

Money in Politics and the Environment

Energy Industry Investment in Politics

- ▶ The energy industry, including oil and gas, electric utilities, mining, natural gas, etc. contributed more than \$830 million to federal candidates between 1990-2014
- ▶ The energy industry spent over \$4.7 billion lobbying the federal government between 1998-2014, 76% of which came from the oil and gas and electric industries
- ▶ 45% of energy industry contributions between 1990-2014 came from large individual contributions, with the remaining 55% from PACs and soft money
- ▶ Members of the U.S. House and Senate received an average of \$90,436 and \$135,953 in energy industry contributions, respectively, in the 2014 election

Energy Industry v. Environment Spending

- ▶ The energy industry contributed \$20 to federal candidates for every \$1 contributed by environmental groups between 1990-2010
- ▶ A recent surge in outside campaign spending by environmental groups reduced the ratio to \$6 to \$1 when the last two election cycles are taken into account
- ▶ The energy industry spent \$347 million lobbying the federal government in 2014 compared with \$13.8 million by environmental groups, a factor of over 25:1
- ▶ The disparity in energy industry versus environmental contributions to members of Congress rose to 30:1 in the lead-up to landmark 2005 energy legislation

Energy Money Targets Regulators, Incumbents

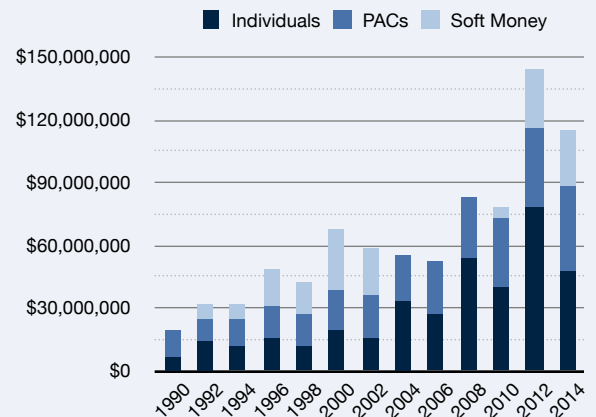
- ▶ Six of the top ten House recipients of energy industry contributions in 2014 were members of the Energy & Commerce, Natural Resources, and Transportation committees responsible for energy policy; two of the remaining four were the Speaker and Majority Leader; all ten were Republicans
- ▶ Nine of the top ten Senate recipients in 2014 were members of the Energy & Natural Resources, Environment & Public Works, Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, and Transportation committees
- ▶ The top ten recipients in 2014 received an average \$813,000 and \$723,000 in energy industry contributions for the House and Senate, respectively, or between 5 and 9 times the average for all congressional candidates
- ▶ 83% of industry contributions in 2014 were given to incumbents in both parties

Energy Industry Money Follows Partisan Trends

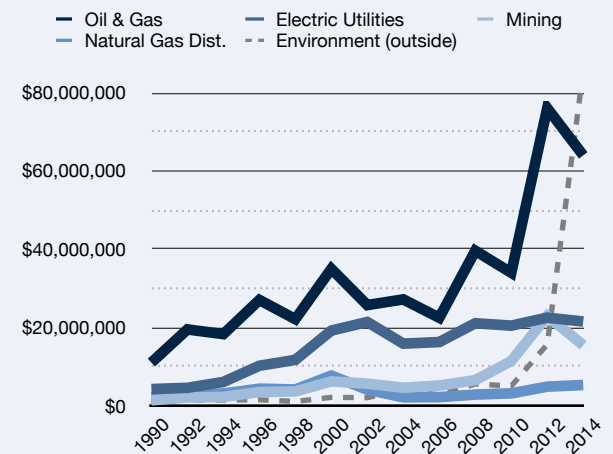
- ▶ Republicans received 72% of overall energy industry campaign contributions compared to 28% for Democrats between 1990-2014
- ▶ During the years in which Democrats controlled Congress, the share of energy industry contributions flowing to Democrats increased to 40%

Source: Center for Responsive Politics; analysis of campaign finance disclosures filed with the Federal Election Commission, 1990-2014; pre-2012 analysis conducted by Americans for Campaign Reform

Total Energy Industry Contributions, 1990-2014



Campaign Spending by Energy Industries v. Environment



Lobbying by Energy Industries v. Environment, 2014

