 1993 and was co-chair of the House "Porkbusters Coalition." Before his congressional career, Royce served in the California State Senate.

## ROYCE DID NOT WANT A SELECT COMMITTEE COMPETING WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OVERSIGHT ON THE BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION

**Royce Was The Only Member Of The Foreign Affairs Committee To Not Sign On To A Resolution To Create A Select Committee To Investigate The Benghazi Attacks.** According to Breitbart, "House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R – CA) is the only Republican on the Committee who has not signed on to become a co-sponsor a resolution that would create a select committee to investigate the attack against the U.S. compound and CIA annex in

Benghazi, Libya. Twenty-four Republican members serve on Foreign Affairs. The resolution, authored by Rep. Frank Wolf (R – VA), currently has 184 Republican co-sponsors.” [Breitbart, [2/11/14](#)]

**Foreign Affairs Spokesperson: Several Committees Looking At Benghazi, Including Foreign Affairs And The Oversight Committee, “Are Hammering The Administration On Its Unaccountability And Leadership Failure.”**

According to Breitbart, “A Committee spokesperson responded to the issue in an e-mail to Breitbart News on Monday: ‘Foreign Affairs Committee staff has just issued a critical Benghazi report. The Chairman believes the several committees looking at the Benghazi tragedy, including Foreign Affairs and Chairman Issa’s Oversight and Government Reform Committee, are hammering the Administration on its unaccountability and leadership failures.’” [Breitbart, [2/11/14](#)]

**ROYCE SPOKE AT AN ANTI-MUSLIM PROTEST THAT YELLED “GO BACK HOME” AND CURSES AT MUSLIM WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**Royce Spoke At A Protest Against A Muslim Group That Was Trying To Raise Funds “To Start Social Programs Establishing Women's Shelters And Fighting Hunger And Homelessness.”** According to the Washington Post, “The Muslim group, Islamic Circle of North America Relief USA, said it was trying to raise \$350,000 to start social programs establishing women's shelters and fighting hunger and homelessness in the area, according to the Orange County Register. In the video, protesters are seen waving flag, shouting, ‘Go back home,’ and cursing at women and young children trying to pass. [...] It also features U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.) saying, ‘they call it multiculturalism and it has paralyzed too many of our fellow citizens to make the critical judgments we need to make.’ In an e-mailed statement, Royce said he was angered by the presence of two keynote speakers at the event, Imam Siraj Wahhaj, an Imam at a Brooklyn mosque, and Amir Abdel Malik Ali, an Imam from Oakland who has spoken out in support of Hezbollah.” [Washington Post, [3/4/11](#)]

- **Protestors Shouted “Go Back Home,” And Cursed At “Women And Young Children Trying To Pass.”** According to the Washington Post, “The Muslim group, Islamic Circle of North America Relief USA, said it was trying to raise \$350,000 to start social programs establishing women's shelters and fighting hunger and homelessness in the area, according to the Orange County Register. In the video, protesters are seen waving flag, shouting, ‘Go back home,’ and cursing at women and young children trying to pass.” [Washington Post, [3/4/11](#)]
- **Royce Speaking At The Protest: “They Call It Multiculturalism And It Has Paralyzed Too Many Of Our Fellow Citizens To Make The Critical Judgments We Need To Make.”** According to the Washington Post, “It also features U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.) saying, ‘they call it multiculturalism and it has paralyzed too many of our fellow citizens to make the critical judgments we need to make.’ In an e-mailed statement, Royce said he was angered by the presence of two keynote speakers at the event, Imam Siraj Wahhaj, an Imam at a Brooklyn mosque, and Amir Abdel Malik Ali, an Imam from Oakland who has spoken out in support of Hezbollah.” [Washington Post, [3/4/11](#)]

**OTHER CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS**

**In 2006, Royce “Tried To Do Away With Bilingual Election Ballots Mandated By The Voting Rights Act.”** According to the Los Angeles Times, “In 2006, Royce was among the Republican lawmakers who tried to do away with bilingual election ballots mandated by the Voting Rights Act. The change would have affected many voters in Royce's district, where two-thirds of residents spoke a language other than English at home. That same year, Royce voted for an enforcement-heavy House bill that prompted immigrant-rights protests nationwide.” [Los Angeles Times, [8/31/13](#)]

**Other Notable House Chairs**

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT – RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

Rep. Randy Neugebauer chairs the Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit.

