

# Conservative Groups Favor Corporations Over People: Right-Wing Groups Funding Ad Campaigns Against The Build Back Better Plan Are Fighting For Their Corporate Funders, Not The American People.

**SUMMARY:** Congress is currently debating the Build Better Act, a wide-sweeping plan that aims to expand Medicare benefits, extend tax credits and other programs to make insurance more affordable, address the crisis of climate change, and provide tax relief and expanded access to paid family and sick leave for American families. The Build Back Better Act relies on raising taxes on the largest corporations and wealthiest individuals to ensure tax fairness. As the proposed tax increase on large corporations becomes a boiling point in the discussions surrounding the plan, right-wing groups with deep connections to special interests and large corporations have launched efforts to oppose the Biden administration's agenda. These groups are funded and staffed by corporate special interests despite their claims of representing small business owners and regular citizens.

Many of the organizations running ads against the Build Back Better Act have received public financial support from fossil fuel and pharmaceutical interests to outwardly champion policies that favor these big-industry executives. Other groups running ads employ industry lobbyists and are connected to right-wing megadonors, such as the Koch network. While claiming to represent small business owners and consumers, the deep professional and financial relationships between these groups and major corporations calls into question the true intentions of these groups as they work to protect their bottom lines and not the interests of the American people, as their ads claim.

- **Americans For Tax Reform**, a [powerhouse conservative advocacy group](#), launched a massive [advertising and lobbying](#) blitz to oppose the reconciliation. In particular the group is claiming the package will have a negative effect on consumers by increasing their [energy bills](#), [prescription drugs](#), and [small business taxes](#). The group has received nearly over \$5 million from Koch affiliated groups, known for their [pro-fossil fuel agenda](#), \$500,000 from pharmaceutical industry groups, and \$700,000 from Fossil Fuel groups since 2008.
- **American Action Network** is a large and high rolling [conservative dark money group](#) that is said to share staff and resources with GOP super PAC, The Congressional Leadership Fund. The group launched a [\\$5.5+ million ad campaign](#) against the reconciliation package, attacking it for its "socialist" prescription drug policies, [tax policies](#), and [inflation concerns](#). The group has notably received over \$16 million from the pharmaceutical industry and \$250,000 from the fossil fuel industry since 2010.
- **The American Petroleum Institute** has announced a seven-figure buy against portions of the proposed Build Back Better Act, [targeting so-called "swing states."](#) API is a fossil fuel trade association, with a membership including, but not limited to, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, and BP. API operates off [membership dues](#) which are based on organization size, ensuring financial support from the top companies.
- **The Common Sense Leadership Fund** was recently created, seemingly for the purpose of [running advertisements](#) calling on certain Democratic Senators to vote against the reconciliation bill, with CSLF President Kevin McLaughlin calling the bill a "liberal wish list" of "special interest kickbacks." While CSLF's contributions are not yet listed, the leadership of the organization provides some clues as to their motives. McLaughlin is a former lobbyist and National Republican Senatorial Committee Executive Director, while a lobbyist, McLaughlin's clients included [Walmart](#) and the [Business Roundtable](#)—organizations that have both come out against the reconciliation

bill. Business Roundtable, a trade group for CEOs of major corporations, was a client of the firm Cogent Strategies, where McLaughlin worked as a [managing director](#); Business Roundtable has stated [opposition to corporate tax increases](#) in the reconciliation bill, and has made public their intent to [fund opposition to the bill](#). Recently, McLaughlin was joined by the [former campaign manager for Mitch McConnell, Kevin Golden as a member of CSLF's leadership team](#).

- **The 60 Plus Association**, an organization that has long billed itself as a [conservative alternative to the AARP](#), is reemerging on the national political scene. 60 Plus joined a “[Conservatives for Property Rights](#)” coalition alongside other groups to oppose the reconciliation bill. 60 Plus Association [began running ads](#) featuring an actor who plays a doctor and warns of Medicare “cuts” from the upcoming legislation. 60 Plus is a 501(c)(4) organization that has chosen not to reveal the source of its contributions, but rumors of connections to the pharmaceutical industry have followed the group for decades: in 2003, an [AARP publication](#) accused the group of being a “front” for industry interests. The group was also tied to the [Koch Network](#) of messaging organizations during the Obama presidency. 60 Plus’s professed worry about cuts to social programs are made in the context of the organization’s own history, which [supported Paul Ryan’s 2011 budget roadmap](#) which would have turned Medicare into a capped voucher program, and their support for former President Bush’s attempts at [Social Security privatization](#).
- **America First Policy Institute**, the “[largest pro-Trump outside group](#),” [spearheaded](#) the Save America Coalition, which recently launched a \$10+ million ad campaign against the reconciliation package. AFPI was founded by former head of Trump’s Domestic Policy Council, Brooke Rollins, whose [husband](#) is the President and a Board Member of oil company [HKN Energy](#). AFPI also features a who’s who of former Trump Administration officials including former Small Business Administration head Linda McMahon, Economic Advisor Larry Kudlow, and Intelligence Director John Ratcliff, among others. Notably former Energy Secretary and current [fossil fuel executive](#) Rick Perry is also involved with AFPI.
- **Texas Public Policy Foundation**, another member of the \$10 million Save America Coalition, is also [closely tied](#) to Brooke Rollins and climate-denying, anti-environment [former members](#) of the Trump Administration. The group has received major funding from the Koch Network, an engine for the [fossil fuel industry](#), and helped Rick Perry [draft](#) his [pro-fossil fuel](#) energy policy during his time as the Governor of Texas.
- **FreedomWorks** is yet another a member of the [\\$10 million](#) Save America Coalition fighting against the reconciliation package’s [climate](#), [pharmaceutical](#), and [tobacco](#) policies. FreedomWorks is a known Koch project, spinning off of a Koch lobbying group [founded in the 1980s](#) and [remaining an ally](#) while helping to launch the [Tea Party movement](#). FreedomWorks has received notable funding from the Kochs and well as the [tobacco industry](#), and also coordinated with the Trump administration to organize [anti-lockdown protests](#) in 2020.
- **Conservative Partnership Institute** joined the [\\$10 million](#) Save America Coalition, in an attempt to push back against the reconciliation bills [tax increases](#) generally. CPI was founded by former [Heritage Foundation](#) President, [Trump Advisor](#), and US Senator Jim DeMint. DeMint was forced out from the Heritage Foundation, a [Koch funded](#) operations that sees itself as the heart of the conservative movement, for coming out [too strongly behind](#) Trump’s 2016 run. Alongside DeMint is former [Trump White House Chief of Staff](#) and [Tea Party Freedom Caucus leader](#) Mark Meadows, who used his White House influence to fight [mask mandates](#) and try to [overturn the 2020 election](#). Both [Meadows](#) and [DeMint](#)’s congressional careers were heavily funded by agribusiness, finance, energy, and health sectors. CPI has received funding from the Koch network as well as \$500,000 from the Uihlein family, major [right wing donors](#) who funded a [group that played a major role](#) in organizing the rally preceding the Capitol Riot.
- **Committee To Unleash Prosperity** is a member of the \$10 million Save America Coalition that has fought against the reconciliation package’s [carbon tax](#) and [social services expansion](#). The group was

funded by American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) alumni, including noted [racist](#) and [sexist](#) Stephen Moore, who serves as the coalition's [co-chairman](#). ALEC is an [industry funded policy and lobbying mill](#) designed to astroturf corporate friendly policies at the state level. ALEC has notably come under fire in 2021 for its role in [pushing voter suppression bills](#). Committee To Unleash Prosperity has received over \$500,000 from the Koch Network since its inception in 2015.

- **Coalition To Protect American Workers** is launching a [seven figure ad buy](#) to oppose reconciliation for allegedly raising taxes on consumers and boosting Chinese interests. The Coalition is run by noted [Koch Operative](#) and former Mike Pence Chief of Staff Marc Short. Short came under fire during his time at the White House for [owning millions in stocks](#), including pharmaceutical stocks, in companies that were working in conjunction with the administration's coronavirus task force. Short's conflict of interest resulted in both [criminal](#) and [ethics complains](#) after he failed to disclose his finances following the scandal.

## **The Congressional Reconciliation Package Is An All Encompassing Policy Agenda That Takes Aim At Progressive Taxes, Climate Change, And Healthcare Goals**

### **President Biden And Congress Aim To Pass A \$3.5 Trillion Budget Deal Via Reconciliation, Taking Aim At Climate Change, Low-Income Programs, Medicare, And Ensuring That The Wealthy Pay Their Fair Share In Taxes**

**President Biden And Congressional Democrats Have Been Negotiating A \$3.5 Trillion Budget Deal, Establishing Commitments On Climate Change, Low-Income Aid Programs, And Medicare, While Aiming To Raise Taxes On The Wealthy.** “The fate of President Biden’s \$3.5 trillion economic agenda hinges on work that’s slated to resume on Capitol Hill this week, as Democrats attempt to overcome their internal divisions and craft what could be the largest spending package in U.S. history. [...] Biden and his Democratic allies have pledged to expand Medicare, commit new sums to combat climate change, raise taxes on the wealthy, and boost federal programs that aid low-income families and children. In doing so, they have made grand proclamations about the need for historic investments, especially in the penumbra of a coronavirus pandemic that has left millions of Americans facing financial ruin.” [Washington Post, [9/7/21](#)]

**To Sidestep Republican Opposition, The Senate Intends To Take Up This Legislation Via A Legislative Maneuver Known As Reconciliation.** “Republicans joined Democrats in the Senate to adopt the infrastructure proposal in a rare overwhelming bipartisan vote last month. [...] But they have rejected the rest of Biden’s agenda, arguing another round of trillion-dollar spending could worsen the country’s fiscal troubles and intensify inflation. GOP leaders also have fought vigorously against its proposed tax increases, which would reverse the cuts they secured four years ago under former president Donald Trump. To sidestep that Republican opposition, especially in the narrowly divided Senate, Democrats plan to advance their economic package through a legislative move known as reconciliation. Biden has described both spending plans in equally urgent terms, stressing last week they would help ensure future prosperity.” [Washington Post, [9/7/21](#)]

### **The Reconciliation Package Contains A Provision That Would Allow The Federal Government To Negotiate The Price Of Prescription Drugs—Saving Billions Of Dollars And Generating Funding For Progressive Healthcare Polices**

**The Reconciliation Package Contains A Provision That Would Allow The Federal Government To Use Its Medicare Purchasing Power To Negotiate The Price Of Prescription Drugs.** “In meetings with lawmakers, lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry have issued warnings about the reconciliation package now moving through both chambers of Congress that is set to include language allowing Medicare to negotiate

the price of some drugs, which could generate billions of dollars in savings. [...] The proposal now under consideration in Democrats' reconciliation package could save the federal government hundreds of billions of dollars by leveraging its ability to purchase prescription drugs, according to a report from the Congressional Budget Office." [Politico, [9/02/21](#)]

- **The Provision Is Lifted From A Previous House Bill, HB3, Which Stalled In The Senate.** "Now, White House officials are planning to draw from H.R. 3 for their next budget reconciliation bill, my colleagues Jeff Stein and Tyler Pager report. The reconciliation bill, which would be the second for Democrats to pass this year, is taking shape as a \$3 trillion infrastructure and jobs package that includes numerous sweeping domestic policy priorities." [Washington Post, [3/23/21](#)]

**The Congressional Budget Office Estimated That The Reconciliation Package's Drug Negotiation Provisions Will Save The Federal Government \$456 Billion Over The Next Decade.** "The Congressional Budget Office and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) have completed an analysis of H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, as posted by the House Committee on Rules on December 6, 2019 (Rules Committee Print 116-41), and including modifications discussed with staff. [...] The largest effects on spending over that period would result from two sets of provisions, CBO and JCT estimate: • The price negotiation provisions would lower spending by about \$456 billion" [Congressional Budget Office, [12/10/19](#)]

- **Leading Democrats Argue That The Savings From The Drug Price Negotiation Provisions Will Allow For The Expansion Of Medical Benefits And Other Healthcare Reforms.** "The Democrats cite Congressional Budget Office projections that the bill's drug-negotiation provisions would lower drug prices and cut federal spending by \$456 billion over a decade. Those savings could then be used to broaden the social safety net, such as by offering additional Medicare benefits and allowing more people to enroll in Medicaid, the government's health insurance program for low-income Americans, party leaders argue." [Washington Post, [9/14/21](#)]

## **The Reconciliation Package Contains Numerous Climate Provisions That Would Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Help Incentivize Clean Energy While Discouraging Fossil Fuels**

**The Reconciliation Package Seeks To Bring In \$35 Billion In Revenue Over 10 Years By Cutting Tax Breaks To Fossil Fuel Companies.** "President Biden and congressional Democrats are planning to target oil and natural gas tax breaks to help pay for their massive \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation plan, arguing that they unfairly benefit the fossil fuels that are responsible for climate change. Democrats say they could bring in \$35 billion over 10 years from cutting tax breaks for intangible drilling costs (IDC), enhanced oil recovery and percentage depletion (Greenwire, May 28)." [E&E News, [9/10/21](#)]

**The Reconciliation Package Seeks To Greatly Cut Down On Greenhouse Gas Emissions By Paying Utility Companies To Switch From Fossil Fuel Burning Sources To Clean Alternatives.** "This legislation would bring extraordinary changes to the country's energy sector. It would lead to huge reductions in the climate-warming greenhouse gases the U.S. emits and change the kind of car many Americans drive. A key element is a \$150 billion Clean Electricity Performance Program, or CEPP, that would pay utilities to switch from greenhouse gas-emitting electricity sources, such as coal and natural gas, to non-emitting sources such as wind, solar, hydropower and nuclear." [NPR, [9/15/21](#)]

**The Reconciliation Package Would Use A Combination Of New Fees And Regulatory Teeth To Greatly Restrict New Drilling On Public Lands.** "The House Natural Resources Committee approved draft legislation last week, along party lines, containing more than 20 provisions to reform federal oil policies (E&E Daily, Sept. 3). They include raising onshore royalty rates for the first time in a century, imposing new fees on drillers and strengthening the bonding regulations that ensure the cost of cleaning up exhausted wells never falls on the taxpayer. Taken together, both industry and conservationists say the reforms would dramatically change the rulebook for producing oil and gas on public lands. And while advocates say that means fewer emissions and

higher revenues, industry allies say the reforms would have the potential to smash the federal oil and gas program.” [E&E Daily, [9/16/21](#)]

## **The Reconciliation Budget Negotiations Have Resulted In Lobbying Efforts Across Multiple Industries, Including From The Energy Sector, The Pharmaceutical Industry, And The US Chamber Of Commerce**

**The Week HEADLINE: “Corporate Lobbyists Are Seeking To Upend Democrats' Budget Reconciliation Plan 'In Every Way You Can Imagine’”** [The Week, [8/31/21](#)]

