

Sign on letter urging Members of Congress to donate campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry to help low income families

Dear Trusted Representative,

Our continued reliance on fossil fuels means that American families and our economy are being held hostage by high gasoline and energy prices. At the same time, the oil and gas industry is raking in high profits¹ and boosting dividends for investors.² Meanwhile, working people are being squeezed by high energy prices.³

We call on every candidate who has received campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry to donate an equivalent amount to a charity helping low income families in their districts and elsewhere in the country. Additionally we urge you to publicly commit to never take money from fossil fuel companies or their lobbyists ever again.

Not only are fossil fuels destroying our climate⁴ and endangering our health,⁵ they are among the most expensive⁶ and volatile⁷ energy sources we have. As we have seen during the tragic invasion of Ukraine, oil and gas fuel violence and authoritarian governments, not just Vladimir Putin's Russia, but around the world. We desperately need a fossil fuel phase out and a just transition to renewable energy. The sooner we can put fossil fuels behind us, the better. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, "Fossil fuels are a dead end – for our planet, for humanity, and yes, for economies."⁸

Had Congress taken decisive action on climate change at any point during the past three decades, we would now be enjoying the benefits of a healthier, more affordable, and more just energy system. But instead, oil and gas corporations have invested heavily in politicians in order to delay and defeat the real energy solutions that could lower energy costs for families, and protect our health in the bargain. The 2020 election cycle saw record campaign investments from the oil and gas industry totalling nearly \$140 million, including \$14 million from political action committees (PACs) and \$64 million from soft money groups.⁹ It is not hard to figure out who the top recipients of this bonanza have been,¹⁰ or the roles they have played in killing common sense climate solutions.

We know you stand against autocrats, and stand for the interests of the American people. That's why we're asking you to show you care more about your communities than the profits of multinational fossil fuel companies through giving back the campaign contributions you've received from the oil and gas industry to help your district and others impacted by fossil fuel profiteering.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/dec/06/oil-companies-profits-exxon-chevron-shell-exclusive>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/03/business/shell-4q-earnings.html>

³ <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GASREGCOVW>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

⁵ <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/reports/fossil-fuel-racism/>

⁶ <https://ourworldindata.org/cheap-renewables-growth>

⁷ <https://www.wri.org/insights/why-renewable-energy-solution-high-prices>

⁸ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/node/262102>

⁹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/totals.php?cycle=2022&ind=E01>

¹⁰ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/summary.php?ind=E01&recipdetail=M&sortorder=U&cycle=All>

Signed,

Greenpeace USA,
350 Action,
350 Bay Area,
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley,
350 Eugene,
AFGE Local 704,
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc.,
Center for Biological Diversity Action Fund,
Climate Justice Alliance,
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania,
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action,
Earth Action Inc.,
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area,
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition,
FracTracker Alliance,
Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Climate Action Campaign,
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute,
Locust Point Community Garden,
Love Wild Horses Inc.,
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network,
Move to Amend,
MoveOn.org Hoboken,
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania,
Property Rights and Pipeline Center,
Saphron Initiative,
Terra Advocati,
Texas Campaign for the Environment,
Thomas Berry Forum For Ecological Dialogue At Iona College,
Turtle Island Restoration Network,
Unitarian Universalist Association,
Wall of Women,
Waterway Advocates,
Wild Watershed,
Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action.