**Randy Neugebauer When Asked If He Believed Obama Was A US Citizen: “I Don't Know. I've Never Seen Him Produce Documents That Would Say One Way Or The Other.”** According to a transcript of CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360, “But Congressman Poe says, quote, ‘It's a legal document, not a birth certificate.’ Co-sponsor Randy Neugebauer also has his doubts. (Begin Audio Clip) Chad Hasty, Host, ‘The Chad Hasty Radio Show’: ‘So you believe the President is a U.S.

citizen?’ Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R), Texas: ‘You know, I don’t know. I’ve never seen him produce documents that would say one way or the other.’” [CNN, Anderson Cooper 360, [12/14/10](#)]

**Neugebauer Co-Sponsored The “Birther Bill” That Would Require Presidential Candidates “To Prove They Were Born In The U.S.” But “Declined The Chance” To Show His Own Birth Certificate.** According to Politico, “Last week, POLITICO asked the 11 House Republicans co-sponsoring the so-called birther bill — requiring presidential candidates to prove they were born in the U.S.— for copies of their own birth certificates. It is not, of course, a requirement for members of Congress to either produce a birth certificate or be natural-born citizens of the United States. [...] But Texas Rep. Randy Neugebauer declined the chance to show his proof of birth. His staff sent a one-line e-mail response: ‘Congressman Neugebauer will not be submitting a copy of his birth certificate.’” [Politico, [8/7/09](#)]

**Neugebauer Yelled “Baby Killer” On The House Floor During A Debate On An Agreement On A Health Care Reform Compromise That “Emphasized Federal Funds Would Not Be Used To Pay For Abortions.”** According to CNN, “A Texas Republican acknowledged on Monday that he was the person who yelled ‘baby killer’ during Sunday’s House debate on health care reform. Rep. Randy Neugebauer said he shouted out ‘it’s a baby killer’ in reference to the agreement reached by the Democratic leadership on compromise language that emphasized federal funds would not be used to pay for abortions. Michigan Rep. Bart Stupak was on the House floor talking about the issue at the time of Neugebauer’s outburst. Stupak was the leader of a group of anti-abortion rights Democrats who refused to back health care reform unless their concerns were addressed.” [CNN, [3/22/10](#)]

## OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS – SEAN DUFFY

Rep. Sean P. Duffy chairs the Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Oversight And Investigations.

**Duffy Claimed That He Was Struggling “To Meet My Bills Right Now” Even Though His Salary Was \$174,000.**

According to CNN, “Even freshman congressmen sometimes get the blues. Republican Rep. Sean Duffy told a constituent, ‘I struggle to meet my bills right now,’ at a town hall meeting in Amery, Wisconsin last week. [...] ‘If you think I’m living high off the hog, I’ve got one paycheck. So I struggle to meet my bills right now.’ After revealing that congressional members make \$174,000 in annual salary, Duffy went on to lambast the health plan offered by the federal government in a diatribe intended to relate to the issues raised his constituent, who’d stated that his wife, a teacher, may face a salary cut if a budget-cutting Wisconsin bill is passed by state government.” [CNN, [3/30/11](#)]

**The National Spokesperson For The LIBRE Initiative, Rachel Campos Duffy, Is Married To Sean Duffy.** According to the Libre Initiative website, “Currently, Rachel is the national spokesperson for The Libre Initiative, an organization that educates and advocates for the economic empowerment of Hispanics through limited government, entrepreneurship and self-reliance. [...] She lives in Wisconsin with her husband, Congressman Sean Duffy and her six awesome kids.” [LIBRE Initiative, Accessed [1/6/14](#)]

- **AP: LIBRE “Has Collected Millions” From Koch Groups And Is A Piece Of The Brothers’ “Sprawling And Effective Network Of Conservative Groups.”** According to the Associated Press, “Enter the Libre Initiative, an organization that has collected millions from the Kochs’ political network. Libre, which is pronounced LEE’-bray and means “free,” pushes a message of limited government and economic freedom between lessons on how to build family-run businesses and prayer breakfasts with Hispanic pastors. [...] Libre is but one piece of the Koch brothers’ sprawling and effective network of conservative groups. Alongside the grassroots-focused Americans for Prosperity and the youth-oriented Generation Opportunity, Libre began courting Hispanic voters in 2011.” [Associated Press, [8/11/14](#)]

