

Fed Nominee Sarah Bloom Raskin Has Mainstream Positions On Climate – So Why Is Big Oil and Its Allies In The Senate Attacking Her?

SUMMARY: The Oil Industry and its allies in Congress are raising erroneous concerns over Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision nominee Sarah Bloom Raskin's record on climate change and resiliency in financial institutions.

Sarah Bloom Raskin is an experienced regulator with mainstream views on climate and the future of the fossil fuel industry. Her opinion that we should incentivize a transition away from high-emission finance is echoed by banking groups and academics alike. These attacks are nothing more than a pathetic attempt by Big Oil to keep pocketing millions of dollars worth of subsidies – all while raking in record profits.

Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Pat Toomey and other Republicans on the committee of jurisdiction have received millions in campaign contributions from Oil and Gas and are now parroting concerns made in a [letter](#) to Banking committee leadership from oil industry groups that called out Raskin for her advocacy

The reality is Sarah Bloom Raskin is beyond qualified for the role for which she is nominated. She is an experienced regulator who sailed through Senate confirmation votes in the past, serving as both on the Federal Reserve Board and as Deputy Treasury Secretary. She has never faced serious opposition before, and even earned bipartisan praise for her experience and positive record.

The Oil Industry And Its Well-Funded Allies In The Senate Are Attacking Sarah Bloom Raskin, Nominee To The Federal Reserve Board, Erroneously Claiming She Will “Decapitalize Their Industry”

Big Oil Is Fear Mongering That President Biden's Nominee To The Federal Reserve Board Will “Wreak Havoc’ On The Economy...”

Oil Industry Associations Hyperbolically Claim That Sarah Bloom Raskin Will Somehow Single-Handedly Crash The US Economy.

President Biden Nominated Sarah Bloom Raskin To Vice Chair for Supervision Of The Board Of Governors Of The Federal Reserve Board. “Today, President Biden announced the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin to serve as Vice Chair for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System...” [White House, [01/14/22](#)]

- **Big Oil Industry Groups Are Attacking Sarah Bloom Raskin's Nomination, Saying She Will “Wreak Havoc’ On The US Economy.”** “Oil and gas industry groups are

coming out strongly against a top Biden Federal Reserve nominee who has called for the financial sector to pull investment away from fossil fuels. Forty-one trade associations told Senate Banking Committee leadership on Friday that policies favored by Sarah Bloom Raskin, who is up for vice chairwoman for supervision at the Fed, would ‘wreak havoc’ on the U.S. economy if enacted.” [Washington Examiner, [01/28/22](#)]

- **Kathleen Sgamma Of The Oil Industry Group Western Energy Alliance Said She Is Weighing In On A Federal Reserve Nominee For The First Time Ever Because Raskin Will “Decapitalize Our Industry.”** “‘We’re not trying to dictate monetary policy,’ Kathleen Sgamma, who heads the Western Energy Alliance and drafted the letter, told the Washington Examiner. ‘This is the first time we’ve ever weighed in on the Federal Reserve nominee because this is the first time a Federal Reserve nominee has said she wants to decapitalize our industry.’” [Washington Examiner, [01/28/22](#)]

...But Sarah Bloom Raskin’s Views On The Future Of The Fossil Fuel Industry Are Shared By Banking Groups And Academics

REALITY: Sarah Bloom Raskin’s Strategy To Incentivize A Transition Away From High-Emission Finance Is A Popular Plan To Address Climate Change

Sarah Bloom Raskin Says Incentivizing A Transition Away From High-Emission Finance Is Necessary To Deal With Climate Change. “This threat, which is both looming larger and larger every day, and with us right now, presents central banks, and other financial, prudential, and market regulators with the imperative to act in a precautionary manner. Embedding a precautionary imperative into the work of central banks and other financial market and prudential regulators will require a two-pronged approach. First, preparing the financial system to weather climate change effects that can’t be eliminated by markets. And two, incentivizing a rapid, orderly, and just transition away from high emission finance and investments.” [YouTube, 3:20, [06/03/21](#)]