**Senior VP For The National Association Of Manufacturers Said Corporate Groups Were Lobbying Against The Bill In “Every Way You Can Imagine.”** “But Democrats’ strategy can work only if the party’s narrow majority stays united at a time when they have few votes to spare. The task is likely to be tough, not least because of the overwhelming corporate lobbying barrage that awaits them. ‘We’re doing it in every way you can imagine,’ said Aric Newhouse, the senior vice president for policy at the National Association of Manufacturers, when asked about the group’s lobbying.” [Washington Post, [8/31/21](#)]

**As The Reconciliation Budget Deal Aims To Reshape The Nation’s Energy System, A Lobbying Frenzy On Energy Issues Has Ensued In Congress.** “The prospect of a \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spending bill has sparked a lobbying frenzy in Congress, as lawmakers zero in this week on a measure that could reshape the nation’s energy system. The jockeying over what promises to be the largest-ever overhaul of the United States’ electricity grid and automotive fleet involves major industries, environmental groups and President Biden, who argued for cutting carbon emissions while touring wildfire damage in the West on Monday.” [Washington Post, [9/13/21](#)]

- **Washington Post HEADLINE: “As The Largest-Ever U.S. Climate Bill Inches Forward, A Lobbying Frenzy Ensues”** [Washington Post, [9/13/21](#)]

**The Pharmaceutical Industry Has Been Aggressively Lobbying Democrats To Oppose The Reconciliation Package.** “As Democrats prepare a massive overhaul of prescription drug policy, major pharmaceutical companies are mounting a lobbying campaign against it, arguing that the effort could undermine a Covid fight likely to last far longer than originally expected. In meetings with lawmakers, lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry have issued warnings about the reconciliation package now moving through both chambers of Congress that is set to include language allowing Medicare to negotiate the price of some drugs, which could generate billions of dollars in savings.” [Politico, [9/02/21](#)]

**The Hill HEADLINE: “PhRMA Launches 7-Figure Ad Campaign Against Democrats' Drug Pricing Measures”** [The Hill, [9/15/21](#)]

**Pharmaceutical Lobbyists Have Explicitly Mentioned The Role Of Their Industry In Combatting COVID, Claiming Reconciliation May Threaten Future Vaccine Or Treatment Efforts.** “In those conversations, K Street insiders say, lobbyists have explicitly mentioned that the fight against the coronavirus will almost certainly extend beyond the current surge of the Delta variant. And they’re arguing that now isn’t the time to hit the industry with new regulations or taxes, particularly in light of its successful efforts to swiftly develop vaccines for the virus.” [Politico, [9/02/21](#)]

**American Action Network Is Spending Huge Sums Of Money Advertising Against The Reconciliation Package, While Receiving Millions From The Pharmaceutical And Fossil Fuel Industries**

**American Action Network Is A Notorious Conservative Dark Money Group That Shares Resources With GOP Super PAC, The Congressional Leadership Fund**

**American Action Network Is A Large Dark Money Group That Supports Conservative Causes.** “AAN, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit aligned with Republican House leadership that does not disclose its donors, did not disclose any of its spending to the FEC during the 2020 election cycle. The nonprofit funneled more than \$9 million into political advertising boosting Republican congressional candidates and donated over \$26 million to the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC supporting the House GOP.” [Open Secrets, [5/13/21](#)]

**American Action Network Shares Resources With GOP Super PAC, The Congressional Leadership Fund.** “The nonprofit funneled more than \$9 million into political advertising boosting Republican congressional candidates and donated over \$26 million to the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC supporting the House GOP. The two groups share staff members and resources. With nearly \$39 million in expenditures, AAN ranked sixth among top “dark money” groups in 2020.” [Open Secrets, [5/13/21](#)]

**American Action Network Was The Sixth Highest Spending Dark Money Group Of The 2020 Election Cycle According To Open Secrets.** “The nonprofit funneled more than \$9 million into political advertising boosting Republican congressional candidates and donated over \$26 million to the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC supporting the House GOP. The two groups share staff members and resources. With nearly \$39 million in expenditures, AAN ranked sixth among top “dark money” groups in 2020.” [Open Secrets, [5/13/21](#)]

### **American Action Network Launched A Press Campaign Against The Build Back Better Plan In Key Congressional Districts, Claiming Concerns Over Tax Hikes, “Socialist” Prescription Drug Policies, And Inflation**

**American Action Network Announced A \$5+ Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Build Back Better Plan, Claiming Concerns Over Tax Hikes, “Socialist” Prescription Drug Policies, And Inflation.**

“American Action Network announced it will spend north of \$5 million on a new issue advocacy and advertising campaign to stop the \$3.5 trillion “reconciliation” proposal Nancy Pelosi announced earlier this week, with huge tax hikes, wasteful spending, and a socialist takeover of the prescription drug market. AAN’s new campaign will run across 39 Congressional Districts in total with television and digital advertising in 21 districts and other advocacy in 18 more districts.” [AmericanActionNetwork.org, [8/11/21](#)]

**American Action Network’s Advertising Plan Targets 39 Key Congressional Districts.** “American Action Network announced it will spend north of \$5 million on a new issue advocacy and advertising campaign to stop the \$3.5 trillion “reconciliation” proposal Nancy Pelosi announced earlier this week, with huge tax hikes, wasteful spending, and a socialist takeover of the prescription drug market. AAN’s new campaign will run across 39 Congressional Districts in total with television and digital advertising in 21 districts and other advocacy in 18 more districts.” [AmericanActionNetwork.org, [8/11/21](#)]

**American Action Network Claimed That The Build Back Better Reconciliation Package Would Implement Tax Hikes That Will Harm Small Businesses.** ““With businesses still fighting to get back on their feet and families feeling the sting of record inflation, the last thing Americans need are economy crushing tax hikes and another multi-trillion spending spree,” said AAN Communications Director Calvin Moore. ‘These massive tax-and-spending increases will devastate small business, hurt working families and do serious damage to our already sluggish economic recovery.’” [AmericanActionNetwork.org, [9/13/21](#)]

**American Action Network Purported That Polling Showed That Middle Class Americans In Key Districts Oppose The Build Back Better Reconciliation Package Over Inflation, Tax Concerns.** “BUILD BACK BETTER” AGENDA IS TOXIC Americans oppose \$3.5 trillion for new social spending by 19 points (55%-36%) and oppose the Build Back Better agenda by 18 points (54%-36%). Americans oppose raising taxes on small businesses to pay for the plan by 27 points (55%-28%). Americans see the proposal as “unnecessary” by 20 points (55%-35%) on average. VOTERS BLAME SPENDING FOR INFLATION, SAY PLAN WILL MAKE INFLATION WORSE Americans believe government spending is the primary cause of inflation by double digits (51%-33%) and that the left’s \$3.5 trillion spending plan will make inflation worse by 11% (47%-36%)” [AmericanActionNetwork.org, [9/07/21](#)]

## **Since 2010 American Action Network Has Received Over \$16 Million From The Pharmaceutical Industry**

**Since 2010 America Action Network Has Received Over \$16 Million From The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America.**

Organization	Filing End Date	Amount	Source
PhRMA	2016	\$6,058,825.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2010	\$4,500,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2018	\$2,500,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2012	\$1,500,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2017	\$1,500,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2014	\$125,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2012	\$75,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$16,258,825.00</b>	

**PhRMA Represents America’s Leading Pharmaceutical Development Companies.** “PhRMA represents the nation’s leading biopharmaceutical research companies. Our success in developing and delivering medicines to help patients live longer and healthier lives depends on ethical relationships and behavior. Browse key Codes and Guidelines below, and visit our Resource Library for more.” [PhRMA.org, Accessed [9/16/21](#)]

**PhRMA Themselves Have Launched A Seven Figure Ad-Buy Against The Reconciliation Package For Its Provisions That Threaten Profits Of The Pharmaceutical Industry.** “The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) announced Wednesday that it is launching a seven-figure ad campaign against the proposals moving through Congress to lower prescription drug prices. The group also released an open letter signed by the heads of all of its member companies pointing to the COVID-19 vaccines and treatments developed by the industry and arguing the proposals would ‘sacrifice future medical advances.’ The moves are part of an aggressive campaign against the measures to lower drug prices backed by congressional Democrats, which threaten to take a large chunk of money out of the pharmaceutical industry.” [The Hill, [9/15/21](#)]

## **Since 2010 American Action Network Has Received Over \$250,000 From The Oil And Gas Industry**

**Since 2010 America Action Network Has Received Over \$250,000 From The Oil And Natural Gas Industry.**

Organization	Filing End Date	Amount	Source
American Petroleum Institute	12/31/12	\$250,000	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Natural Gas Alliance	12/31/10	\$35,000	<a href="#">Link</a>
Donors Trust	12/31/11	\$80,000	<a href="#">Link</a>
Donors Trust	12/31/11	\$70,000	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$435,000</b>	

**The American Petroleum Institute Is A Fossil Fuel Industry Trade Association, Representing Major Corporations Including, But Not Limited To, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, And BP.** “Our corporate members, from the largest major oil company to the smallest of independents, come from all sectors of the industry. They are producers, refiners, suppliers, pipeline operators and marine transportation companies, as well as service and supply companies that support all segments of the industry. Our members are committed to develop and adhere to the highest level industry standards, protect the environment, and lead in health and safety performance.” [API.org, Accessed [9/16/21](#)]

- **American Natural Gas Alliance Was A Natural Gas Trade Association Which Merged With The American Petroleum Institute In 2015.** “Following approval of both boards of directors, the American Petroleum Institute and America's Natural Gas Alliance announced the two organizations will combine into a single trade association, effective January 1, 2016. The combined association will continue ANGA's mission under API. [...] “ANGA was founded in 2009 at the beginning of the shale energy revolution, and its members were visionary regarding the benefits natural gas would bring to our energy supply and our economy. Combining these two associations continues that vision by recognizing how best to organize for maximum effect,” [API.org, [11/18/15](#)]

**Donors Trust And Its Affiliate, Donors Capital Fund, Are Large Right-Wing Dark Money Operations With Major Ties To The Koch Brothers** “Donors Trust allows wealthy contributors who want to donate millions to the most important causes on the right to do so anonymously, essentially scrubbing the identity of those underwriting conservative and libertarian organizations. [...] Donors Trust is not the source of the money it hands out. Some 200 right-of-center funders who've given at least \$10,000 fill the group's coffers. Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

**The Primary Goal Of The Koch Brothers' Right Wing Machines Was To Protect Fossil Fuel Profits At All Costs And To Ensure Consumption Of Fossil Fuels Did Not Decrease.** “Others have chronicled the cap-and-trade fight well, but Leonard penetrates the inner sanctum of the Kochs' lobbying machine, showing that, from the start, even when other parts of the company could have benefitted from an embrace of alternative energy, Koch Industries regarded any compromise that might reduce fossil-fuel consumption as unacceptable. Protecting its fossil-fuel profits was, and remains, the company's top political priority. Leonard shows that the Kochs, to achieve this end, worked to hijack the Tea Party movement and, eventually, the Republican Party itself.” [The New Yorker, [8/13/19](#)]

## **Americans for Tax Reform Are Running A Major Ad And Lobbying Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package While Receiving Millions From The Pharmaceutical And Fossil Fuel Industries**

### **Americans For Tax Reform Are Running A Lobbying And Advertising Blitz In Opposition To The Reconciliation Plan, Opposing Climate, Tax, And Prescription Drug Policies**

**Americans For Tax Reform Are Running A Lobbying And Advertising Blitz In Opposition To The Reconciliation Plan.** “Democrats had hoped that the tax side would be more than notations on an accounting ledger. They regard it as an opportunity to fundamentally change policies to address growing income inequality, reduce incentives for corporations to move jobs and profits overseas, and slow the amassing of huge fortunes that pass through generations untaxed. But corporate interests, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable and Americans for Tax Reform, have mobilized a multifaceted lobbying and advertising blitz to stop the tax increases — or at least mitigate them.” [Washington Post, [9/07/21](#)]

**Americans For Tax Reform Claimed That The Reconciliation Bill Would Increase The Price Of Consumer Prescription Drugs By Hiking Taxes On Pharmaceutical Companies.** “House Democrats have included new taxes and government price controls on American medical innovation in their \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package. They have included H.R. 3, legislation that creates a 95 percent excise tax on manufacturers and imposes an international reference pricing scheme that directly imports foreign price controls into the U.S. These provisions should be rejected and opposed by members of Congress. This plan will undermine the market-based structure of Medicare Part D harming patients, manufacturers, and the American healthcare system.” [ATR.org, [9/13/21](#)]



**Americans For Tax Reform Claimed That The Reconciliation Bill Would Increase The Price Of Consumer Utility Bills By Raising Corporate Taxes, Taxes On Energy Companies.** “If Democrats raise the corporate income tax rate to 26.5%, Americans will get hit with higher utility bills as the country tries to recover from the pandemic. Democrats want to take the current rate of 21% and raise it to 26.5%, higher than communist China's 25% and higher than the developed world average of 23.5% This does not even include state corporate income taxes, which average another 4 - 5% nationwide. Customers directly bear the cost of corporate income taxes imposed on utility companies. Investor-owned electric, gas, and water companies must get their billing rates approved by the respective state utility commissions. When the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act cut the corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, utilities worked with state officials to pass along the tax savings to customers.” [ATR.org, [9/12/21](#)]

**Americans For Tax Reform Claimed That The Reconciliation Bill Would “Employ Jobless Climate Activists.”** “Democrats are including at least \$3.5 billion in taxpayer money for the creation of a uniformed ‘Civilian Climate Corps’ according to the House Natural Resources Committee’s portion of Democrats’ \$3.5 trillion spending package. The Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) is designed as a make-work program for unemployed youths to be placed on the government payroll, paid to lecture taxpayers on the importance of climate activism and complete vital environmental projects like digging ditches and boosting enrollees’ outdoor recreation. The Democrat proposal is an attempted revival of the New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps that, according to a 2020 report from the Congressional Research Service, existed as a government employment program for unemployed males aged 18-25 in which ‘enrollees were recruited, hired, and trained by the federal government, worked under federal supervision, lived in government-run military camps, and received stipends paid for with federal funding.” [ATR.org, [9/10/21](#)]

**Americans For Tax Reform Claimed That The Reconciliation Bill Would Raise Taxes On Middle Class Americans And Small Businesses Based On Its Corporate Tax Increases.** “During his campaign, President Biden promised the American people that he would not raise taxes on small businesses. But the tax hike plan proposed by House Democrats contains several tax increases on small businesses which will violate the pledge. Biden's small business tax promise was made on Feb. 20, 2020 before a national audience during a Democratic debate hosted by MSNBC: MSNBC's Hallie Jackson: ‘I want to ask you about Latinos owning one out of every four new small businesses in the United States. Many of them have benefited from President Trump's tax cuts, and they may be hesitant about new taxes or regulations. Will taxes on their small businesses go up under your administration?’” [ATR.org, [9/13/21](#)]