**Duffy Starred In MTV’s Real World 1997 Season Set In Boston.** According to the Washington Post, “Sean Duffy is what happens when reality TV meets congressional politics in the north woods of Wisconsin. He is a lumberjack athlete who has been both a county district attorney and a star of MTV’s ‘Real World.’ Now he is trying hard to become the next Scott Brown.” [Washington Post, [6/28/15](#)]

## CAPITAL MARKETS AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES – SCOTT GARRETT

Rep. Scott Garrett chairs the Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Capital Markets And Government Sponsored Enterprises.

**Scott Garrett Was One Of Just 27 Lawmakers...To Oppose Both A House Republican Version And A Bipartisan Senate Version Of The Renewal Of The Violence Against Women Act.** According to NorthJersey.com, “Garrett was one of just 27 lawmakers, for example, to oppose both a House Republican version and a bipartisan Senate version of the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act in February. Boehner, after seeing how discussions of ‘legitimate rape’ might have cost his party control of the Senate last year, had agreed to post the competing versions of the bill to combat domestic violence, even though it was likely the House version would fail and the Senate version would again need votes from both parties to pass the House.” [NorthJersey.com, [3/24/13](#)]

## **RULES - PETE SESSIONS**

Rep. Pete Sessions has been chair of the House Rules Committee since 2012. Previously, Sessions chaired the National Republican Congressional Committee.

**Sessions Joked About The Race Of Princeton University’s Basketball Players.** According to Politico, “The House Republican campaign chief joked about the skin color of Princeton University basketball players as he introduced New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at closed-door session of GOP lawmakers Tuesday morning, according to multiple sources who were present. ‘How often can you go see a bunch of white guys play basketball?’ Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) said of seeing the Ivy League school’s hoops team play, sources told POLITICO. One said at least two black GOP House candidates were in attendance at the time — but there was no rebuke of Sessions from his colleagues.” [Politico, [9/29/10](#)]

**“Hours After Federal Agents Charged Banker Allen Stanford With Fleecing Investors Of \$7 Billion” Sessions Sent Him An Email Stating “I Love You And Believe In You.”** According to McClatchy, “Just hours after federal agents charged banker Allen Stanford with fleecing investors of \$7 billion, the disgraced financier received a message from one of Congress’ most powerful members, Pete Sessions. ‘I love you and believe in you,’ said the e-mail sent on Feb. 17. ‘If you want my ear/voice -- e-mail,’ it said, signed ‘Pete.’” [McClatchy, [12/27/09](#)]

- **“The Money Stanford Gave Sessions And Other Lawmakers Was Stolen From His Clients While He Carried Out One Of The Nation’s Largest Ponzi Schemes.”** According to McClatchy, “Agents are examining campaign dollars, as well as lavish Caribbean trips funded by Stanford for politicians and their spouses, feting them with lobster dinners and caviar. The money Stanford gave Sessions and other lawmakers was stolen from his clients while he carried out what prosecutors now say was one of the nation’s largest Ponzi schemes.” [McClatchy, [12/27/09](#)]
- **Sessions “Met With Stanford During Two Trips To The Caribbean,” And “Received \$44,375 From Stanford And His Staff.”** According to McClatchy, “Sessions, 54, a longtime House member from Dallas who met with Stanford during two trips to the Caribbean, did not respond to interview requests. Supporters say the lawmaker, who received \$44,375 from Stanford and his staff, was not assigned to any of the committees with oversight over Stanford’s bank and brokerages.” [McClatchy, [12/27/09](#)]

**Politico: Sessions Received A “Sweetheart Deal” From Countrywide Financial.** According to Politico, “Texas Rep. Pete Sessions, a top member of the House GOP leadership, received a VIP mortgage from defunct lender Countrywide Financial Corp., making him the fourth current member of the House who has acknowledged getting a sweetheart deal.” [Politico, [1/17/12](#)]

**Sessions Did Not List The 2007 Loan On Financial Disclosure Reports But “Press Reports” State That It Was Worth “As Much As \$1 Million.”** According to Politico, “Sessions’ office would not comment on the amount of the loan or when it was issued, although press reports state that it was a 2007 transaction worth as much as \$1 million. The loan does not appear on any of Sessions’ annual financial disclosure reports on file with the House Clerk’s office. Lawmakers and senior aides must file such reports each year, but they are allowed to leave off information regarding personal homes or property that do not generate any income.” [Politico, [1/17/12](#)]

