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## Peddling Influence: Lobbying and Campaign Cash on the Dirty Air Act

### The Dirty Air Act

This week, [Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska is weighing a decision to unveil an amendment to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating global warming pollution](#) from stationary sources like coal plants, oil refineries and factories.

Last week, the [Washington Post's Juliet Eilperin reported](#) that Murkowski had employed the help of two former Bush administration officials, now lobbyists for powerful corporate polluters, to write the amendment for her.

Those lobbyists, Jeffrey Holmstead of Bracewell & Giuliani and Roger Martella of Sidley Austin, have made inconsistent public statements about their involvement with the amendment. The two lobbyists were later revealed by [several publications to have, at Murkowski's invitation, led a meeting of Senate staffers to gauge interest in the amendment.](#)

Holmstead and Martella's list of clients ranges from big power conglomerates to dirty coal corporations. [Last week, several organizations, including Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and Greenpeace's own PolluterWatch, called for an investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee](#) into allegations that these two lobbyists inappropriately influenced the legislative drafting of this *Dirty Air Act*. These concerns were heightened by a report that Murkowski received \$50,000 in campaign contributions for her reelection campaign from Southern Company and Duke Energy, both Mr. Holmstead's clients, just as the amendment was being written.

Murkowski's spokesman, Robert Dillon, [claimed this weekend that she had secured a Democratic cosponsor for her Dirty Air Act](#). Kate Sheppard, an investigative reporter from Mother Jones, speculated that five Democrats were the most likely to have partnered with her on the amendment:

- Mary Landrieu of Louisiana,
- Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas,

- Jim Webb of Virginia,
- Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, and
- Ben Nelson of Nebraska.

### **A History of Polluter Campaign Cash**

Today, Greenpeace is releasing a report of campaign contributions that these five Democratic Senators have taken from the lobbying clients of Jeffrey Holmstead and Roger Martella, the DC influence peddlers accused of funneling campaign cash to Senator Murkowski at the same time that they were pushing the “Dirty Air Act.”

**Since 1997, these five Senators have directly received \$503,350** from these two lobbyists, their firms, their climate legislation clients, their PACs and employees.

**Since 1997, Senator Blanche Lincoln, who is the Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and has jurisdiction over clean energy legislation moving through the Senate, has directly received \$139,766** from these two lobbyists, their firms, their climate legislation clients, their PACs and employees.

**Since 1997, Senator Mary Landrieu has directly received \$152,668** from these two lobbyists, their firms, their climate legislation clients, their PACs and employees.

**Since 1997, Senator Byron Dorgan has directly received \$119,446** from these two lobbyists, their firms, their climate legislation clients, their PACs and employees.

**Since 1997, Senator Ben Nelson has directly received \$65,770** from these two lobbyists, their firms, their climate legislation clients, their PACs and employees.

**Since 2005, Senator Jim Webb has directly received \$25,700** from these two lobbyists, their firms, their climate legislation clients, their PACs and employees.

All data for this report comes from FEC records obtained by [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org). Contributions received from Jeffrey Holmstead, Roger Martella, the PACs and employees of Bracewell Giuliani, Sidley Austin, the National Alliance of Forest Owners, the Alliance of Food Associations, the Ameren Corporation, Arch Coal, CSX Corporation, Duke Energy, Edison Electric, the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, Energy Future Holdings, Mirant Corporation, the Portland Cement Association, Progress Energy, the Salt River Project, and Southern Company were all included in this report.