**Americans For Tax Reform Have Received Nearly \$500,000 From The Pharmaceuticals Industry Since 2008**

Organization	Filing End Date	Amount	Source
PhRMA	2008	\$ 165,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2014	\$ 106,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2010	\$ 75,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2013	\$ 50,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2016	\$ 40,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
PhRMA	2015	\$ 20,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 456,000.00</b>	

**PhRMA Represents America’s Leading Pharmaceutical Development Companies.** “PhRMA represents the nation’s leading biopharmaceutical research companies. Our success in developing and delivering medicines to help patients live longer and healthier lives depends on ethical relationships and behavior. Browse key Codes and Guidelines below, and visit our Resource Library for more.” [PhRMA.org, Accessed [9/16/21](#)]

- **PhRMA Themselves Have Launched A Seven Figure Ad-Buy Against The Reconciliation Package For Its Provisions That Threaten Profits Of The Pharmaceutical Industry.** “The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) announced Wednesday that it is

launching a seven-figure ad campaign against the proposals moving through Congress to lower prescription drug prices. The group also released an open letter signed by the heads of all of its member companies pointing to the COVID-19 vaccines and treatments developed by the industry and arguing the proposals would ‘sacrifice future medical advances.’ The moves are part of an aggressive campaign against the measures to lower drug prices backed by congressional Democrats, which threaten to take a large chunk of money out of the pharmaceutical industry.” [The Hill, [9/15/21](#)]

**Since 2010, Americans For Tax Reform Have Received Over \$5 Million From Koch Affiliated Groups, Whose Primary Goal Was To Protect Fossil Fuel Profits**

Organization	Filing End Date	Amount	Source
Center to Protect Patient Rights	2010	\$4,189,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
Center to Protect Patient Rights	2012	\$350,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
Donors Capital Fund	2013	\$250,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2014	\$40,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2013	\$40,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2012	\$40,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2011	\$40,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2010	\$40,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2010	\$25,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2010	\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2010	\$14,500.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2013	\$10,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
DonorsTrust	2010	\$7,500.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$5,061,000.00</b>	

- **Centers For Patient Rights Is A Right-Wing Funding Apparatus Tied To The Koch Brothers.** “The financial firepower that fueled the rise of a network of conservative advocacy groups now pummeling Democrats with television ads can be traced, in part, to Box 72465 in the Boulder Hills post office, on a desert road on the northern outskirts of Phoenix. That’s the address for the Center to Protect Patient Rights, an organization with ties to Charles and David H. Koch, the billionaire brothers who bankroll a number of conservative organizations.” [LA Times, [5/28/12](#)]
- **Donors Trust And Its Affiliate, Donors Capital Fund, Are Large Right-Wing Dark Money Operations With Major Ties To The Koch Brothers As Well As Other Right-Wing Megadonors Like The DeVos Family.** “Donors Trust allows wealthy contributors who want to donate millions to the most important causes on the right to do so anonymously, essentially scrubbing the identity of those underwriting conservative and libertarian organizations. [...] Donors Trust is not the source of the money it hands out. Some 200 right-of-center funders who’ve given at least \$10,000 fill the group’s coffers. Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

**The Koch Brothers Created A Large Right Wing Funding Network To Push Their Political Goals Under The Guise Of Libertarian Values.** “Charles and David Koch long claimed to belong to a system of belief based in the freedom of the individual, unimpeded trade and lives lived free from the intrusion of tax, drafts, business regulations, welfare support and laws designed to curb free expression. To that end, and in particular with the financing of the Tea Party revolution, the Kochs spent in excess of \$100m to promote conservative candidates and causes. Their actions provoked dismay and anger among liberals and devotion among the conservatives and libertarians whom they funded.” [The Guardian, [8/23/19](#)]

**The Primary Goal Of The Koch Brothers’ Right Wing Machines Was To Protect Fossil Fuel Profits At All Costs And To Ensure Consumption Of Fossil Fuels Did Not Decrease.** “Others have chronicled the cap-and-trade fight well, but Leonard penetrates the inner sanctum of the Kochs’ lobbying machine, showing that, from the start, even when other parts of the company could have benefitted from an embrace of alternative energy, Koch Industries regarded any compromise that might reduce fossil-fuel consumption as unacceptable. Protecting its fossil-fuel profits was, and remains, the company’s top political priority. Leonard shows that the Kochs, to achieve this end, worked to hijack the Tea Party movement and, eventually, the Republican Party itself.” [The New Yorker, [8/13/19](#)]

**Donors Capital Fund And DonorsTrust Were The Largest Funders Of The Movement To Deny Climate Change From 2003 To 2013.** “Across the conservative spectrum, Brulle found that Donors Trust is playing an ever larger role. In 2003, Donors Trust money was the source of 3 percent of the funding for more than 100 conservative groups whose financial records Brulle has studied. By 2010, that percentage had grown to 24 percent. Brulle surmises that financial underwriters of the climate counter-movement and the conservative agenda writ large give through Donors Trust to wipe their fingerprints off donations to Heartland and others. “We just have this great big unknown out there about where all the money is coming from,” he says. And, in the years to come, the unknown will only get bigger.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

### **Americans For Tax Reform Have Received Over \$700,000 From The Fossil Fuel Industry Since 2008**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Filing End Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
American Petroleum Institute	2008	\$375,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Petroleum Institute	2015	\$82,500.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Petroleum Institute	2019	\$50,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Petroleum Institute	2010	\$50,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Petroleum Institute	2018	\$50,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Petroleum Institute	2017	\$50,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Petroleum Institute	2016	\$50,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
American Natural Gas Alliance	2010	\$25,000.00	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$732,500.00</b>	

**The American Petroleum Institute Is A Fossil Fuel Industry Trade Association, Representing Major Corporations Including, But Not Limited To, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, And BP.** “Our corporate members, from the largest major oil company to the smallest of independents, come from all sectors of the industry. They are producers, refiners, suppliers, pipeline operators and marine transportation companies, as well as service and supply companies that support all segments of the industry. Our members are committed to develop and adhere to the highest level industry standards, protect the environment, and lead in health and safety performance.” [API.org, Accessed [9/16/21](#)]

**American Natural Gas Alliance Was A Natural Gas Trade Association Which Merged With The American Petroleum Institute In 2015.** “Following approval of both boards of directors, the American Petroleum Institute and America’s Natural Gas Alliance announced the two organizations will combine into a single trade association, effective January 1, 2016. The combined association will continue ANGA’s mission under API. [...] “ANGA was founded in 2009 at the beginning of the shale energy revolution, and its members

were visionary regarding the benefits natural gas would bring to our energy supply and our economy. Combining these two associations continues that vision by recognizing how best to organize for maximum effect,” [API.org, [11/18/15](#)]

## **Americans For Tax Reform Has Historically Promoted Climate Denial**

**Americans For Tax Reform Has Promoted Talking Points That Questions Climate Science And Human-Caused Warming.** “In Episode 57 of the Grover Norquist Show, Heartland Institute CEO Joe Bast joins Grover to discuss the new book *Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming*. The book explains why the Left’s favorite statistic that “97% of scientists” agree that climate change is man-made is actually just a tactic to shut down debate. The book also discusses other statistics that are commonly used to “prove” global warming is man-made, and how liberal scientists manipulate these stats to further their agenda.” [Americans For Tax Reform, [06/16/16](#)]

**Americans For Tax Reform Has Attacked The Paris Climate Agreement.** “The Paris agreement, it seems, is a costly plan that fails to make any significant impact on the climate. Grover Norquist emphasized that while we may all share the air, we do not all share the costs of the Paris agreement.” [Americans For Tax Reform, [06/01/17](#)]

## **The American Petroleum Institute, A Fossil Fuel Trade Association, Institute Is Spending Seven Figures On Ads To Attack The Reconciliation Package**

### **The American Petroleum Institute Is Spending Seven Figures On Ads To Attack The Budget Reconciliation Package And Preserve Government Handouts To The Oil And Gas Industry**

**The American Petroleum Institute (API) Launched A Seven-Figure Ad Campaign Attacking Portions Of The Congressional Reconciliation Package.** “The American Petroleum Institute, meanwhile, is releasing its own batch of ads as part of a seven-figure campaign opposing measures in the reconciliation package such as methane fees that it says punishes American energy. The ads are airing in over 140 congressional districts and key swing states including Arizona, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Minnesota, Georgia and Nevada.” [Politico Pro, [09/13/21](#)]

**Energy Citizens, A Project Of The American Petroleum Institute, Previously Placed Nearly \$1.8 Million In Cable And Broadcast Ad Buys In Colorado, New York, Ohio, And Washington, DC.** [AdImpact Ad Buy Data, Downloaded 02/11/21]

- **Energy Citizen Is An American Petroleum Institute Project.** “Meanwhile, Energy Citizens, a project of the American Petroleum Institute, has been running Facebook advertisements for weeks targeting Democrats considered vulnerable in next year’s elections on oil taxes, as well as some other lawmakers.” [E&E News, [09/10/21](#)]
- **One Of The Energy Citizens TV Ads Says That Biden’s Policies Will Limit Funding For States And Schools.** “Right now, safely accessing energy on federal lands adds millions to state budgets across the country. Money earmarked as a vital source for funding for schools. But banning new federal leasing would limit that much-needed funding going to the states- funding that communities and our families count on. There’s too much at stake. Energy that funds the public good is worth fighting for. Become an energy citizen.” [American Petroleum Institute Ad, captured 02/04/21]

**The American Petroleum Institute Is A Fossil Fuel Trade Association Representing Major Fossil Fuel Corporations And Is Primarily Funded By Membership Dues, Which Are Paid Proportionally To A Company’s Sales**

The American Petroleum Institute Is A Fossil Fuel Industry Trade Association, Representing Major Corporations Including, But Not Limited To, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, And BP. “Our corporate members, from the largest major oil company to the smallest of independents, come from all sectors of the industry. They are producers, refiners, suppliers, pipeline operators and marine transportation companies, as well as service and supply companies that support all segments of the industry. Our members are committed to develop and adhere to the highest level industry standards, protect the environment, and lead in health and safety performance.” [API.org, Accessed 9/16/21]

The American Petroleum Institute Is Funded By Membership Dues From Their Fossil Fuel Member Companies. “Oil and natural gas company dues are volumetrically based, so it depends on the size of the company and its involvement in the API segments. Pipeline dues are based on total pipeline throughput in barrel-miles of crude oil, refined petroleum products, and other hazardous liquids as defined in 49 CFR part 195 for all pipeline systems owned or operated by your company (including subsidiaries). Dues for service and supply members are based on sales to the U.S. petroleum industry, beginning at \$1,600.” [API.org, Accessed 9/16/21]

**The American Petroleum Institute Is Primarily Funded By Its Membership Dues.**

		Business Code		
Program Service Revenue	2a			
	MEMBERSHIP DUES	900099	116,059,135	116,059,135
	CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	900099	78,050,103	78,050,103
	CERTIFICATION FEES	541900	11,357,136	11,357,136
	TRAINING REVENUE	900099	5,920,019	5,920,019
	SUBSCRIPTIONS	900099	142,000	142,000
	f All other program service revenue.		-42,325	-42,325

[American Petroleum Institute 990, Page 10, 2018]

The American Petroleum Institute Membership Dues Are Scaled Up Based On The Size Of The Member Corporations’ Sales. “Oil and natural gas company dues are volumetrically based, so it depends on the size of the company and its involvement in the API segments. Pipeline dues are based on total pipeline throughput in barrel-miles of crude oil, refined petroleum products, and other hazardous liquids as defined in 49 CFR part 195 for all pipeline systems owned or operated by your company (including subsidiaries). Dues for service and supply members are based on sales to the U.S. petroleum industry, beginning at \$1,600.” [API.org, Accessed 9/16/21]

**Common Sense Leadership Fund Was Recently Launched By A Former Big Business Lobbyist And A Republican Political Operative With Ties To Mitch McConnell To Push Advertisements Against The Reconciliation Bill**

**Common Sense Leadership Fund (CSFL) Was Recently Created To Launch Advertisements Opposing The Reconciliation Bill To Swing State Senators**

**August 2021: Common Sense Leadership Fund (CSFL) Was A New Conservative Nonprofit Launching Ads Against Politically Vulnerable Senators Over The Reconciliation Bill.** “A new, conservative nonprofit is launching a multimillion-dollar ad campaign against the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill, targeting vulnerable Democratic lawmakers in New Hampshire and Arizona over the congressional recess, my colleague Paul Kane and I report. Common Sense Leadership Fund is targeting senators with TV and radio ads, along with digital and grass-roots activities, among swing voters it says have concerns about the \$3.5 trillion price tag of the package Democrats intend to pass on a party-line vote.” [Washington Post, [8/18/21](#)]

**CSLF President Kevin McLaughlin Argued The Reconciliation Bill Was A “Liberal Wish List” Of “Special Interest Kickbacks.”** “‘This partisan budget is a liberal wish list of special interest kickbacks that will result in fewer individual choices, less jobs and higher taxes for everyone,’ Kevin McLaughlin, president of Common Sense Leadership Fund and former executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said in a statement. ‘It will increase the cost of living for working class families and force us into socialist price controls that will restrict medication choices and send manufacturing to hostile nations like China, putting us at their mercy.’” [Washington Post, [8/18/21](#)]

**CSLF President Kevin McLaughlin Was The Executive Director Of The NRSC, Worked For The Major Lobbying Firm Cogent Strategies Where He Lobbied For Groups Such As The Business Roundtable, Which Has Stated Opposition To The Reconciliation Bill**

*CSLF President Kevin McLaughlin Most Recently Worked As Executive Director Of The National Republican Senatorial Committee*

**2019 – 2021: CSLF President Kevin McLaughlin Was The Executive Director Of The National Republican Senatorial Committee.** “‘This partisan budget is a liberal wish list of special interest kickbacks that will result in fewer individual choices, less jobs and higher taxes for everyone,’ Kevin McLaughlin, president of Common Sense Leadership Fund and former executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said in a statement.” [Washington Post, [8/18/21](#)]

- **McLaughlin’s LinkedIn Lists Him As The Executive Director Of The NRSC From January 2019 To January 2021.**

## Experience



### Executive Director

National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC)

Jan 2019 – Jan 2021 · 2 yrs 1 mo

Washington D.C. Metro Area

[LinkedIn – Kevin McLaughlin, accessed [9/14/21](#)]

**McLaughlin’s LinkedIn Listed Him As A Managing Director Of A “Bipartisan Public Affairs Firm” From January 2017 To January 2019.**



**Kevin McLaughlin**

Executive Director at National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC)



**Managing Director**

Bipartisan Public Affairs Firm

Jan 2017 – Jan 2019 · 2 yrs 1 mo

Washington D.C. Metro Area

[LinkedIn – Kevin McLaughlin, accessed [9/14/21](#)]