**Politico: Sessions Took A Stance Against Earmarks, But In 2008 He Steered A \$1.6 Million Earmark For Dirigible Research To A Company With No Experience With Government Contracts, “Let Alone In Building Blimps.”**

According to Politico, “Rep. Pete Sessions — the chief of the Republicans’ campaign arm in the House — says on his website that earmarks have become ‘a symbol of a broken Washington to the American people.’ Yet in 2008, Sessions himself steered a \$1.6 million earmark for dirigible research to an Illinois company whose president acknowledges having no experience in government contracting, let alone in building blimps.” [Politico, [7/30/09](#)]



**Session's Spokeswoman Claimed That The Blimp Project Would Create Jobs In Dallas. But The Company That Received The Funds, Jim G. Ferguson & Associates, Is Based In The Suburbs Of Chicago.** According to Politico, "Sessions spokeswoman Emily Davis defends the airship project as a worthwhile use of federal funds and says it could eventually lead to thousands of new jobs in Sessions's Dallas-area district. But the company that received the earmarked funds, Jim G. Ferguson & Associates, is based in the suburbs of Chicago, with another office in San Antonio — nearly 300 miles from Dallas. And while Sessions used a Dallas address for the company when he submitted his earmark request to the House Appropriations Committee last year, one of the two men who control the company says that address is merely the home of one of his close friends." [Politico, [7/30/09](#)]

**Jim G. Ferguson & Associates Paid Adrian Plesha, A "Former Sessions Aide With A Criminal Record" \$446,000 To Lobby On Its Behalf.** According to Politico, "What the company [Jim G. Ferguson & Associates] did have: the help of Adrian Plesha, a former Sessions aide with a criminal record who has made more than \$446,000 lobbying on its behalf. Sessions spokeswoman Emily Davis defends the airship project as a worthwhile use of federal funds and says it could eventually lead to thousands of new jobs in Sessions's Dallas-area district." [Politico, [7/30/09](#)]

- **In 1997 Plesha Shot A Man Who Was Burglarizing His Apartment, But Was Only Convicted For Illegal Possession Of A Handgun Even Though The Burglar Said He Shot Him Three Times In The Back.** According to Politico, "In 1997 — before going to work for Sessions — [Adrian] Plesha was arrested for illegal possession of a handgun in Washington, after he shot a man who was burglarizing his apartment, according to court documents. Plesha claimed he had acted in self-defense, but the burglar said Plesha shot him three times in the back as he was running away. Plesha pled guilty to the handgun charge, was sentenced to 18 months' probation and ordered to do 120 hours of community service." [Politico, [7/30/09](#)]
- **As Campaign Manager For GOP House Candidate Charles Ball, Plesha Created A Fake Democratic Committee To Attack Ball's Opponent Democratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher.** According to Politico, "Within a year, he was working as a campaign manager for Republican House candidate Charles Ball, who was running against then-Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.). In that campaign, the FEC has said that Plesha created a fake Democratic committee to attack Tauscher. The FEC said the committee sent out 40,000 letters and made 10,000 phone calls to Democratic voters in Tauscher's district just prior to the 1998 midterm elections suggesting that Democratic Rep. George Miller was opposing Tauscher's reelection. But Miller was, in fact, backing Tauscher. The FEC launched an investigation. And in a 2004 news release, the FEC said that Plesha had not only 'authorized and distributed the fabricated letters and calls' but also 'knowingly made false statements to the FEC' about them, 'denying involvement in or knowledge of this scheme.'" [Politico, [7/30/09](#)]
- **Plesha Sued Ferguson For "More Than \$262,000 In Unpaid Lobbying Fees And Expenses," Claiming That Ferguson And Associates Secured The \$1.6 Million Earmark "As A Direct Result Of Plesha's Services."** According to Politico, "A former aide to Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) has filed suit against the company for whom he helped secure a controversial \$1.6 million earmark for a blimp project last year. In his lawsuit, Adrian Plesha says that James Ferguson IV — the son of the owner of the company that got the blimp funding — owes him more than \$262,000 in unpaid lobbying fees and expenses. [...] The lawsuit states that 'as a direct result of Plesha's services in 2007 through 2008, Plesha was able to secure a \$1.6 million appropriation for defendants in September 2008 and secured \$2.4 million for defendants' existing client, Sphere, from Illinois.'" [Politico, [9/1/09](#)]

