

Money in Politics and the Environment

Energy Industry Invests \$3 billion in Washington

- The energy industry, including oil and gas, electric utilities, mining, and waste management, contributed \$455 million to federal candidates between 1990-2006
- The energy industry spent \$2.3 billion to lobby the federal government between 1998-2008
- 63% of energy industry contributions between 1990-2008 came from PACs and soft money; the remaining 37% came in large individual contributions
- Members of the U.S. House and Senate received an average of \$43,658 and \$161,423, respectively, in 2008 energy industry contributions as of July 28, 2008

Energy Industry Outspends Environment 20:1

- The energy industry contributed \$20 to federal candidates for every \$1 contributed by environmental groups between 1990-2008
- The energy industry spent \$225 million to lobby the federal government in 2008 compared with \$11 million by environmental groups, a factor of 21:1
- The disparity in energy industry versus environmental contributions to members of Congress rose to 30:1 in the lead-up to landmark 2005 energy legislation

Energy Money Targets Regulators, Incumbents

- 82% of energy industry contributions in 2008 were given to incumbents in both parties
- Eight of the top ten House recipients in 2008 were members of the House Natural Resources, Energy & Commerce, and Transportation committees responsible for energy policy; the remaining two top recipients were members of senior leadership in both parties
- Eight of the top ten Senate recipients in 2008 were members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources, Environment & Public Works, and Transportation committees (excluding presidential candidates)
- The average contribution to top ten recipients was \$280,000 and \$393,000 for House and Senate, respectively, or between 3-6 times the congressional average

Energy Money Follows Partisan Trends

- Although overall energy industry contributions favored Republicans between 1990-2008, the proportion given to each party followed partisan trends
- When Democrats controlled Congress, they received an average of 40% of total contributions, compared with 26% when they were in the minority

Source: Center for Responsive Politics analysis of campaign finance disclosures filed with the Federal Election Commission, 1990-2008

Figure 1: Total Energy Industry Contributions, 1990-2008

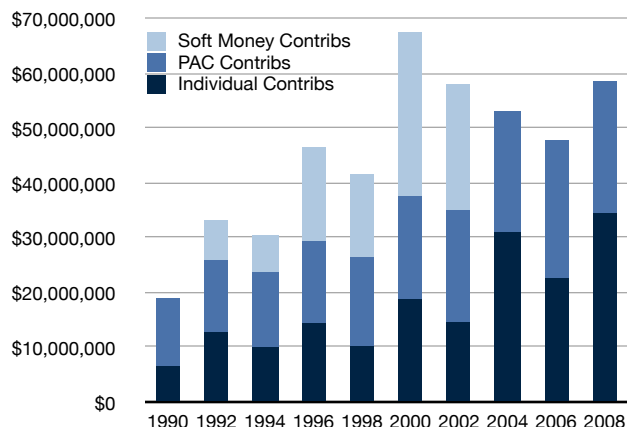


Figure 2: Contributions from Energy Sectors vs. Environmental Organizations, 1990-2008

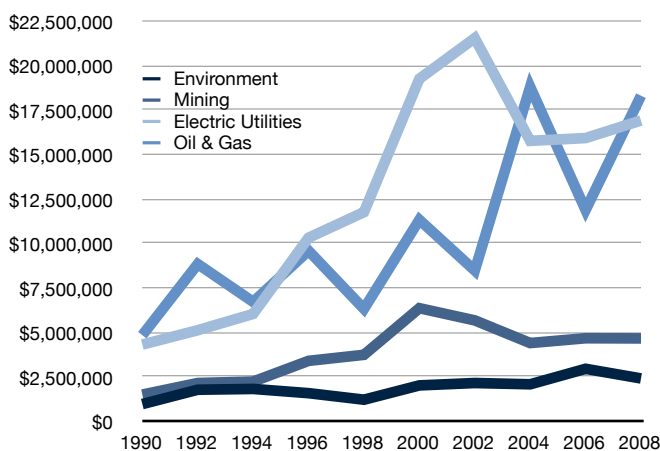


Figure 3: Lobbying Expenditures, 2008