- **Cogent Strategies Described Itself As A “Bipartisan Team Of Solution Finders, Consensus Builders, Policy Wonks[.]”** “We are a bipartisan team of solution finders, consensus builders, policy wonks, data drivers, political navigators, debate shapers and policy movers.” [Cogent Strategies, accessed [9/14/21](#)]
- **September 2020: Kevin McLaughlin Was Described As An Alumni Of Cogent Strategies By Meridian International.** “In addition to Cogent’s team of veteran political strategists, Meridian was delighted to welcome Cogent alum, Kevin McLaughlin, Executive Director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, who enthusiastically discussed the Republicans’ path forward in retaining the Senate majority.” [Meridian International – Press Release, [9/25/20](#)]

**Meridian International Was A “Nonpartisan, Nonprofit Diplomacy Center.”** “Meridian is a nonpartisan, nonprofit diplomacy center that connects leaders through culture and collaboration to drive solutions for global challenges. Founded 60 years ago, we’ve equipped thousands of leaders with the networks, insights and cultural context essential for non-partisan work on shared issues.” [Meridian International – “Who We Are,” accessed [9/14/21](#)]

*Mitch McConnell’s Former Campaign Manager, Kevin Golden, Also Sat On The Leadership Of The CSLF*

**Senator Mitch McConnell’s Former Campaign Manager, Kevin Golden, Was On The Leadership Of The CSLF.** “The Common Sense Leadership Fund is led by Kevin McLaughlin, former executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee; Lester Williamson, a former NRSC finance director; and Kevin Golden, a former campaign manager for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.” [WMUR, [8/25/21](#)]

**Golden Was Mitch McConnell’s Campaign Manager In The 2020 Cycle.** “McConnell Senate Committee campaign manager Kevin Golden today released the following statement regarding Amy McGrath’s refusal to stop airing false political advertising during the coronavirus outbreak[.]” [Team Mitch – Press Release, [3/21/20](#)]

**Through Cogent Strategies In 2017, CSLF Head McLaughlin Worked As A Lobbyist For Business Roundtable...**

**December 2017: Cogent Strategies Announced Its First Clients, Including Business Roundtable.** “Cogent Strategies, the new lobbying shop started last month by Kimberley Fritts, the longtime chief executive of the Podesta Group, has signed its first clients. [...] The new clients include the Business Roundtable, Enterprise Holdings, Gramercy Funds Management, the Independent Film & Television Alliance, One Concern, Pearl Mobile DTV Company LLC, Shaw Industries Group, the South Carolina Ports Authority, SPIE and the Optical Society.” [Politico, [12/18/17](#)]

**Q4 2017: McLaughlin Was Listed As A Lobbyist For Business Roundtable Through Cogent Strategies.** [Senate Lobbyist Database – Cogent Strategies LLC for Business Roundtable Q4 2017, [1/22/18](#)]

## **... Business Roundtable, A Trade Group For Top CEOs For Companies With Over \$9 Trillion In Revenue, Opposed The Reconciliation Bill's Tax Increase On Corporations And Was Linked To Financing Of Advertisements Against The Bill**

**Business Roundtable “Exclusively Represents Chief Executive Officers” Of America’s Largest Companies, Having More Than 20 Million Employees And \$9 Trillion In Revenue.** “Business Roundtable exclusively represents chief executive officers (CEOs) of America’s leading companies. These CEO members lead companies with 20 million employees and more than \$9 trillion in annual revenues.” [Business Roundtable – About Us, accessed [9/15/21](#)]

**Business Roundtable: Tax Increase On Corporations In Reconciliation Bill Would “Harm All Americans.”** ““Business Roundtable is deeply concerned by the revenue measures released by Ways and Means Democrats to fund reconciliation legislation,’ said Business Roundtable President & CEO Joshua Bolten. [...] This proposal would result in a tax increase on America’s employers of nearly \$1 trillion, nearly three times the net tax cut businesses received from the 2017 tax reforms, hurting American job creators with the second highest tax rate in the developed world. [...] Make no mistake, these policies are a step backward for the U.S. economy that will harm all Americans—not just corporations and the wealthy.[.]” [Business Roundtable – Press Release, [9/13/21](#)]

**Business Roundtable Was Listed As One Of The Opponents Of The \$3.5 Trillion Economic Plan, Saying They Intended To Fight Corporate Tax Increases And Spending.** “A torrent of political groups representing some of the country’s most influential corporations — including ExxonMobil, Pfizer and the Walt Disney Company — are laying the groundwork for a lobbying blitz to stop Congress from enacting significant swaths of President Biden’s \$3.5 trillion economic agenda. [...] Other opponents include the Business Roundtable, whose board counts the chief executives from Apple and Walmart. The group similarly is preparing to fight corporate tax increases, which Democrats hope will fund their vast new spending.” [Washington Post, [8/31/21](#)]

## **CSLF Head McLaughlin Also Lobbied For Walmart, An Opponent Of The Reconciliation Bill Linked To Funding Opposition**

**Walmart Was Listed As One Of The Opponents Of The \$3.5 Trillion Economic Plan.** “A torrent of political groups representing some of the country’s most influential corporations — including ExxonMobil, Pfizer and the Walt Disney Company — are laying the groundwork for a lobbying blitz to stop Congress from enacting significant swaths of President Biden’s \$3.5 trillion economic agenda. [...] Other opponents include the Business Roundtable, whose board counts the chief executives from Apple and Walmart. The group similarly is preparing to fight corporate tax increases, which Democrats hope will fund their vast new spending.” [Washington Post, [8/31/21](#)]

**Q2 2017: McLaughlin Was Listed As A Lobbyist Representing Wal-Mart, Specifically On Tax Policy.** For the specific lobbying issues portion of the registration, the issue given was “Corporate tax reform. H.R.2814 - Corporate Responsibility and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2017[.]” [Senate Lobbyist Database – Podesta Group, Inc. for Walmart Q2 2017, [7/20/17](#)]



## **60 Plus Association – Which Is Accused Of Having Ties To The Pharmaceutical Industry And Had Previously Supported Turning Medicare Into A Voucher Program - Warned Of Medicare “Cuts” In New Ad Campaign Against Reconciliation Bill**

### **60 Plus Association Was A Seniors Organization Presenting Itself As A Conservative Alternative To The AARP, Linked To The Koch Brothers Network And Funded By A Few Large, Anonymous Contributions**

**60 Plus Association, Viewed As A Conservative Alternative To The AARP, Was Founded In 1992 By A Former Republican Senate Staffer.** “The 60 Plus Association was founded in 1992 and describes itself as ‘a non-partisan seniors advocacy group with a free enterprise, less government, less taxes approach.’ It claims that it is ‘often viewed as the conservative alternative to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).’ Its founder and chairman is James L. Martin, a one-time journalist and former Republican operative who was chief of staff to the late Republican Sen. Edward J. Gurney of Florida in the late 1960s.” [Factcheck.org, [4/4/14](#)]

**Washington Post: 60 Plus Association Was Part Of A Coalition “Backed By A Donor Network Organized By Charles And David Koch.”** “Also opposing the bankruptcy option is the 60 Plus Association, a seniors advocacy group that casts itself a conservative alternative to the AARP. The group’s national spokesman is the 1950s pop singer Pat Boone, and it was part of a coalition of conservative groups that collectively raised at least \$407 million in the 2012 elections, backed by a donor network organized by Charles and David Koch, according to a 2014 Washington Post and Center for Responsive Politics analysis.” [Washington Post, [7/2/15](#)]

**New York Times, 2015: Most Of 60 Plus Association’s funding Came From “A Few Large, Anonymous Contributions.”** “And while 60 Plus claims to represent millions of seniors, most of the group’s revenue comes from a few large, anonymous contributions, according to its most recent tax return.” [New York Times, [12/20/15](#)]

### **60 Plus Association Joined The “Conservatives For Property Rights” Coalition In Opposition Of Reconciliation Bill**

**60 Plus Association Joined With Other Groups Under The Banner Of “Conservatives For Property Rights” To Oppose The Proposed Reconciliation Bill.** “Conservatives for Property Rights, a coalition of public policy organizations concerned with preserving and protecting private property rights with respect to all forms of property, strongly opposes the FY 2022 Budget Resolution. We urge you to vote ‘no’ on it. [...] James L. Martin[,] Founder/Chairman[,] 60 Plus Association[;] Saulius ‘Saul’ Anuzis[,] President[,] 60 Plus Association[.]” [60 Plus Association – Press Release, accessed [9/15/21](#)]

### **60 Plus Association Was A 501(c)(4) That Was Not Required To Disclose Contributions – But Was Long Speculated To Be Connected To The Pharmaceutical Industry, Including By The AARP**

**60 Plus Association Was A 501(c)(4) Organization Not Required To Disclose Contributions.** “As a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization, 60 Plus is not required to disclose the sources of its funding, and it does not.” [FactCheck.org, [4/4/14](#)]

**2003: The American Association Of Retired People (AARP) Accused The 60 Plus Association Of Being A “Front” Group, Claiming To Represent Seniors Interests While Pushing Industry-Friendly Messages.**

“The giant US seniors group AARP, which has 35 million members aged over 50, has accused the pharmaceutical industry of funding ‘front’ groups that purport to represent older Americans but instead push industry friendly political messages. An investigation by the AARP Bulletin has discovered that three key organisations, the United Seniors Association, the Seniors Coalition, and the 60 Plus Association, have all received substantial contributions in recent years from the drug industry. ‘When the pharmaceutical industry speaks these days, many Americans may not be able to recognize its voice. That’s because the industry often uses ‘front groups’ that work to advance its agenda under the veil of other interests,’ says the article.” [British Medical Journal, [2/15/03](#)]

**Slate, 2010: 60 Plus Was Spending Upwards Of \$6 Million On Ads With No Indication Of Funding Sources, Leading To Speculation Of Support From The Drug Industry.** “The problem facing Democrats wasn’t just this huge new influx of enemy cash. It was also that they had no idea where 60 Plus was getting that money from. (As a 501(c)4 organization, 60-Plus does not have to disclose its donors and only needs to detail where money has come from in annual 990 forms.) In 2006 and 2007, it spent \$1.2 million and \$1.9 million. Now it’s dumping \$6 million on ads? [...] Democrats don’t buy it. Some are convinced that 60 Plus’s support comes from the drug industry. Pharma representatives deny that flat-out—the rumor exists because Pharma gave the group money in 2002, but it hasn’t written a check since then. That only deepens the mystery, because the group’s tax forms show little evidence of campaigns to tap millions of people for funds.” [Slate, [10/7/10](#)]

**The 60 Plus Association Was Linked To A Web Of Funding Within The Koch Brothers Network, Which Previously Worked Against The Affordable Care Act, By Washington Post**

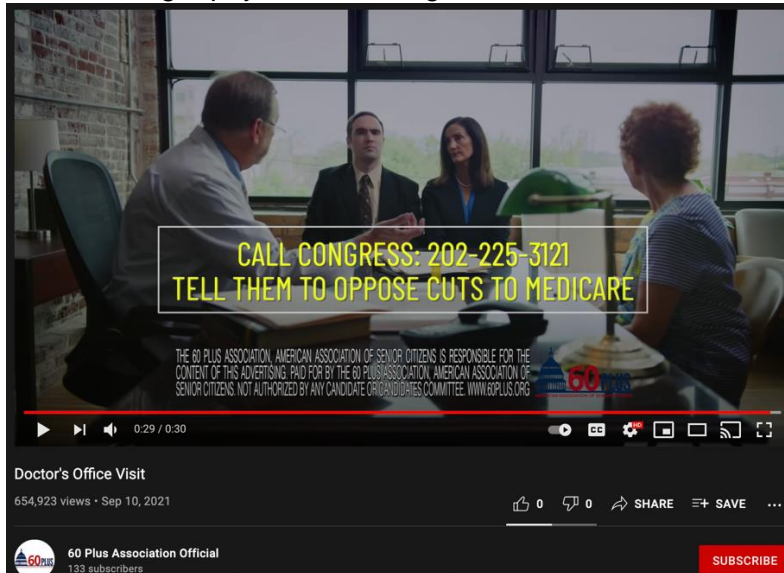
**Washington Post, 2012: 60 Plus Association Was Linked To A Web Of Groups Operating Under The Umbrella Of Charles And David Koch.** “The Washington Post and the Center for Responsive Politics identified a coalition of allied conservative groups active in the 2012 elections that together raised at least \$407 million, backed by a donor network organized by the industrialists Charles and David Koch. Most of the funds originated with two groups, the Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce and TC4 Trust, both of which routed some of the money through a Phoenix-based nonprofit group called the Center to Protect Patient Rights (CPPR). The makeup of the coalition may change going forward, but in 2012 the network consisted of: [...] The 60 Plus Association, which casts itself as a conservative alternative to AARP. The group reported spending \$4.6 million on ads against Obama and House Democrats in 2012.” [Washington Post, [1/5/14](#)]

**March 2021: Koch Network Organizations Such As Americans For Prosperity Were Reported To Have Been Pushing A Health-Care Agenda To Counter The Biden Administration.** “The political advocacy group backed by billionaire Charles Koch is pushing forward with its own health-care agenda as President Joe Biden’s administration looks to build on the Affordable Care Act. Americans for Prosperity, which is part of the libertarian Koch network, told CNBC it is engaging with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to gain support for its plan.” [CNBC, [3/9/21](#)]

- **Americans For Prosperity “Spent Millions During President Barack Obama’s Administration To Take On The Affordable Care Act.”** “The political advocacy group backed by billionaire Charles Koch is pushing forward with its own health-care agenda as President Joe Biden’s administration looks to build on the Affordable Care Act. [...] AFP, along with other center-right organizations, spent millions during former President Barack Obama’s administration to take on Obamacare.” [CNBC, [3/9/21](#)]
- **CNBC Headline: “Koch Network Pushes Private-Sector Health-Care Agenda To Counter Biden’s Public Option”** [CNBC, [3/9/21](#)]

## **60 Plus Advertisement Warned Of “Cuts” To Medicare From Allowing Drug Price Negotiation – Yet 60 Plus Had Previously Called For Turning Medicare Into A Voucher Program, And Had Endorsed Privatization Of Social Security**

In The Advertisement “Doctor’s Office Visit,” The Viewer Is Encouraged To Call Congress And “Tell Them Oppose Cuts To Medicare.” In the ad, actor playing a doctor claims “Insurance companies and Washington bureaucrats. These guys are working together to swipe \$500 billion from Medicare to pay for Pelosi and Schumer’s out of control spending spree. They’re calling it Medicare negotiation, but really, it’s just a way to cut your benefits and no longer pay for life-saving medicines.”