**The Head Of Ferguson And Associates, Jim G. Ferguson IV, Gave \$5,000 To Session's Leadership PAC in 2007.** According to Politico, "Jim G. Ferguson IV — the younger half of the father-son team behind Jim G. Ferguson & Associates — told POLITICO that he and his father are trying to build an airship with a "high fineness ratio" that can be used in both military and civilian applications. [...] On Federal Election Commission forms, Ferguson's occupation has been listed at various times as lobbyist, rancher or self-employed investor. When asked about his activities since the first Bush administration, Ferguson said he was 'just working, doing a bunch of different stuff.' He has also donated money to Sessions and other Republicans. FEC records show that Ferguson contributed \$5,000 to Sessions's leadership PAC in October 2007. Overall, Ferguson and his father have given \$18,500 to GOP lawmakers over the past six years." [Politico, [7/30/09](#)]

## SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY - LAMAR SMITH

Rep. Lamar Smith chairs the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

**Smith Announced That He Awarded ABC, CBS And NBC The "Lap Dog Award" For Reporting That "Was Largely Slanted In Favor Of Global Warming Alarmists."** According to a press release from the office of Rep. Lamar

Smith, “Congressman Lamar Smith, chairman of the Congressional Media Fairness Caucus, today awarded ABC, CBS and NBC the “Lap Dog Award” for media bias in a speech on the House Floor. The Lap Dog Award is given weekly for the national news coverage that most glaringly exemplifies slanted, subjective, and otherwise sycophantic reporting/shilling. Smith's remarks: ‘ABC, CBS, and NBC are the winners of this week's Media Fairness Caucus' highly un-coveted “Lap Dog Award” for the most glaring example of media bias. The networks took two weeks to devote any coverage to the “Climategate” scandal on their evening news programs. [...]But for two weeks, none of the networks gave the scandal any coverage on their evening news programs. And when they finally did cover it, their reporting was largely slanted in favor of global warming alarmists.” [Lamar Smith Press Release, 12/8/09]

- **Smith: “The Networks Have Shown A Steady Pattern Of Bias On Climate Change...Four Out Of Five Network News Reports Failed To Acknowledge Any Dissenting Opinions About Global Warming.”** According to a press release from the office of Rep. Lamar Smith, ““The networks have shown a steady pattern of bias on climate change. During a six-month period, four out of five network news reports failed to acknowledge any dissenting opinions about global warming, according to a Business and Media Institute study. The networks should tell Americans the truth, rather than hide the facts.” [Lamar Smith Press Release, 12/8/09]

### **Smith Called New Standards By Immigration And Customs Enforcement For Detention Centers “More Like A Hospitality Guideline For Illegal Immigrants,” And Called A Hearing On The Rules As “Holiday On ICE.”**

According to the Houston Chronicle, “New standards by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for detention centers – like the \$32 million facility that opened in Karnes City – drew criticism from House Republicans on Wednesday. Rep. Lamar Smith, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, led a chorus of GOP complaints against the new ICE rules during a hearing mockingly called ‘Holiday on ICE.’ ‘The administration’s new detention manual reads more like a hospitality guideline for illegal immigrants,’ said Smith, R-San Antonio.” [Houston Chronicle, [3/28/12](#)]

- **Americans For Immigrant Justice Executive Director Cheryl Little: Calling The Hearing “Holiday On ICE” Is “Particularly Offensive” And Disregards “The Abuses That So Many Detainees Have Had To Endure.”** According to the Houston Chronicle, ““Labeling this hearing “Holiday on ICE” is particularly offensive and demonstrates serious disregard for the abuses that so many detainees have had to endure,’ said Cheryl Little, Americans for Immigrant Justice executive director. The new standards for detention facilities were prompted by documented cases of physical to immigrants, and in some cases, sexual abuse of women, rights advocates said.” [Houston Chronicle, [3/28/12](#)]

