

FOLLOW THE MONEY... FIND OUT THE TRUTH

Let's Change the Policy Climate

What's fueling too many political campaigns? Oil and gas!

The oil and gas industry, which has a huge stake in climate change and other policy issues, contributed \$23 million to Congressional candidates for the 2008 election and then spent \$168 million to lobby federal lawmakers in 2009. About three-fourths of the contributions went to incumbents holding positions of power over environmental policies. In fact, since 2003, this industry has spent a staggering \$700 million to influence federal legislation.

- ▶ **Senator Richard Burr** (R-Winston-Salem) is North Carolina's largest Congressional recipient of oil and gas donations, receiving \$314,000 during 2003-09. While Sen. Burr was taking the industry's money, he voted against legislation to protect the Mid-Atlantic coast from offshore drilling, against capping mercury and global warming pollution, and against increasing fuel efficiency in cars.
- ▶ **U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick** (R-Charlotte), who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, is NC's second largest recipient of oil/gas donations, with \$83,660 for 2003-09. On the League of Conservation Voters annual evaluation of environmental votes for 2003-2008, her score averages only 4 out of a possible 100.
- ▶ **U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx** (R-Banner Elk) is third with \$50,600 – and a League of Conservation Voters score of 8 out of 100.

We need clean energy and clean campaign money.

If you support better environmental policies, it makes good sense to also support campaign finance reform. We must break the control that big-money interests have over elected leaders by offering alternative sources of campaign funds through public campaign financing programs (sometimes called Voter-Owned or Clean Elections). These programs are voluntary, affordable and effective. They promote grassroots campaigning and help candidates be independent of big money influence. They open the door for environmental advocates to run for office. More than 130 members of Congress, including five from NC, have signed on as co-sponsors of HR-1826, the *Fair Elections Now Act*. The bill would provide optional public financing for Congressional candidates who qualify by raising a large number of small contributions from voters. The Senate version is S-752.

We've got to change the system if we want public policies that represent the public good.

Please urge your U.S. House Representative to support the Federal Fair Elections Now Act by calling him or her today!

Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-1)	252.237.9816 in Wilson or 202.225.3101*
Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-2)	919.829.9122 in Raleigh or 202.225.4531
Rep. Walter Jones (R-3)	252.931.1003 in Greenville or 202.225.3415*
Rep. David Price (D-4)	919.967.7924 in Chapel Hill or 202.225.1784*
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-5)	336.778.0211 in Clemmons or 202.225.2071
Rep. Howard Coble (R-6)	336.333.5005 in Greensboro or 202.225.3065
Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-7)	910.815.4959 in Wilmington or 202.225.2731
Rep. Larry Kissell (D-8)	910.920.2070 in Fayetteville or 202.225.3715*
Rep. Sue Myrick (R-9)	704.362.1060 in Charlotte or 202.225.1976
Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-10)	828.327.6100 in Hickory or 202.225.2576
Rep. Heath Shuler (D-11)	828.252.1651 in Asheville or 202.225.6401
Rep. Melvin Watt (D-12)	704.344.9950 in Charlotte or 202.225.1510*
Rep. Brad Miller (D-13)	919.836.1313 in Raleigh or 202.225.3032 *

* *THANK these Reps. for co-sponsoring HR-1826 (FENA) — they're already on board!*