- **Sarah Bloom Raskin’s Positions Are “Generally Accepted Among Experts In The United States.”** “The majority of Raskin’s other climate positions have revolved around the idea of ensuring individual banks and the financial system are resilient in the face of rising temperatures. During an event in June, for instance, she said the pandemic has revealed underlying vulnerabilities in the U.S. financial system. ‘If we take nothing else from the global financial crisis, and from the continuing effects of the pandemic, it should be that our collective well-being of serious disruption from climate change,’ she said. To address that possibility, she argued the United States must prepare the financial system to weather climate impacts — and incentivize a “rapid, orderly and just transition away from high-emission finance and investments.’ [...] Most of those positions are generally accepted among experts in the United States and abroad — and are appropriate for an institution charged with monitoring financial stability, regardless of the issue in question, Raskin’s proponents say.” [E&E, [01/31/22](#)]

- **One Banking Industry Group Has Supported Sarah Bloom Raskin. Its Former CEO Says Her Opinions And Positions Are “Not Out Of The Mainstream.”** “Her opinions and her positions have not been out of the mainstream. They haven’t been unreasonable,” said Camden Fine, the former CEO of Independent Community Bankers of America, an industry group. Fine and his trade group backed Raskin’s nomination to the Fed in 2010. Berner agreed. “Those things are in the law, those things are part of the Fed’s mandate, and those things involve staying in the Fed’s lane,” he said.” [E&E, [01/31/22](#)]

Sarah Bloom Raskin Agrees With Experts Who Say The US Government Shouldn’t Be Investing In the Fossil Fuel Industry.

Sarah Bloom Raskin Said That The Billions In Bailouts Given To The Fossil Fuel Industry Through Pandemic Bailouts Are A “Risky Investment.” ‘Bloom Raskin agrees with many experts in saying the US government shouldn’t be investing in the fossil fuel industry. “The Fed is singularly poised to seed strategic investments in future economic stability. Oil, gas and coal companies are set or are seeking to receive billions in federal aid – including at least \$3.9 billion from the Paycheck Protection Program and at least \$1.9 billion in tax credits tucked into the CARES Act passed by Congress. Their allies in Congress and the administration have lobbied for changes to several of the Fed’s lending programs, including relaxing the Main Street Lending Program. Among those eligible for government assistance are many fossil fuel companies that were in deep financial trouble long before the pandemic began. These concessions to the fossil fuel industry are a risky investment in the past.” [New York Times, [05/28/20](#)]

- **Experts At The Brookings Institution Say Fossil Fuel Subsidies Lead To Market Distortions And Overconsumption...** “These subsidies are problematic for four key reasons. First, they create market distortions by artificially lowering the price of fossil fuels, which leads to overconsumption, particularly in energy and capital-intensive industries like power and transport. A 2014 study estimated that global fuel subsidies generated \$44 billion in deadweight loss each year; over 70% of this came from the four countries with the largest fuel subsidy expenditures (Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iran, and Indonesia).” [Brookings Institution, [07/14/21](#)]
- **...Exacerbating The Problems Like Climate Change And Negative Public Health Impacts.** “Second, production and consumption subsidies create negative externalities. These subsidies increase the use of fossil fuels, which causes a range of adverse environmental and health impacts. Externalities due to air pollution from fossil fuels range between \$2.6 trillion to \$8.1 trillion globally and are felt most acutely in developing and emerging countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and India.” [Brookings Institution, [07/14/21](#)]

So What Is Really Behind Big Oil’s Attacks On Bloom Raskin? They Want To Keep The Taxpayer-Funded Gravy Train Running – Even While Raking In Record Profits

API Spent \$1.4 Million In The First Quarter Of 2020 To Lobby Congress, Including On CARES Act Tax Provisions.