**Smith Called The DREAM Act “A Nightmare For The American People.”** According to an op-ed written by Rep. Smith in Politico, “Unlike adults who may have knowingly violated our immigration laws, children brought into our country at a young age should not be blamed for their parents’ actions. A new visa, not conducive to fraud or chain migration, should be created for them.” In an earlier op-ed published by The Hill, however, Smith wrote, “The DREAM Act subsidizes education for illegal immigrants, grants them mass amnesty, encourages more illegal immigration and inevitably takes jobs from American workers. Simply put, the DREAM Act is a nightmare for the American people.” [Smith Op-Ed, Politico, [2/13/13](#); Smith Op-Ed, The Hill, [12/6/10](#)]

**Smith: “Congress Can And Should End Birth Citizenship.”** According to a letter to the editor from Rep. Lamar Smith published in the Washington Times, “Congress can and should end birth citizenship. [...] It is unfair to grant automatic citizenship to children of illegal immigrants because it undermines the intention of the 14th Amendment, encourages illegal immigration and costs taxpayers. Passing a law to eliminate birth citizenship is constitutional and would help deter illegal immigration.” [Lamar Smith Letter to the Editor via Washington Times, [4/14/11](#)]

**Smith: Democrats Want Legalization For Immigrants Because It “Inevitably Would Give Them Millions Of Votes.”** According to an op-ed written by Rep. Lamar Smith for Politico, “Immigration is the field Democrats want to lure Republicans to play on. Why? Because Democrats know they’ll win. Democrats have done the math and realize that legalization inevitably would give them millions of votes, meaning more victories in congressional and presidential elections.” [Lamar Smith Op-Ed, Politico, [2/13/13](#)]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY – JOHN SHIMKUS**

Rep. John Shimkus chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.

### **Shimkus Not Concerned About Global Warming: “God Said The Earth Would Not Be Destroyed By A Flood.”**

According to Politico, “Rep. John Shimkus is standing by a controversial comment that global warming isn't something to worry about because God said he wouldn't destroy the Earth after Noah's flood. The Illinois Republican running for the

powerful perch atop the House Energy and Commerce Committee told POLITICO on Wednesday that his understanding of the Bible reaffirms his belief that government shouldn't be in the business of trying to address rising greenhouse gas emissions. 'I do believe in the Bible as the final word of God,' Shimkus said. 'And I do believe that God said the Earth would not be destroyed by a flood.'" [Politico, [11/10/10](#)]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH – JOE PITTS**

Rep. Joe Pitts chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health.

**Pitts Sponsored Amendment Requiring 1/3 Of AIDS Funding Go Abstinence-Only Education.** According to Congressional Quarterly, "Democrats were most troubled by the amendment offered by Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., that would require one-third of all funding for AIDS prevention programs to be directed toward abstinence programs. Although the language was preferable to the committee amendment, Democrats said they would have preferred to leave allocation decisions up to the administration. 'Why would you take away any flexibility from the administration?' asked Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. But Pitts said it was important to guarantee funding for abstinence programs, a favorite of conservatives, because other administrations might rely too heavily on condom distribution or other systems. House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., said setting aside money for abstinence education only makes sense, since abstinence is the only guaranteed method to prevent the spread of AIDS. Pitts' amendment was adopted, 220-197." [Congressional Quarterly, 5/2/03]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE – MICHAEL BURGESS**

Rep. Michael Burgess chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

**Burgess Wants Obama Impeached.** According to Politico, "Impeaching President Barack Obama 'needs to happen,' Rep. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) told a local tea party group, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Tuesday. Burgess spoke, the paper said, in response to an attendee's suggestion that the GOP-controlled House use impeachment to stop Obama from 'pushing his agenda.' 'It needs to happen, and I agree with you it would tie things up,' Burgess reportedly responded. 'No question about that.'" [Politico, [8/9/11](#)]

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS – CHRIS SMITH**

Rep. Chris Smith Is Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

**Smith: I "Do Not Construe 'Homosexual Rights' As 'Human Rights.'" According to Bloomberg Politics, "New Jersey Representative Christopher Smith is one of the GOP's social conservative stalwarts, the perennial author of pro-life bills written to prevent any taxpayer money from ever funding an abortion. [...] Smith also chairs the House Foreign Affairs Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, where on Jan. 27, at a hearing about crises in Nigeria, he informed the principal deputy assistant secretary in the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs that he had a distinct definition of 'human rights.' 'There are fundamental differences in the United States over the whole LGBT issue,' said Smith to Robert Jackson, the deputy assistant secretary. 'I am a strong believer in traditional marriage, and do not construe 'homosexual rights' as 'human rights.' Has the administration's view on LGBT affected in any way, or in any way hindered, U.S. support to combat Boko Haram?'" [Bloomberg Politics, [2/3/15](#)]**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE – BILL HUIZENGA**

Bill Huizenga is chairman of the Chairman of the House Financial Service Committee's Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade.