[YouTube – 60 Plus Association Official, [9/10/21](#)] (VIDEO)

**2011: 60 Plus Association, Through Chairman Jim Martin, Supported The Paul Ryan Budget, Calling The Proposals “Brave.”** “A breath of reality—not rhetoric—is how I describe Congressman Paul Ryan’s budget blueprint to slash \$6.2 trillion in deficit spending over the next ten years, reform entitlements to keep them solvent, and put our nation on a path to balanced budgets. [...] ‘Democrats attacked Congressman Ryan’s brave proposals in 2010, and made a huge push in the media to turn public sentiment back to their favor. The word ‘draconian’ comes to mind. It was overused by Democrats who tried to demonize spending cuts and to scare seniors as they do every reelection cycle. It no longer works. The result is they suffered a historic defeat, demonstrating that Americans prefer to cut spending and put our nation on a path to economic growth and balanced budgets.” [60 Plus Association – Press Release, [4/7/11](#)]

**2011, The Atlantic HEADLINE: “Paul Ryan's Budget Gamble: Ending Medicare As We Know It”** [The Atlantic, [4/4/11](#)]

- **Ryan’s Budget Roadmap Turned Medicare Into A Voucher Program With Caps On Medical Assistance, As Well As Block Granting Medicaid.** “Rescued from the shadows, Ryan’s controversial roadmap is now the template for the GOP’s 2012 budget proposal -- the most controversial and comprehensive overhaul of the U.S. entitlement system proposed by a major party in decades. [The plan](#) would turn Medicare into a voucher system that would cap medical assistance for most seniors at \$15,000. It would take the federal reins off Medicaid and turn the low-income health care program into a block grant to states. If it mimics Ryan’s other ideas, it would create an option to privatize Social Security and dramatically cut taxes for the rich.” [The Atlantic, [4/4/11](#)]

**60 Plus President Jim Martin Supported President Bush's Efforts At Privatizing Social Security And Ran Polls In Its Favor.** "A series of polls by a national senior citizen organization 'proves politicians are to blame' for the myth that Social Security is the 'third rail of politics — touch it and you die.' [...] When asked, 'Should Congress allow the citizens the option of placing part or all of their social security into a private system,' 52% responded yes, 17% opposed it and 31% were undecided. Asked if 'Congress should consider reducing the Social Security payroll tax by the amount not needed to pay current benefits (the trust fund surplus) and require that these savings be placed in an Individual Social Security Retirement Accounts (ISSRA),' 59% answered favorably, 12.5% were against and 28.5% were undecided. [...] Martin said 60 Plus became the first seniors' group 10 years ago to endorse reform, following the lead of Chile and other countries 'proof positive that the system can be improved if politics will not rear its partisan head.' Martin lauded President Bush for his strong leadership on the issue, saying 'promises made, promises kept' best summarizes his thoughts. 'The President ran on Social Security reform and he is now delivering, the mark of a true leader,' Martin said." [60 Plus – Press Release (date obtained via [Internet Archive](#)), 2/2/05]

## **America First Policy Institute, Which Is Leading A \$10 Million Conservative Advertising Coalition Opposed To The Reconciliation Package, Has Numerous Connections To The Former Trump Administration And Fossil Fuel Companies**

### **The America First Policy Institute Is Spearheading A \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package In Opposition To The Bill's Corporate Tax Increases**

**The America First Policy Institute Is Spearheading A \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package.** "A new conservative coalition led by former Trump administration advisers plans to launch an up to \$10 million campaign to attack President Biden's economic package as it advances through Congress. The effort, set to launch Friday, is being spearheaded by the America First Policy Institute founded earlier this year by former Trump officials, as well as conservative organizations such as the Conservative Partnership Institute, the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and FreedomWorks." [Washington Post, [9/16/21](#)]

### **The Coalition Is Primarily Concerned With Tax Hikes Against The Wealthy And Corporations.**

"Conservative alarm about Biden's proposed tax hikes — which some nonpartisan estimates have found overwhelmingly target the rich and large corporations — has intensified as they move toward passage. Democrats face a difficult legislative path in holding together virtually all of their members in both the House and Senate to approve a plan to spend approximately \$3.5 trillion over 10 years on safety net expansions, education programs, and funding to mitigate climate change" [Washington Post, [9/16/21](#)]

### **Trump's Former Chief Domestic Policy Adviser Brooke Rollins Launched Pro-Trump Nonprofit The America First Policy Institute (AFPI), With \$20 Million From What She Called "Really, Really Excited" Donors And 35 Staff Members**

**April 13, 2021: The America First Policy Institute (AFPI), "By Far The Largest Pro-Trump Outside Group" Launched With 35 People And A \$20 Million Budget.** "A constellation of Trump administration stars today will launch the [America First Policy Institute](#), a 35-person nonprofit group with a first-year budget of \$20 million and the mission of perpetuating former President Trump's populist policies." [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

- **AFPI Was Hoping To Double Its Budget To \$40 Million In 2022.** "Rollins said she hopes the budget will double to \$40 million in 2022." [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

- **Two Trump Alumni Said AFPI Was “By Far The Largest Pro-Trump Outside Group.”** “Two top Trump alumni tell me AFPI is by far the largest pro-Trump outside group, besides Trump's own Florida-based machine.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

**AFPI’s President Was Trump’s Domestic Policy Council Director Brooke Rollins, Who Met With Trump A Week Prior To The Launch To “Update Him On Plans For The Group.”** “The president and CEO is Brooke Rollins, a Texan who was head of Trump's Domestic Policy Council. Rollins, who met with Trump at Mar-a-Lago last week to update him on plans for the group, told me the group wants to be "dreamers and ... risk-takers.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

- **Jared Kushner Pushed Rollins To Lead The Domestic Policy Council As Early As Late 2018.** “Kushner previously suggested Rollins for the DPC job in late 2018, before the job ultimately went to Grogan.” [Politico, [05/17/20](#)]
- **Rollins Was Director Of The Office Of American Innovation, A “Kushner-Launched Office.”** “Rollins also serves as director of the Office of American Innovation, a Kushner-launched office that handles various policy issues. Rollins and two others in that office, Ja’Ron Smith and Theo Wold, were similarly considered for the DPC job. All three worked with Kushner on criminal justice reform and his long-stalled push to overhaul the immigration system.” [Politico, [05/17/20](#)]

**Rollins Recruited Former Trump White House Staffers, Trump Campaign Staffers, And Capitol Hill Staffers For The Group.** “Rollins said she has drawn staffers from the White House, the Trump campaign and Capitol Hill. She added that the outfit, which is also spearheaded by former Trump adviser Larry Kudlow, will focus on an array of policy issues that were central to the Trump White House, including school choice, energy independence and immigration reform.” [Politico, [03/03/21](#)]

**Currently Based In Arlington, Virginia, AFPI Was Planning To Move To A Large Office Near The U.S. Capitol “As A Symbol That It’ll Fight To Be A Muscular, Well-Heeled Center Of The Future Of Conservatism.”** “In the coming months, the group plans to take a large office space near the U.S. Capitol as a symbol that it'll fight to be a muscular, well-heeled center of the future of conservatism.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

- **AFPI Will Also Have Offices In Fort Worth, Miami, And New York.** “AFPI — now based in the Crystal City area of Arlington, Virginia — has been in the planning stages [since December](#). The group will also have offices in Fort Worth, where Rollins remains based, Miami and New York. Rollins plans to move the group to Washington to be closer to the action.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

**America First Policy Institute Was Registered In Texas On November 20, 2020:**

AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE	
Texas Taxpayer Number	32076749103
Mailing Address	206 E 9TH ST STE 1300 AUSTIN, TX 78701-4411
 Right to Transact Business in Texas	ACTIVE
State of Formation	TX
Effective SOS Registration Date	11/20/2020
Texas SOS File Number	0803838781
Registered Agent Name	CAPITOL CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.
Registered Office Street Address	206 E. 9TH ST., STE. 1300 AUSTIN, TX 78701

## **AFPI Recruited Notable Trump Administration Alumni Including Current Fossil Fuel Executive Rick Perry**

**Rollins Claimed That America First Policy Institute, “Also Spearheaded By Former Trump Adviser Larry Kudlow,” Recruited Former Trump White House Staffers, Trump Campaign Staffers, And Capitol Hill Staffers.** “Rollins said she has drawn staffers from the White House, the Trump campaign and Capitol Hill. She added that the outfit, which is also spearheaded by former Trump adviser Larry Kudlow, will focus on an array of policy issues that were central to the Trump White House, including school choice, energy independence and immigration reform.” [Politico, [03/03/21](#)]

- **AFPI’s Board Chair Is Linda McMahon, The “Pro-Wrestling Entrepreneur” And Former Administrator Of Trump’s Small Business Administration.** “The board chair is Linda McMahon, who was a member of Trump’s Cabinet as the administrator of the Small Business Administration, after winning fame as a pro-wrestling entrepreneur.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]
- **AFPI’s Vice Chair Is Former Trump Economic Adviser And Fox Business Host Larry Kudlow.** “The vice chair is Larry Kudlow, Trump’s economic adviser, a longtime CNBC personality who’s now a Fox Business host.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]
- **Jared Kushner And Ivanka Trump Are Reportedly “Informal Advisers.”** “I’m told that Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump are informal advisers.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

**AFPI’s “20 Policy Areas” Were Run By Notable Trump Alumni Like Former Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Former Director Of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, And Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi.** “The group includes 20 policy areas, many run by Trump alumni:

- Former Energy Secretary Rick Perry heads the Center for Energy Independence.
- National security will be co-chaired by John Ratcliffe, Trump’s last director of national intelligence, and retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, who was national security adviser to Vice President Pence.
- Jack Brewer, a former NFL player and advisory board member of Black Voices for Trump, heads the Center for Opportunity Now, focused on an ‘underserved community agenda.’
- Paula White-Cain, a Trump spiritual adviser, will head a Center for American Values, focused on religious freedom and the Second Amendment.
- Former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi will head a law and justice center.
- Scott Turner will head the Center for Education Opportunity.” [Axios, [04/13/21](#)]

**Rick Perry Sits On The Board Of Directors Of Fossil Fuel Company Energy Transfer Partners.** “Mr. Perry was appointed to the Board of Directors of our general partner in January 2020. He formerly served as U.S. Secretary of Energy from March 2017 until December 2019. Prior to that, he served as the Governor of the State of Texas from 2000 until January 2015. Mr. Perry served as Lieutenant Governor of Texas from 1998 to 2000, and as Agriculture Commissioner from 1991 to 1998. Prior to 1991, he also served in the Texas House of Representatives. Mr. Perry previously served on the Board of Directors of Energy Transfer Operating, L.P. (formerly Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.) from February 2015 until December 2016.” [Energy Transfer Partners, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

- **Energy Transfer Partners Has A Large Fossil Fuel Portfolio And Provides Transportation, Storage, And Terminalling Services For Fossil Fuels.** “We are proud to have one of America’s largest energy portfolios with assets covering 38 states and Canada, and international offices in Calgary and Beijing. Our core operations include transportation, storage and terminalling for natural gas, crude oil, NGLs, refined products and liquid natural gas.” [Energy Transfer Partners, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

## **Rollins' Husband Is President And Board Member Of HKN Energy Ltd., An Oil Company Founded By The Son Of Late Former Billionaire Presidential Candidate Ross Perot That "Finagled Early Access" To The Kurdish Region Of Northern Iraq**

**Rollins' Husband Mark Is "An Executive In The Energy Business."** "Rollins and her husband Mark, an executive in the energy business, live in Fort Worth with their four young children— Luke, Jake, Anna, and Lillian." [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [03/10/21](#)]

**Mark Rollins, Who Identifies Himself As A President At HKN Energy Ltd. On His Facebook Profile, Features Brooke Rollins In His Profile Picture:**



[Facebook Photo by Mark Rollins, [10/16/18](#)]

[TexasMonthly, [02/13/13](#)]

So fun to see you and Brooke - y'all look great!

[Comment on Facebook Photo by Mark Rollins, [10/16/18](#)]



President at HKN Energy Ltd and Partner/Founder at Hillwood International Energy

Past: KPMG Consulting and Arthur Andersen LLP

[Facebook Profile for Mark Rollins, accessed [03/10/21](#)]

**HKN Energy Ltd's Site Listed Mark Rollins As A President And Board Member, As Of March 1, 2021.**

"Rollins serves as President of HKN Energy, for which he serves as a board member." [HKN Energy Ltd., accessed [03/10/21](#)]

**HKN Energy, Founded In 2007 By Ross Perot, Jr., Is An Energy Firm With "Oil Exploration And Production Operations In The Kurdistan Region Of Iraq (KRI)."** "Founded in 2007 by Ross Perot Jr., HKN Energy Ltd. is a privately held, independent energy company with oil exploration and production operations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)." [HKN Energy Ltd., accessed [03/10/21](#)]

- **HKN Has "Seven Wells Through Three Production Facilities" And Targets Producing Over 50,000 Barrels Of Oil Per Day.** "Currently, HKN produces from seven wells through three production facilities in two separate fields, and targets production reaching over 50,000 BOPD with the addition of a new 25k BOPD facility currently under construction." [HKN Energy Ltd., accessed [03/10/21](#)]
- **HKN's Ross Perot Jr. "Finagled Early Access To Oil Prospects In The Kurdish Region Of Northern Iraq" And Has Worked To "Develop Big Discoveries."** "Perot finagled early access to oil

prospects in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, where his HKN Energy is now working to develop big discoveries.” [Forbes, [09/04/13](#)]

**Ross Perot Jr. Is The Son Of The Late Ross Perot, The Billionaire Who Ran For President In 1992 And 1996.** “Lifting off from his helipad atop the roof of the W Hotel in Dallas, H. Ross Perot Jr. -- the 54-year-old son of the cantankerous octogenarian billionaire who upended American politics in the 1990s --has his hands on the stick and his eyes on the horizon as he looks toward his empire. [...]