- **API Lobbied On CARES Act Tax Provisions.** API's Q1 2020 lobbying report shows that they lobbied on "Ways & Means Staff Discussion Draft on International Tax Reform; S 3548 CARES Act, provisions related to tax and business operations..." [API Lobbying Report, [04/20/20](#)]

API Member Bailouts			
	Companies	Average Amount	Total Bailout
PPP	183	\$1,513,655	\$276,998,943
MSLP	1	-	\$6,280,000
EIDL	32	\$2,486,600	\$2,486,600
Tax Breaks	20	\$170,638,077	\$3,126,996,000
TOTAL:			\$3,412,761,543

Sources: IRS, API, SEC, BailoutWatch

And While Asking For Handouts From The American People, Oil And Gas Companies Are Raking In Record Profits

Big Oil Corporations Raked In \$174 Billion In Profits In The First Nine Months Of 2021. "The largest oil and gas companies made a combined \$174bn in profits in the first nine months of the year as gasoline prices climbed in the US, according to a new report. The bumper profit totals, provided exclusively to the Guardian, show that in the third quarter of 2021 alone, 24 top oil and gas companies made more than \$74bn in net income. From January to September, the net income of the group, which includes Exxon, Chevron, Shell and BP, was \$174bn." [The Guardian, [12/06/21](#)]

- **Companies Like Exxon And BP Credited Rising Oil Prices For Their Massive 2021 Profits.** "Exxon alone posted a net income of \$6.75bn in the third quarter, its highest profit since 2017, and has seen its revenue jump by 60% on the same period last year. The company credited the rising cost of oil for bolstering these profits, as did BP, which made \$3.3bn in third-quarter profit." [The Guardian, [12/06/21](#)]

Big Oil's Influence At Work: Banking Committee Ranking Member Pat Toomey Has Been Sarah Bloom Raskin's Most Vocal Opponent In The Senate. His Campaign Is Funded By The Oil Industry.

Republican Members of the Senate Banking Committee Air Baseless Concerns About Sarah Bloom Raskin's Climate Record As They Benefit From Over \$2,700,000 in Campaign Contributions From Big Oil

Ranking Member on the Senate Banking Committee, Pennsylvania Senator Toomey, has raised concerns over the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin on account of her stances on the

Oil and Gas Industry. “[Bloom Raskin] has specifically called for the Fed to pressure banks to choke off credit to traditional energy companies [fossil fuels] and to exclude those employers from any Fed emergency lending facilities.” [The Hill, accessed [01/21/22](#)]

- **Senator Toomey received \$82,974 in campaign funds from Oil and Gas interests.** Senator Toomey, the ranking member on the Senate Banking Committee set to vet Fed nominee Bloom Raskin, has received over \$80,000 in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. [Open Secrets, accessed 2/1/2022]

Nearly Every Republican Members Of The Senate Banking Committee Has Taken In Over Six Figures In Oil Industry Campaign Cash.

Senator Daines of Montana led all members with a total of \$606,302 in campaign contributions from Oil and Gas Industry interests. \$372,302 from individuals and \$234,000 in PAC contributions make Republican Senator Steven Daines the leading beneficiary of Oil and Gas Industry contributions. [Open Secrets, accessed [02/01/22](#)]

The next 3 leading recipients are also Republicans and received over \$1,000,000 combined from Oil and Gas contributors. Senator Kevin Cramer (ND) received \$500,675, Senator Thom Tillis (NC) received \$420,554 and Senator John Kennedy (LA) received \$312,688 in campaign contributions from the Oil and Gas Industry. [Open Secrets, accessed [02/01/22](#)]