**Huizenga Slipped Language Into Coast Guard Bill Allowing Dumping Of Coal Into Lake Michigan.** According to the New York Times, "The S.S. Badger, the last coal-fired ferry in the United States, will have to sink or sail on its own. A

craftily worded carve-out in a little-noticed House Coast Guard bill would have allowed the ship to continue plying Lake Michigan—and dumping tons of coal ash into the lake each year. But it was taken out of the legislation this week in closed-door negotiations with the Senate. The House then passed the Coast Guard compromise by voice vote on Wednesday morning and sent it to the Senate for final approval. [...] The Badger drew attention when two Republicans, Representatives Bill Huizenga of Michigan and Tom Petri of Wisconsin slipped language into an unrelated Coast Guard bill that would have given the ship the green light to keep operating indefinitely as is, regardless of the E.P.A.'s decision, an operation that includes dumping 500 tons of coal ash into Lake Michigan each year.” [New York Times, [12/5/12](#)]

- **On House Site, Huizenga Extolls Virtues Of Keeping Great Lakes Pristine.** According to Hill Huizenga’s House website, “Residents of the 2nd District have long understood the importance of the Great Lakes and the impact fresh water has on the economic and physical health of their community. West Michigan should be proud of the work it has already accomplished – and understand the urgency of the work that still needs to be done. As we move forward in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and its tributaries, we must concentrate on providing communities with the necessary resources for solving the problems in a way that sets priorities, permits flexibility and focuses on stewardship and maintaining public access. We must take responsibility and show accountability for protecting the Great Lakes for generations to come.” [Huizenga.House.gov, Accessed 2/9/15]

**Huizenga Tried To Slash \$788 Million From Budget Of IRS Tax Enforcement Division.** According to the New York Times, “The GOP-controlled House has voted to slash the budget for the Internal Revenue Service's tax enforcement division by \$1.2 billion, a 25 percent cut that would mean fewer audits of taxpayers and make it more likely that people who cheat on their taxes will get away with it. [...] Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., author of an amendment to cut the IRS tax enforcement budget by \$353 million. Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Mich., followed up with an amendment to cut \$788 million more. The underlying bill already contained a \$72 million cut from last year's \$5 billion enforcement budget, bringing the total cut to \$1.2 billion.” [New York Times, [7/15/14](#)]

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER – JOHN FLEMING

Rep. John Fleming chairs the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans.

**Fleming: Obama Defended ISIS In National Prayer Day Speech.** According to BuzzFeed, “Louisiana Republican Rep. John Fleming said President Obama’s speech to the National Prayer Breakfast last week in which he drew a historical comparison between atrocities committed by Islamic State fighters and past ‘terrible deeds in the name of Christ’ were ‘unpresidential’ and actually defended ISIS. [...] The congressman also said the president was really saying ISIS fighters were just like those who fought in the American revolution. ‘Yeah, I mean he’s really creating a propaganda bonanza for terrorists, because what he’s really saying is ‘Well look, these are freedom fighters, just like the patriots of the Revolutionary War. And they’re no different, their service is just as honorable,’ said Fleming.” [BuzzFeed, [2/9/15](#)]

**Fleming Wanted DHS Funding Tied To Executive Order On Immigration.** According to the New York Times, “GOP Rep. John Fleming of Louisiana is less patient. He says Republicans must be willing to stare down the president and shake up the government. Fleming said they should refuse to fund the Department of Homeland Security unless the administration rescinds an executive order protecting millions of immigrants, brought to the country illegally as children, from deportation.” [New York Times, [1/26/15](#)]