- **Ross Perot, Who Ran For President In 1992 And 1996, Died In July 2019.** “Ross Perot, the wiry Texas gadfly who made a fortune in computer services, amazed the nation with audacious paramilitary missions to Vietnam and Iran, and ran for president in 1992 and 1996 with populist talk of restoring Norman Rockwell’s America, died on Tuesday at his home in Dallas. He was 89.” [The New York Times, [07/09/19](#)]

## **Texas Public Policy Foundation, A Member Of The Save America Coalition That Is Running Ads Against The Reconciliation Package, Has Longstanding Ties To The Fossil Fuel Industry**

### **Texas Public Policy Foundation Is A Member Of The Save America Coalition Running Ads Against The Reconciliation Package**

**The Texas Public Policy Foundation Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package.** “A new conservative coalition led by former Trump administration advisers plans to launch an up to \$10 million campaign to attack President Biden’s economic package as it advances through Congress. The effort, set to launch Friday, is being spearheaded by the America First Policy Institute founded earlier this year by former Trump officials, as well as conservative organizations such as the Conservative Partnership Institute, the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and FreedomWorks.” [Washington Post, [9/16/21](#)]

**The CEO Of The Texas Public Policy Foundation Said “This Coalition Represents Our Best Chance To Fight Back” Against Reconciliation.** “This coalition represents our best chance to fight back against these harmful policies and ensure that American families and businesses are not further impacted by runaway federal spending,’ stated Kevin Roberts, CEO of Texas Public Policy Foundation.” [AFPI.org, [9/17/21](#)]

### **The Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) Is A “Major Force” In The Conservative Movement That Was Bankrolled By The Koch Network And Massive Oil Corporations And Staffed By Anti-Climate Former Trump Officials**

**America First Policy Institute’s Brooke Rollins Was Previously President And CEO Of The Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF), A “Conservative Think Tank Based In Austin.”** “We’re ‘taking all those ideas that we built out over the last four years and leaning into them,’ said Rollins, who prior to joining the White House oversaw the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank based in Austin.” [Politico, [03/03/21](#)]

- **Rollins Was The President And CEO Of The Texas Public Policy Foundation, As Of August 2018.** [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [03/10/21](#)]
- **Rollins Began Her Tenure As TPPF’s CEO In 2003.** “Rollins was CEO of TPPF from 2003 until last year, when she went to work in the White House.” [E&E News, [01/07/19](#)]

**As Of January 2019, TPPF Had “At Least Eight Alumni Land In The Trump White House, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission And Department Of The Interior,” Who Rejected Climate Science, Promoted The Fossil Fuel Industry, And Undermined Renewable Energy Subsidies.** “A conservative think



tank located in the heart of oil country has a big influence on President Trump's environmental policy. The Texas Public Policy Foundation has seen at least eight alumni land in the White House, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Department of the Interior. The officials overwhelmingly reject climate science, promote more fossil fuel consumption and have run campaigns downplaying the value of renewable energy subsidies." [E&E News, [01/07/19](#)]

**Under Rollins, TPPF Became A “Major Force In The National Conservative And Liberty Movements,” Focusing On Education, Taxes, Tort Reform, Criminal Justice, Health Care, Immigration, And Other Issues.** “Under Rollins’ leadership, the Foundation has grown from a small policy shop with fewer than a half-dozen employees in San Antonio, Texas, to a major force in the national conservative and liberty movements, with nearly 100 employees and a new headquarters just two blocks from the Texas State Capitol in Austin. In that period, the Foundation has driven the state and national conversations on topics such as education, taxes, tort reform, criminal justice, health care, immigration, and beyond.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [03/10/21](#)]

**TPPF Was Among The Charles Koch Foundation’s Biggest Grantees In 2017, Along With Other Funding From Climate Deniers And Opponents Of Environmental Regulations.** “The foundation receives funding from groups that question climate science or push for weaker environmental rules. The Charles Koch Foundation donated almost \$2 million to the group in 2017, according to recent tax filings. That was one of the Koch foundation's biggest contributions. It also marked a sharp increase over Koch's 2016 contribution of \$612,250. In 2015, the foundation gave the Texas group \$175,375.” [E&E News, [01/07/19](#)]

**Like Rollins’ New America First Policy Institute, TPPF Did Not Have To Disclose Its Donors—But A 2010 Document Showed That Its Biggest Funders Were The Koch Network, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, And ConocoPhillips.** “It also has the endorsement of the oil and gas industry. While TPPF does not disclose its funders, a 2010 funding list accidentally posted to GuideStar USA Inc. and first revealed by the *Texas Observer* provides a glimpse. The filings show the largest sums came from the Koch network, but other energy companies, including Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips, also contributed.” [E&E News, [01/07/19](#)]

- **The Primary Goal Of The Koch Brothers’ Right Wing Machines Was To Protect Fossil Fuel Profits At All Costs And To Ensure Consumption Of Fossil Fuels Did Not Decrease.** “Others have chronicled the cap-and-trade fight well, but Leonard penetrates the inner sanctum of the Kochs’ lobbying machine, showing that, from the start, even when other parts of the company could have benefitted from an embrace of alternative energy, Koch Industries regarded any compromise that might reduce fossil-fuel consumption as unacceptable. Protecting its fossil-fuel profits was, and remains, the company’s top political priority. Leonard shows that the Kochs, to achieve this end, worked to hijack the Tea Party movement and, eventually, the Republican Party itself.” [The New Yorker, [8/13/19](#)]

### **TPPF Had A “Long Relationship” With Fossil-Fuel-Friendly Texas Governor And Trump Energy Secretary Rick Perry, For Whom Rollins Was Policy Director And Deputy General Counsel While He Was Governor**

**Rollins Was Previously Former Texas Governor Rick Perry’s (R-TX) Policy Director And Deputy General Counsel.** “Before joining the Foundation, Rollins served as Governor Rick Perry’s Deputy General Counsel, and later as his Policy Director.” [Texas Public Policy Foundation, accessed [03/10/21](#)]

- **The Trump Administration Touted Rick Perry’s Record Of Advancing The Interests Of The Fossil Fuel Industry When it Announced His Nomination To Be Energy Secretary.** “The US president-elect, Donald Trump, has formally named the former Texas governor Rick Perry to lead the Department of Energy, adding to the list of oil-drilling advocates sceptical about climate change filling out his cabinet selections. [...] In a statement from Trump’s transition team, the president-elect cited Perry’s tenure leading Texas, a leading oil-producing state and the nation’s second most populous one, from 2000 until 2015.” [The Guardian, [12/14/16](#)]

- **Rick Perry Was On The Board Of Energy Transfer Partners, The Company Behind The Controversial Dakota Access Pipeline, At The Time Of His Nomination.** “He is also on the board of directors for Energy Transfer Partners, the company building the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, which has been stalled by protests by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and supporters.” [The Guardian, [12/14/16](#)]
- **Perry Has Since Returned To The Board Of Energy Transfer Partners.** “Mr. Perry was appointed to the Board of Directors of our general partner in January 2020. He formerly served as U.S. Secretary of Energy from March 2017 until December 2019. Prior to that, he served as the Governor of the State of Texas from 2000 until January 2015. Mr. Perry served as Lieutenant Governor of Texas from 1998 to 2000, and as Agriculture Commissioner from 1991 to 1998. Prior to 1991, he also served in the Texas House of Representatives. Mr. Perry previously served on the Board of Directors of Energy Transfer Operating, L.P. (formerly Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.) from February 2015 until December 2016.” [Energy Transfer Partners, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

**The TPPF Had A “Long Relationship” With Trump Energy Secretary Rick Perry And “Helped Write Policy Proposals For Him” While He Was Governor Of Texas.** “The group has a long relationship with Energy Secretary Rick Perry, dating back to his time as Texas governor, when it helped write policy proposals for him.” [E&E News, [01/07/19](#)]

**Known Koch Network And Big Tobacco Advocate FreedomWorks, Which Also Coordinated With The Trump Administration To Organize Anti-Lockdown Protests, Is Running Ads To Oppose The Reconciliation Package’s Climate And Tobacco Provisions**

**FreedomWorks Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package And Is Openly Protesting Its Climate, Tobacco, And Pharmaceutical Provisions.**

**FreedomWorks Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package.** “A new conservative coalition led by former Trump administration advisers plans to launch an up to \$10 million campaign to attack President Biden’s economic package as it advances through Congress. The effort, set to launch Friday, is being spearheaded by the America First Policy Institute founded earlier this year by former Trump officials, as well as conservative organizations such as the Conservative Partnership Institute, the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and FreedomWorks.” [Washington Post, [9/16/21](#)]

**FreedomWorks Opposed The Reconciliation Package Because Claiming That It Targets Consumers By Imposing Taxes On Tobacco Products.** “For example, the democrats are going after consumers of tobacco products by raising taxes on cigarettes. Their goal, of course, is not to discourage tobacco consumption, but to pay for their socialist plan. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, this tax hike would raise nearly \$100 billion to pay for duplicate and unnecessary federal government programs.” [FreedomWorks.org, [9/18/21](#)]

**FreedomWorks Opposed The Reconciliation Package For Its Drug Pricing Negotiation Provisions, Which It Claimed Would Increase The Consumer Price Of Prescriptions.** “Most significantly, W&M decided to tuck H.R. 3 into the budget. This bill -- a priority for House Democrats -- would, among other things, require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement price controls on the most common pharmaceuticals. House Democrats are also seeking to expand Obamacare, Medicare, and Medicaid. In spite of federal caps, the result of these provisions is likely to be higher costs for consumers and less innovation in healthcare markets that have driven the improvements in health outcomes for all Americans.” [FreedomWorks.org, [9/16/21](#)]

**FreedomWorks Claimed That Efforts By Congressional Democrats To Boost Climate Policies Would Kill American Jobs, Bowing To Party “Radicals.”** “Despite his campaign promises to govern as a bipartisan unifier, Biden proves once again that the voices with the most sway over his administration are far-left radicals. Biden’s embrace of the CCC is yet another example of Democrats placing their radical ‘environmental justice’ agenda ahead of the needs of hard-working Americans. Biden’s woke climate army doesn’t work to solve the problems that Americans are facing right now; in fact, the CCC only serves to make things worse.” [FreedomWorks, [8/25/21](#)]

## **FreedomWorks Is A Notable Arm Within The Larger Network Of Right Wing Koch-Funded Advocacy Groups, Which Works To Protect The Interests Of Fossil Fuel Companies**

**FreedomWorks Is A Spin Off Of Koch Founded Lobbying Group Citizens For A Sound Economy.** “Stephenson has a passion for libertarian politics stretching back to the 1960s, when he attended seminars featuring “Atlas Shrugged” author Ayn Rand and economist Murray Rothbard, according to those who know him at FreedomWorks. Like Arney, Stephenson was an early supporter of Citizens for a Sound Economy, the conservative lobbying group founded by oil billionaires Charles and David Koch in 1984 that split into FreedomWorks and Americans for Prosperity 20 years later. The Kochs, known for bankrolling a variety of conservative causes, kept control of AFP, while Stephenson and Arney stayed with FreedomWorks.” [Washington Post, [12/25/12](#)]

**FreedomWorks Has Remained A Long Time Ally Of The Koch Brothers, Advancing Right-Wing Causes Alongside The Koch Network.** “Multiple conservative groups that have been longtime allies of the Koch network, such as FreedomWorks and Tea Party Patriots, have started lobbying lawmakers for the economy to reopen. FreedomWorks is aiding protestors, spreading information about rallies and offering tip sheets on how to organize a successful protest.” [Politico, [4/22/20](#)]

**FreedomWorks, As A Key Koch Network Group, Played A Major Role In Mobilizing The Tea Party Movement.** “That rhetoric recalls the decentralized impression of the Tea Party movement, a national network which was mobilized by high-dollar Koch groups Americans for Prosperity and Freedom Works. The brothers also created the first national Tea Party website.” [Salon, [11/24/20](#)]

**FreedomWorks Has Received Large Amounts Of Koch Funding Over Its Lifespan.** “According to the report’s analysis of IRS filings, the State Policy Network and its think tanks’ combined revenue in 2011 topped \$83 million, in large part with funding from conservative money groups like the Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund, which receive large donations from groups tied to the Koch brothers and other prominent conservatives. The State Policy Network’s associate members also include a who’s who of conservative organizations, including ALEC, David Koch’s Americans for Prosperity Foundation, FreedomWorks, Grover Norquist’s Americans for Tax Reform, the Cato Institute and The Heritage Foundation.” [Politico, [11/13/13](#)]

- **In 2010 It Was Reported That FreedomWorks Had Received \$12 Million From Koch Family Foundations Prior To The Tea Party’s Rise.** “The other major sponsor of the Tea Party movement is Dick Arney’s FreedomWorks, which, like Americans for Prosperity, is promoting events in Washington this weekend. Under its original name, Citizens for a Sound Economy, FreedomWorks received \$12 million of its own from Koch family foundations.” [New York Times, [8/29/10](#)]

**FreedomWorks Regularly Publishes Articles Questioning The Existence Of Climate Change And Is A Major Driver Of The Climate Denial Movement.** “FreedomWorks is ‘one of the main political outfits of the conservative movement and an instrumental force within the tea party,’ according to a 2012 article in Mother Jones. In 2009, the investigative magazine also rated FreedomWorks as one of their ‘Dirty Dozen of Climate Change Denial. [...] While FreedomWorks does not have an official statement on climate change, they regularly publish articles on their website questioning the existence of man-made climate change.” [DeSmog, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

- **The Primary Goal Of The Koch Brothers' Right-Wing Machines Was To Protect Fossil Fuel Profits At All Costs And To Ensure Consumption Of Fossil Fuels Did Not Decrease.** “Others have chronicled the cap-and-trade fight well, but Leonard penetrates the inner sanctum of the Kochs’ lobbying machine, showing that, from the start, even when other parts of the company could have benefitted from an embrace of alternative energy, Koch Industries regarded any compromise that might reduce fossil-fuel consumption as unacceptable. Protecting its fossil-fuel profits was, and remains, the company’s top political priority. Leonard shows that the Kochs, to achieve this end, worked to hijack the Tea Party movement and, eventually, the Republican Party itself.” [The New Yorker, [8/13/19](#)]

## **FreedomWorks’ Origins Can Be Traced Back To The Tobacco Industry’s Attempts To Oppose Smoking Regulations**

**FreedomWorks, Under Its Previous Name Citizens For A Sound Economy, Was Funded By Big Tobacco To Push A Pro-Tobacco Agenda.** “In 2002, before the mainstream media widely discussed Tea party politics, Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE), a nonprofit funded in part by cigarette companies since 1987 to support a pro-tobacco political agenda, started its US Tea Party project. Its website stated ‘Our US Tea Party is a national event, hosted continuously online and open to all Americans who feel our taxes are too high and the tax code is too complicated.’” [University Of California San Francisco, [2/08/13](#)]

**FreedomWorks Has Consistently Supported Campaigns Against Tobacco Taxes And Smoking Bans.** “In 2004, CSE split into the Tea Party organizations Americans for Prosperity (AFP) and Freedom Works. Those two groups, say the authors, have since waged campaigns to turn public opinion against tobacco taxes, smoke-free laws and health care reform in general.” [University Of California San Francisco, [2/08/13](#)]

## **FreedomWorks Organized Anti Lockdown Protests In 2020**

**FreedomWorks Organized Anti Lockdown Protests In 2020.** “The groups have tapped their networks to drive up turnout at recent rallies in state capitals, dispatched their lawyers to file lawsuits, and paid for polling and research to undercut the arguments behind restrictions that have closed businesses and limited the movement of most Americans. Among those fighting the orders are FreedomWorks and Tea Party Patriots, which played pivotal roles in the beginning of Tea Party protests starting more than a decade ago. Also involved are a law firm led partly by former Trump White House officials, a network of state-based conservative policy groups, and an ad hoc coalition of conservative leaders known as Save Our Country that has advised the White House on strategies for a tiered reopening of the economy.” [Washington Post, [4/21/20](#)]

**FreedomWorks Coordinated Closely With Stephen Moore And The Trump Administration In Its Anti-Lockdown Efforts.** “Support for the protests features more direct ties to the White House than simply support for Mr. Trump. The administration recently formed an advisory group for reopening the economy that included Stephen Moore, the conservative economics commentator. Mr. Moore had been coordinating with FreedomWorks, the Tea Party Patriots and the American Legislative Exchange Council in a coalition called “Save Our Country,” which was formed to push for a quicker easing of restrictions.” [Washington Post, [4/21/20](#)]