Party	State	Senator	Individual	PAC	Total
R	MT	DAINES	\$372,302	\$234,000	\$606,302
R	ND	CRAMER	\$410,975	\$89,700	\$500,675
R	NC	TILLIS	\$263,054	\$157,500	\$420,554
R	LA	KENNEDY	\$241,388	\$71,300	\$312,688
D	GA	OSSOFF	\$198,421	\$0	\$198,421
R	TN	HAGERTY	\$107,796	\$55,000	\$162,796
R	SC	SCOTT	\$98,282	\$62,500	\$160,782
R	WY	LUMMIS	\$33,726	\$110,500	\$144,226
R	ID	CRAPO	\$47,325	\$72,000	\$119,325
R	SD	ROUNDS	\$39,863	\$63,500	\$103,363
R	KS	MORAN	\$44,305	\$42,000	\$86,305
R	PA	TOOMEY	\$47,974	\$35,000	\$82,974
D	VA	WARNER	\$46,340	\$35,500	\$81,840
D	AZ	SINEMA	\$39,560	\$37,500	\$77,060
D	MT	TESTER	\$59,021	\$10,000	\$69,021
D	MA	WARREN	\$44,173	\$0	\$44,173
D	NJ	MENENDEZ	\$24,954	\$14,500	\$39,454
D	OH	BROWN	\$28,111	\$10,000	\$38,111
D	MN	SMITH	\$25,336	\$5,000	\$30,336
D	GA	WARNOCK	\$27,704	\$0	\$27,704
D	NV	CORTEZ MARIAS	\$14,119	\$7,500	\$21,619
D	MD	VAN HOLLEN	\$15,876	\$1,000	\$16,876
D	RH	REED	\$601	\$4,500	\$5,101
R	AL	SHELBY	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
					\$3,351,706

[Open Secrets Oil Industry Contributions, accessed [02/01/22](#)]

The Reality Is Sarah Bloom Raskin The Right Person For This Role. She Is An Experienced Public Servant Who Sailed Through Senate Nominations In The Past With Substantial Bipartisan Support.

When Sarah Bloom Raskin Faced Senate Confirmation Votes In The Past, She Sailed Through Unanimously Or By Simple Voice Votes.

Sarah Bloom Raskin Was Unanimously Confirmed To The Federal Reserve Board In 2010.

“The others, Janet L. Yellen and Sarah Bloom Raskin, were unanimously confirmed last month before the Senate left town. Yellen was president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and Raskin was Maryland's commissioner of financial regulation.” [Lowell Sun, [10/13/10](#)]

Sarah Bloom Raskin Was Confirmed To Two Different Positions By Voice Under The Obama Administration.

“Raskin, a former Fed governor and deputy Treasury secretary for President Obama, was confirmed twice by the Senate via voice vote, indicating there wasn't any serious opposition.” [Axios, [01/13/22](#)]

- **Sarah Bloom Raskin Was Confirmed By Voice Vote To Serve As Deputy Treasury Secretary In 2014.** [Congress.gov, PN1091, [03/12/14](#)]
- **Sarah Bloom Raskin Was Confirmed To Be A Member of The Federal Reserve's Board Of Governors By Voice Vote In 2010.** [Congress.gov, PN1727, [09/29/10](#)]

Sarah Bloom Raskin Has Earned Praise From Top Republicans For Her Experience And Talent.

US Senate Banking Committee Member Richard Shelby Praised Sarah Bloom Raskin's Experience When Announcing His Support Of Her To Become A Governor In The Federal Reserve System. "Today we're considering a talented group of individuals that the president has nominated for very important positions. [...] I will also support Sarah Bloom Raskin for position on the board of governors in the Federal Reserve system. I believe that her experience in supervision and regulation at the Maryland banking system will be useful for her as a member of the board. I also believe that her experience right her on the banking committee will benefit her." [Senate Banking, Housing, And Urban Affairs Committee, [07/28/10](#)]

Rep Patrick McHenry Praised Sarah Bloom Raskin's "Distinguished Government Service." "Former Fed Governor Raskin has a long history of distinguished government service," Rep. Patrick McHenry (N.C.), the ranking Republican on the House Financial Services Committee, said in a statement. "I encourage her to maintain the apolitical posture of previous Vice Chairs for Supervision, and to focus on the supervisory role while leaving social and fiscal policy making to Congress."" [The Hill, [01/14/22](#)]