**Fleming Complained That He Only Had \$200,000 To Feed His Family.** According to Yahoo News, “Add John Fleming, a Republican congressman from Louisiana, to the growing, bipartisan list of relatively well-off politicians who may want to revisit the way they discuss their income in public. During an MSNBC interview to discuss why Fleming opposes President Obama's tax increase on those earning more than \$1 million per year, host Chris Jansing said that Fleming has an income of more than \$6 million. Fleming quickly corrected her, saying he actually takes in a fraction of that gross amount--about \$600,000. ‘The amount that I have to reinvest in my business and feed my family is more like \$600,000 of that \$6.3 million,’ Fleming explained. ‘So by the time I feed my family I have, maybe, \$400,000 left over to invest in new locations, upgrade my locations, buy more equipment.’” [Yahoo News, [9/20/11](#)]

**Fleming: Government Shutdown “Good Way Of Holding The President's Feet To The Fire.”** According to the Associated Press, “Republican Rep. John Fleming of Louisiana said he's tired of conservative pundits criticizing government shutdowns ‘rather than saying, ‘Hey, this could be a good way of holding the president's feet to the fire.’ Fleming, in language echoed by numerous colleagues, said his constituents ‘want us to use every tool available to us to stop, or in some way limit, executive amnesty. They think it's unlawful, it's unconstitutional. To them it's shocking.’” [Associated Press, [11/19/14](#)]



## SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE – TRENT FRANKS

Rep. Trent Franks chairs the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

**Franks: Obama Is The “Enemy Of Humanity.”** According to Right Wing Watch, “Speaking at the recent How To Take Back America Conference, Rep. Trent Franks declared that nobody should be shocked that President Obama does all sorts of ‘insane things’ because he is an ‘enemy of humanity.’” [Right Wing Watch, [9/29/09](#)]

**Franks: Obamacare Is “Unconstitutional.”** According to a press release from Franks' office, “After introducing H.Res. 153, a resolution deeming Obamacare unconstitutional on the grounds that it violates the Origination Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Congressman Trent Franks (AZ-08), Chairman of the Constitution and Civil Justice Subcommittee, today released the following statement: ‘This is a basic Constitutional matter. Last June, the United States Supreme Court upheld Obamacare on the grounds that it is a federal tax, not a mandate.’” [Trent Franks Press Release, [4/16/13](#)]

**Franks: African Americans Better Off Under Slavery Because Of Abortion.** According to Salon, “Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., is a fairly passionate opponent of abortion rights (and by one measure, the most conservative member of the House). Still, even by his standards, the comments he made to blogger Mike Stark Friday were a little extreme. Discussing civility and outrageous language, Franks wandered into a tangent in which he wound up declaring that ‘far more of the African American community is being devastated by the policies of today than were being devastated by the policies of slavery.’ Where, exactly, did he get that idea? Because, as he also explained, ‘half of all black children are aborted.’ (The Centers for Disease Control, which compiles abortion statistics, actually estimates that 33 percent of pregnancies end in abortion for black women.)” [Salon, 2/26/10]

**Franks: “Incidence Of Rape Resulting In Pregnancy Are Very Low.”** According to Politico, “A House Republican pushing for a 20-week nationwide ban on abortions said Wednesday that the incidence of pregnancies resulting from rape is ‘very low’ — then scrambled to clarify his comment after it went viral with comparisons to former GOP Senate candidate Todd Akin. ‘The incidence of rape resulting in pregnancy are very low,’ said Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.) as the House Judiciary Committee debated his bill to ban abortions nationwide after 20 weeks including in cases of rape and incest.” [Politico, [6/12/13](#)]

**Franks Accused Muslim Group Of Planting Spies As Interns On Capitol Hill.** According to Politico, “Four Republican lawmakers have accused the most prominent Islamic advocacy group in Washington of trying to plant ‘spies’ as interns on Capitol Hill. The claim was quickly denounced as ‘racist’ and ‘insidious’ by the Council on American Islamic Relations, and the effort appears to have little support from GOP leaders. In an unusual announcement this morning, four conservative Republicans — Reps. John Shadegg (Ariz.), Paul Broun (Ga.), Trent Franks (Ariz.) and Sue Myrick (N.C.) — formally asked the House Sergeant at Arms to launch an investigation of the Center for American-Islamic Relations. They accused CAIR, a non profit group, of trying to infiltrate Capitol Hill with interns and staffers.” [Politico, [10/14/09](#)]