**Conservative Partnership Institute, Which Is Running Ads Against The Reconciliation Package, Is Headed By Trump And Right Wing Think Tank Alumnus Whose Political Careers Were Heavily Funded By The Agribusiness, Finance, And Energy Sectors**

**Conservative Partnership Institute Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package Which Notably Opposed Its Tax Increases.**

**Conservative Partnership Institute Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package.** “A new conservative coalition led by former Trump administration advisers plans to launch an up to \$10 million campaign to attack President Biden’s economic package as it advances through Congress. The effort, set to launch Friday, is being spearheaded by the America First Policy Institute founded earlier this year by former Trump officials, as well as conservative organizations such as the Conservative Partnership Institute, the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and FreedomWorks.” [Washington Post, [9/16/21](#)]

**Conservative Partnership Institute Criticized The Reconciliation Bill For Undoing The Trump Tax Cuts, Which They Said Should “Get Your Blood Moving.”** “The Senate is back this week in a run-up to a considerable series of deadlines, including passage of their \$3.5 trillion reconciliation legislation. Over the weekend, House Democrats circulated a draft plan outlining some of the plan’s \$2.9 trillion in tax hikes, many of which undo the Trump tax plan of four years ago: [...] If that wasn’t enough to get your blood moving today, Congress still needs to come up with a plan to fund the government by September 30, and raise the debt ceiling at the same time.” [CPI.Org, [9/13/21](#)]

## **Conservative Partnership Institute Was Founded By Former Senator, Heritage Foundation President, And Trump Advisor Jim DeMint**

**The Conservative Partnership Institute Was Founded By Former South Carolina Senator And Heritage Foundation President Jim DeMint.** “DeMint represented South Carolina in the U.S. House (1999-2005) and U.S. Senate (2005-2013). Known for policy innovation, he authored leading conservative reforms to health care, education, taxes, and entitlements. [...] DeMint then served as the President of The Heritage Foundation for four years, taking the organization to new heights of influence. Under DeMint’s direction, Heritage played a major role in the Trump transition team, with the policy series “Mandate for Leadership” used as the basis for the President’s first budget and numerous other administration reforms.” [CPI.Org, Accessed [9/20/21](#)]

- **The Heritage Foundation Is Prominently Funded By Large Right Wing Donors Such As The Mercer Family** “And yet Heritage and Trump were uniquely positioned to help each other. Much like Trump’s, Heritage’s constituency is equal parts donor class and populist base. Its \$80 million annual budget depends on six-figure donations from rich Republicans like Rebekah Mercer, whose family foundation has reportedly given Heritage \$500,000 a year since 2013. [New York Times, [6/20/18](#)]
- **The Heritage Foundation Worked Closely With The Koch Network To Advance Their Agenda Throughout The Nation.** “CMD alleges that rather than a loose coalition of locally focused think tanks, SPN’s organizations are using “dark money” — a term for money donated for elections without disclosing its source — from conservative and corporate donors like the Koch brothers to push a cookie-cutter conservative agenda at the state level. [...] The State Policy Network’s associate members also include a who’s who of conservative organizations, including ALEC, David Koch’s Americans for Prosperity Foundation, FreedomWorks, Grover Norquist’s Americans for Tax Reform, the Cato Institute and The Heritage Foundation.” [Politico, [11/13/13](#)]
- **The Heritage Foundation Has Also Received Notable Funding From The Koch Network Via DonorsTrust And Its Capital Fund.** “Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust. And other recipients of Donors Trust money include the Heritage Foundation, Grover Norquist’s Americans for Tax Reform, the NRA’s Freedom Action Foundation, the Cato Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, the Federalist Society, and the Americans for Prosperity Foundation, chaired (PDF) by none other than David Koch.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

**DeMint Was Ousted As The President Of The Heritage Foundation For Aligning It Too Closely With Donald Trump’s Presential Run, Overtly ‘Politicizing’ The Group.** “Jim DeMint’s ouster from The Heritage Foundation came as a shock to the hundreds of scholars and staffers who’ve seen the organization’s political influence grow thanks to DeMint’s controversial decision to align the leading conservative think tank closely with Donald Trump. But interviews with over a dozen sources at the center of the drama suggest Heritage’s

stewards — particularly DeMint's predecessor, Ed Feulner, and Feulner's sharp-elbowed protégé, Mike Needham — became convinced that DeMint was incapable of renewing the foundation's place as an intellectual wellspring of the conservative movement.” [Politico, [5/02/17](#)]

**DeMint Claims To Have Played A Crucial Role In The Confirmation Of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.** “During DeMint’s tenure, Heritage partnered with the Federalist Society to create a list of possible Supreme Court judicial nominations that culminated in the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch. President Trump appointed DeMint to the White House Economic Advisory Board in 2020.” [CPI.Org, Accessed [9/20/21](#)]

**DeMint Served On Trump’s White House Economic Advisory Board.** “During DeMint’s tenure, Heritage partnered with the Federalist Society to create a list of possible Supreme Court judicial nominations that culminated in the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch. President Trump appointed DeMint to the White House Economic Advisory Board in 2020.” [CPI.Org, Accessed [9/20/21](#)]

## **Former Tea Party Leader, Congressman, And Trump White House Chief Of Staff Mark Meadows Serves As The Senior Partner Of The Conservative Partnership Institute.**

**Former Trump Chief Of Staff Mark Meadows Is A Senior Partner Of The Conservative Partnership Institute.** “Mark began serving North Carolina’s Eleventh District in Congress in January of 2013, running for Congress after a nearly 30 year career in business, creating growth and value by specializing in startups and business reorganization.” [CPI.Org, Accessed [9/20/21](#)]

**Meadows Was The Chairman Of The House Freedom Caucus Prior To Joining The Trump White House.** “From 2017 to 2020, Meadows served as the Chairman for the House Freedom Caucus, the group of ultraconservative Tea Party Republicans that has often fought with party leaders. The most prominent clash between the group and the Republican presence in Congress resulted in former House Speaker John Boehner’s resignation after the Freedom Caucus put pressure on him to further advocate for the defunding of Planned Parenthood in 2015.” [Public Citizen, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

**The House Freedom Caucus Was Heavily Funded By The Greater Koch Network And Meadows Himself Was A Featured Guest At Multiple Koch Advocacy Group Events.** “Meadows was featured at an event regarding tax reform held by Americans for Prosperity, the Kochs’ advocacy group Meadows and other key conservatives attended a major event for Koch network donors in in 2018. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, employees and other entities tied to Koch Industries has contributed \$26,000 to Meadows throughout his congressional career.” [Public Citizen, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

**In January 2021, Meadows Participated In The Trump Phone Call With Georgia Officials That, Via A Recorded Tape Of The Conversation, Was Exposed To Be An Attempted To Exert Pressure For Those Officials To Change The Results Of The Election.** “On Tuesday, American Oversight filed records requests with the offices of Georgia governor and secretary of state, seeking officials’ communications about the Jan. 2 call. The requests also seek any emails or text messages between those offices and external individuals associated with Trump’s voter-fraud conspiracy, including conservative lawyer Cleta Mitchell and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, both of whom were on the call. Trump lawyers Sidney Powell, Rudy Giuliani, and anyone communicating from email addresses associated with the White House or the Trump campaign are also included in the requests.”[American Oversight, [1/05/21](#)]

**In July 2020, Meadows Reportedly Convinced Donald Trump Not To Institute A National Mask Mandate Because The “Base Would Revolt.”** “But Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff — backed up by other aides including Stephen Miller — said the politics for Mr. Trump would be devastating. ‘The base will revolt’ Mr. Meadows said, adding that he was not sure Mr. Trump could legally make it happen in any case.” [New York Times, [12/31/20](#)]

## **Both DeMint And Meadows’ Congressional Careers Were Heavily Funded By The Agribusiness, Energy, Financial, And Health Sectors**

**Over Meadows’ Congressional Career He Received Thousands In Donations The From Agribusiness, Energy, And Healthcare Industries.**

Sector	Total Donations	Source
<a href="#">Agribusiness</a>	\$122,275	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>
<a href="#">Energy &amp; Natural Resources</a>	\$135,905	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>
<a href="#">Finance, Insurance &amp; Real Estate</a>	\$460,133	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>
<a href="#">Health</a>	\$218,261	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>

**Over DeMint’s Congressional Career He Received Millions In Donations The From Agribusiness, Energy, And Healthcare Industries.**

Sector	Total Donations	Source
<a href="#">Agribusiness</a>	\$527,561	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>
<a href="#">Energy &amp; Natural Resources</a>	\$727,590	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>
<a href="#">Health</a>	\$1,392,147	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>
<a href="#">Finance, Insurance &amp; Real Estate</a>	\$3,153,716	<a href="#">OpenSecrets</a>

## **Conservative Partnership Institute Has Received Major Funding From Right Wing Funding Engines DonorsTrust And The Ed Uihlein Family Foundation, The Latter Of Which Funded A Group That Organized Events Preceding The Capitol Riot**

**Conservative Partnership Institute Has Received Over \$500,000 In Funding From Right-Wing Funding Engines Donors Trust And The Ed Uihlein Family Foundation**

Donor	Year	Amount	Link
Donors Trust	2019	\$ 10,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>
Donors Trust	2018	\$ 10,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>
Ed Uihlein Family Foundation	2019	\$ 500,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 520,000.00</b>	

**Donors Trust And Its Affiliate, Donors Capital Fund, Are Large Right-Wing Dark Money Operations With Major Ties To The Koch Brothers As Well As Other Right-Wing Megadonors Like The DeVos Family.**

“Donors Trust allows wealthy contributors who want to donate millions to the most important causes on the right to do so anonymously, essentially scrubbing the identity of those underwriting conservative and libertarian organizations. [...] Donors Trust is not the source of the money it hands out. Some 200 right-of-center funders who’ve given at least \$10,000 fill the group’s coffers. Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

**The Uihlein Family Are Some Of The Largest Right Wing Donors In America, Funding Prominent Right Wing Candidates.** “The Midwestern couple has joined the upper pantheon of Republican donors alongside names like Koch, Mercer and Adelson. They have spent roughly \$26 million on the current election cycle, supporting more than 60 congressional candidates, working outside the party establishment to advance a combative, hard-right conservatism, from Washington to the smallest town. Mr. Uihlein (pronounced YOU-line), a scion of one of the founders of Schlitz beer, underwrites firebrand anti-establishment candidates who typically defend broad access to assault weapons and assail transgender rights. He has also bankrolled

partisan newspapers and backed Roy Moore in Alabama even after he was accused of sexual misconduct with underage girls.” [New York Times, [6/07/18](#)]

**The Uihleins Gave Millions Of Dollars To A Group That Helped Organize The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.** “Richard and Elizabeth Uihlein, owners of Uline shipping supply company located in Pleasant Prairie, WI, and major donors to Republican candidates including President Donald Trump, contributed more than \$4 million to the Tea Party Patriots. The group participated in the rally before the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. While the organizers have taken down their website, and many tweets, since the rally led to the mob takeover of the Capitol, Mother Jones and others have reported on the March to Save America, AKA the March for Trump, sponsors.” [Wisconsin Examiner, [1/15/21](#)]

## **The Koch-Funded Group, Committee To Unleash Prosperity, In Part Led By Stephen Moore, Is Running Ads Against The Reconciliation Package Opposing Its Carbon Tax And Entitlements Expansions**

### **Committee To Unleash Prosperity Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package, Notably Opposing Its Carbon Tax And Entitlements Expansions**

**Committee To Unleash Prosperity Is A Member Of The \$10 Million Dollar Ad Campaign Against The Reconciliation Package.** “A new conservative coalition led by former Trump administration advisers plans to launch an up to \$10 million campaign to attack President Biden’s economic package as it advances through Congress. The effort, set to launch Friday, is being spearheaded by the America First Policy Institute founded earlier this year by former Trump officials, as well as conservative organizations such as the Conservative Partnership Institute, the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and FreedomWorks.” [Washington Post, [9/16/21](#)]

**Committee To Unleash Prosperity Publicly Balked At The Size Of The Reconciliation Spending Package, Taking Issue With Its Entitlement Expansions.** “Right! When has a new entitlement ever been repealed? As the Democrats themselves have boasted: “entitlements are forever.” So from here on in, we will refer to the Democrat’s Frankenstein monster as costing \$5 trillion – not counting the \$1 trillion sham infrastructure bill. We hope the media follows suit and stops reporting phony baloney numbers. It only encourages them” [CommitteeToUnleashProsperity.com, [9/14/21](#)]

**Committee To Unleash Prosperity Headline: “Senate Democrats: If It Moves, Tax It”**  
[CommitteeToUnleashProsperity.com, [9/07/21](#)]

**Committee To Unleash Prosperity Attacked The Carbon Tax In The Reconciliation Spending Package.** “The carbon tax, by the way, would impose a tariff on almost all imported goods into the United States. These are the same congressional Democrats who attacked Trump for alienating our allies and causing a trade war.” [CommitteeToUnleashProsperity.com, [9/07/21](#)]

### **The Committee To Unleash Prosperity Was Founded In 2015 By Members Of The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) – A Fossil Fuel And Pharmaceutical Industry Funded “Model-Legislation” Machine**

**The Committee To Unleash Prosperity Was Founded By Steven Forbes, Larry Kudlow, Arthur Laffer, And Stephen Moore In 2015 To Promote Right-Wing, Supply Side Economics.** “Economists Steve Forbes, Larry Kudlow, Dr. Arthur B. Laffer, and Steve Moore have launched the Committee to Unleash Prosperity. This group aims to end America's growth slump and restore faith in the American Dream. [...] The Committee to Unleash Prosperity is working to change this. In pursuit of rapid growth, the Committee promotes the following six economic principles: 1) A broad-based, low rate, flat tax 2) Limited government spending



3) Decreased regulation 4) Sound money 5) Free trade 6) Rule of constitutional law” [PR NewsWire, [7/29/15](#)]

**Moore Served On The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)’s Private Enterprise Advisory Council And Board Of Scholars.** “ALEC is a pay-to-play operation where legislators and corporate lobbyists meet behind closed doors to establish policies on issues that affect our lives, such as the environment, energy policy, and workers’ issues. Moore currently serves on ALEC’s “Private Enterprise Advisory Council” and the Board of Scholars. Since at least 2009, Moore has regularly attended the meetings where corporations script state policy.” [PR Watch, [4/17/19](#)]

**Laffer Was An ALEC Scholar And A Notable Contributor To The Group According To Its Own Leaders.** “ALEC Scholar Dr. Arthur Laffer Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom [...] ‘Dr. Laffer and I have partnered to research and construct state economic policies for well over a decade,’ says ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President Jonathan Williams.” [ALEC.org, [6/19/19](#)]

**Steve Forbes Is Affiliated With ALEC And Has Been A Featured Guest At The Group’s Events.** “Forbes Editor-in-Chief Steve Forbes has been affiliated with Alec and featured as a speaker at some of the group’s panels.” [Forbes, [6/14/21](#)]

**ALEC Produces Model Bills And Deploys Lobbyists At Scale Allowing Major Industry To Rapidly Astro turf Policy At The State Level Across America.** “The American Legislative Exchange Council became the nation’s best-known ‘model’-bill factory over its four decades by providing more than fill-in-the-blank legislation. The industry-sponsored group has weathered controversy and flourished because it also offers conservative Republican elected officials a social network, access to campaign donors and a blueprint for how to accelerate their political careers.” [USA Today, [4/03/19](#)]

**ALEC Was Funded By Major Industry Players Such As UPS, Chevron, Eli-Lilly, CenturyLink, Farmers Insurance, And Others.** “At a kickoff luncheon, as attendees dined on regal crest chicken and cheddar Yukon potatoes inside a dimly lit ballroom, the blue ALEC logo flashed across a giant screen along with the sponsors’ logos: UPS, CenturyLink, Anheuser-Busch, Farmers Insurance, Chevron, AT&T, and pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co.” [USA Today, [4/03/19](#)]

**ALEC’s Energy, Environment, And Agriculture Task Force Pushed Anti-Climate Policies And Its Membership Included Corporations Such As Exxon Mobil, Koch Industries, Duke Energy, And Peabody Energy.** “ALEC’s Energy, Environment, and Agriculture Task Force, which includes representatives from major fossil fuel companies such as Exxon Mobil, Koch Industries, Duke Energy, and Peabody Energy, has approved model bills to repeal renewable energy standards (RES), weaken RES laws by watering them down with non-renewable sources of electricity, and eliminate solar net metering policies.” [Energy And Policy Institute, [Accessed 9/21/21](#)]

**June 2020: ALEC’s Membership Included Major Pharmaceutical Manufactures Such As Pfizer, Bayer, Novartis, Blue Cross Blue Shield, PhRMA, And GlaxoSmithKline.** “Many pharmaceutical and health insurance companies remain in ALEC, including Pfizer, Bayer, Novartis, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, Alkermes, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).” [Common Cause, [6/11/20](#)]

**Numerous Groups Have Pressured Companies Funding ALEC Over The Council’s Role In Pushing Voter Suppression Legislation.** “More than 300 organizations—including the likes of the AFL-CIO and the Sierra Club—are sending a letter to dozens of companies demanding they pull funding from the influential American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) group, claiming Alec has helped craft new voting restrictions proposed throughout the United States.” [Forbes, [6/14/21](#)]

## **Committee To Unleash Prosperity Has Received Over \$500,000 From The Koch Network Group Donors Trust Since 2015—A Group That Advances The Interests Of The Fossil Fuel Industry**

**Committee To Unleash Prosperity Has Received Over \$500,000 From Koch Network Group Donors Trust Since 2015.**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Notes</b>
DonorsTrust	2019	\$ 10,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>	
DonorsTrust	2018	\$ 250,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>	
DonorsTrust	2017	\$ 50,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>	Via FreedomWorks
DonorsTrust	2016	\$ 100,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>	Via FreedomWorks
DonorsTrust	2015	\$ 100,000.00	<a href="#">Source</a>	Via FreedomWorks
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 510,000.00</b>		

### **Donors Trust And Its Affiliate, Donors Capital Fund, Are Large Right-Wing Dark Money Operations With Major Ties To The Koch Brothers As Well As Other Right-Wing Megadonors Like The DeVos Family.**

“Donors Trust allows wealthy contributors who want to donate millions to the most important causes on the right to do so anonymously, essentially scrubbing the identity of those underwriting conservative and libertarian organizations. [...] Donors Trust is not the source of the money it hands out. Some 200 right-of-center funders who’ve given at least \$10,000 fill the group’s coffers. Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

### **The Primary Goal Of The Koch Brothers’ Right Wing Machines Was To Protect Fossil Fuel Profits At All Costs And To Ensure That Consumption Of Fossil Fuels Did Not Decrease.**

“Others have chronicled the cap-and-trade fight well, but Leonard penetrates the inner sanctum of the Kochs’ lobbying machine, showing that, from the start, even when other parts of the company could have benefitted from an embrace of alternative energy, Koch Industries regarded any compromise that might reduce fossil-fuel consumption as unacceptable. Protecting its fossil-fuel profits was, and remains, the company’s top political priority. Leonard shows that the Kochs, to achieve this end, worked to hijack the Tea Party movement and, eventually, the Republican Party itself.” [The New Yorker, [8/13/19](#)]

## **Committee To Unleash Prosperity Board Member Stephen Moore Has A History Of Racist And Sexist Comments**

**Stephen Moore Was Listed As A Board Member Of Committee To Unleash Prosperity In 2019.**

(1) STEPHEN MOORE	20
CHAIRMAN	0
(2) ANNE MOORE	12
ASST TREASURER	0
(3) JONATHAN DECKE	25
EXEC DIRECTOR	0
(4) CLETA MITCHELL	1
TREASURER	0

[Committee To Unleash Prosperity 990, [2019](#)]

**In June 2002, Stephen Moore Criticized The George W. Bush Administration, Saying It Was “A Problem” That “The White House Strategy Toward Conservatives Is To Treat Us As A Special-Interest Group, Like Blacks, Latinos And Women.”** “The White House strategy toward conservatives is to treat us as a special-interest group, like blacks, Latinos and women,’ said Stephen Moore, president of the Club for Growth. ‘That’s a problem, because we’re not just another interest group but the very base of the Republican Party.’” [Ralph Z. Hallow, “Conservatives not satisfied with Bush’s record; See flaws in tactics, question agenda,” *Washington Times*, 06/18/02]

**In December 2002, Stephen Moore Wrote A Parody Column After Then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott Appeared On Black Entertainment Television After Remarking That The Country “Wouldn't Have Had All These Problems Over All These Years” If Segregationist Strom Thurmond Had Won The Presidency In 1948.** “Republicans have been handed a chance to recast their party for the 21st century -- or not. Their choice is stark: stick with Mississippi's Trent Lott, a damaged Senate Republican leader steeped in the attitudes of the Old South, or find a new face who symbolizes a modern, sophisticated party with a welcome mat out for all. The clamor for Lott to step aside has continued to mount since his Dec. 5 remarks that the country ‘wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years’ if Strom Thurmond had won the presidency in 1948. The retiring South Carolina senator ran on a segregationist ticket that year.” [Jill Lawrence, "[Lott furor puts GOP at critical juncture](#)," *USA Today*, 12/19/02]

**In The Column Headlined “Lott Begg Jesse Jackson for Forgiveness,” Stephen Moore Imagined Trent Lott Appearing On Jesse Jackson’s Television Show To Endorse Reparations For “Every American With ‘Even A Drop Of African Blood’” To Be Paid For With “A 20 Percent ‘White-Millionaire Income-Tax Surcharge.’”** “Today, Trent Lott continued his quest to politically rehabilitate himself by appearing on Jesse Jackson's CNN television show and endorsing ‘reparations for all African Americans to pay for the sins of slavery.’ Lott, who is hoping to hold onto his perch of power as Republican Senate Majority Leader, suggested that every American with ‘even a drop of African blood’ should be paid \$10,000 from the federal government to start the healing process. When Jackson asked how this \$250 billion program should be paid for, he said that he endorsed a 20 percent ‘white-millionaire income-tax surcharge.’ Jackson immediately endorsed the idea and said that this would be a good first step toward Lott's political recovery. Two days ago on Black Entertainment TV, Lott endorsed affirmative-action policies to help minorities, but in this interview, Lott went much further in trying to demonstrate his sensitivity to blacks.” [Stephen Moore, "[Lott Begg Jesse Jackson for Forgiveness](#)," *National Review Online via Archive.org*, 12/18/02]

**Stephen Moore Said, “If You’re In A Position Of Power, It’s Probably Not A Good Idea” To “Have A Meeting With A Woman Without Someone Else In The Room,” Citing Bill O’Reilly And Donald Trump As Examples.** “*Stephen Moore*: I remember I had a meeting with a major, you know, top 20 CEO of Fortune 100 company. and he said to me about two or three years ago something that I thought was very good advice for people who run companies, this is very good advice. He said, ‘I would never have a meeting with a woman without someone else in the room.’ And this is, unfortunately, this is where we’re at today. If you are in a

position of power, a Bill O'Reilly, a Donald Trump, anyone who is running a company, you cannot be in a room, you just can't. *Kirsten Powers*: Sean Hannity has never been accused of sexual harassment. Sean Hannity has never been accused of sexual harassment. Anderson Cooper has never been accused of sexual harassment. What are you talking about? *Stephen Moore*: I'm saying that... *Kirsten Powers*: So any powerful man cannot be alone with a woman? That's ridiculous. I have meetings with Jeff Zucker alone all the time, I don't have any problems, like what? This would effect women negatively that you can't even meet privately with your boss? *Stephen Moore*: If you're in a position of power, it's probably not a good idea." [["CNN's Stephen Moore's answer to sexual harassment is to never take a one-on-one meeting with a woman,"](#) Media Matters For America, 10/23/17]

**At A 2012 Fundraising Dinner, Stephen Moore Said That Fox News Was "A Great Place To Work" Because He Had "Met A Lot Of Beautiful Women At Fox News," Adding That Greta Van Susteren Was "Absolutely Perfect For Fox News" Because "She's Fair, Balanced, And Blonde."** "I used to do, I don't do it quite as often, Greta Van Susteren's show every night, who's a Wisconsin native. People are always asking me, what's Greta really like? And, I would say, Greta is absolutely perfect for Fox News: she's fair, balanced, and blonde. [Laughs] And that is, that is the philosophy of Fox News. [...] One of the great things about working at Fox News is that I've met a lot of beautiful women at Fox News. It's a great place to work." [["CCHF Fundraising Dinner Event with Stephen Moore,"](#) Citizens' Council for Health Freedom via YouTube, 11/26/12 (05:06)]

## **Coalition To Protect American Workers, Founded By Koch Network Operative Marc Short, Is Running Ad Blitz Against The Reconciliation Package With Claims That It Will Lead To Large Tax Hikes And Help Chinese Interests**

### **Coalition To Protect American Workers Is Running Seven Figure Ad Buys To Focus On Attacking Six Key Democrats Claiming The Reconciliation Package Will Lead To Large Tax Hikes And Help Chinese Industries**

**Coalition To Protect American Workers Is Running Seven Figure Ad Buys To Focus On Attacking Six Key Democrats Claiming The Reconciliation Package Will Lead To Large Tax Hikes And Help Chinese Industries.** "The coalition, which is led by Marc Short, former Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, plans to expand its campaign into the seven figures and run two new 30-second spots, the group tells Axios. It's hitting six Democrats — five in the House and one in the Senate — with the IRS ad and two others focused on other tax hikes in the bill and efforts to finance electric vehicle infrastructure. It says that will boost Chinese battery manufacturers." [Axios, [9/19/21](#)]

### **Coalition To Protect American Workers Is Led By Mike Pence's Former Chief Of Staff And Koch Operative Marc Short, Who Oversaw The Flow Of Millions Of Koch Dollars At The Group Freedom Partners**

**Coalition To Protect American Workers Is Led By Former Vice President Mike Pence's Chief Of Staff Marc Short.** "The coalition, which is led by Marc Short, former Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, plans to expand its campaign into the seven figures and run two new 30-second spots, the group tells Axios." [Axios, [9/19/21](#)]

**Short Was The Executive Director Of The Koch Funded Organization Freedom Partners.** "Short, a veteran Republican operative, joined Pence's office in 2019. He also worked as the White House director of legislative affairs in 2017 and 2018. Short previously served as chief of staff to former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-Texas) and directed the House Republican Conference. For eight years, Short served as executive director of Freedom Partners, the conservative organization funded by the Koch brothers that was dissolved in 2019." [OpenSecrets, [Accessed 9/20/21](#)]

**Short Was Described By Politico As The President Of The Group Which Served “As An Outlet For The Ideas And Funds Of The Mysterious Koch Brothers.”** “An Arlington, Va.-based conservative group, whose existence until now was unknown to almost everyone in politics, raised and spent \$250 million in 2012 to shape political and policy debate nationwide. The group, Freedom Partners, and its president, Marc Short, serve as an outlet for the ideas and funds of the mysterious Koch brothers, cutting checks as large as \$63 million to groups promoting conservative causes, according to an IRS document to be filed shortly.” [Politico, [9/11/13](#)]

- **Short Was Also Described As “The Kochs’ Liaisons To Washington’s Professional Conservative Class.”** “That’s what makes Gentry, Short and Tim Phillips so powerful. They came up together in the good-ol’-boy universe of Virginia GOP politics, and they’re now the Kochs’ liaisons to Washington’s professional conservative class.” [Politico, [2012](#)]

**Under Short, Freedom Partners Raised And Spent \$250 Million In 2012 Alone.** “An Arlington, Va.-based conservative group, whose existence until now was unknown to almost everyone in politics, raised and spent \$250 million in 2012 to shape political and policy debate nationwide. The group, Freedom Partners, and its president, Marc Short, serve as an outlet for the ideas and funds of the mysterious Koch brothers, cutting checks as large as \$63 million to groups promoting conservative causes, according to an IRS document to be filed shortly.” [Politico, [9/11/13](#)]

### **Short Came Under Fire For Owning Up To \$1.64 Million In Stocks In Companies That Worked Closely With Mike Pence’s Coronavirus Task Force, Notably Pharmaceutical Manufacturers**

**Short Came Under Fire For Owning Up To \$1.64 Million In Stocks In Companies Which Worked With Mike Pence’s Coronavirus Task Force—Notably Pharmaceutical Manufacturers.** “Marc Short, the chief of staff to Vice President Pence, owns between \$506,043 and \$1.64 million worth of individual stocks in companies doing work related to the Trump administration’s pandemic response — holdings that could run afoul of conflict of interest laws. Many of the medical, pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies – including 3M, Abbott Laboratories, Gilead Sciences, Procter & Gamble, Medtronic, Bristol Myers Squibb and Johnson & Johnson – in which Short and his wife hold stock have been directly affected by or involved in the work of the coronavirus task force chaired by Pence.” [NPR, [5/28/21](#)]

- **Short’s Conflict Of Interest Was The Subject Of A Criminal Complaint Shortly After It Went Public.** “Vice President Pence’s Chief of Staff Marc Short appears to have violated criminal conflict of interest law by holding stock in companies that are directly affected by the government’s pandemic response and participating in meetings with those companies, according to complaints sent to the FBI by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).” [Citizens For Responsibility And Ethics, [6/03/20](#)]

**Short’s Conflict Of Interest Led To An Ethics Complaint In 2021 For Failing To File Ethics Disclosures After He Left The White House.** “A government watchdog organization has filed an ethics complaint against former Vice President Mike Pence’s chief of staff over COVID-linked business investments. Marc Short appears to have failed to file a financial disclosure report when he left office as required by law, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington wrote in a letter Thursday to the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.” [Yahoo News, [9/17/21](#)]