

# Our nation's addiction to oil

fundamentally affects the health of our communities & our environment. Oil drives resource wars, global warming, human rights abuses and debt & poverty in developing countries. Our addiction to oil has provided record revenues for Big Oil, allowing oil companies to grease our democratic process, buying votes against the public interest in favor of their own profits.

**What's good for Exxon, Chevron, and others is not necessarily good for the rest of us. We elect our officials to represent us, not Big Oil.**



The first step in ending our collective addiction to oil is reducing oil money influence over our politicians and demanding political independence from Big Oil.

**It's time to get oil money out of politics.**

## It's time to Separate Oil & State!

We demand that our representatives stand up for the future of energy, not for the dinosaurs of the oil industry. Barriers to a Clean Energy transition are largely political, not technical – and oil money shows us where those barriers are.

The oil industry wields their wealth in Washington in many ways. Big Oil has donated more than \$35 million to politicians from 2005 to 2007. Roughly 75% of all donations during this time have gone to Republicans – although many Democrats receive oil money as well.

Hybrid cars, waste oil biodiesel, energy efficiency, solar and wind power are economically viable technologies today – and yet our politicians continue to use our tax money to subsidize and support Big Oil to the tune of \$6 billion in the past year alone!

**Separate Oil and State** – not just a call for help, but a way to address the cycle of high gas prices, wars over resources, and climate disasters. Getting **Dirty Oil Money** out of our democracy will free up our system to once again serve the people – ushering in a transition to a green and fair future built on sustainable energy.





# Follow the Oil Money.

## This is not just idle talk...

we have the facts that show Big Oil money is gumming up our transition to a clean energy future. In fact, in our analysis of key votes on energy, climate & the Iraq war, we found that Members of Congress who vote for Big Oil take almost four times more oil money than those who vote for clean energy, climate initiatives and for an end to the occupation of Iraq.

In 2008, Members who voted against clean energy and for subsidizing the oil and gas industry took 5.5 times more Big Oil money than those who voted to repeal subsidies.

Campaign contributions are not the only way Big Oil pursues its interests on the Hill. Between 2005 and 2007, the oil and gas industry spent \$177 million – five times more than direct contributions – on DC-based lobbyists. However, because lobby money transparency is not complete, we focus on campaign contributions as a specific & measurable way to know if your Rep is in Big Oil's pocket.

Significantly, the political power of Oil Money does not guarantee a candidate win. In the 2006 midterm elections, four of the five biggest oil money Senators were voted out of office in 2006. In contrast, all of the incumbents who took no oil money won reelection in 2006.

## Take Action

EDUCATE

ACT

ENGAGE

### America needs a tune-up & YOU can help:

- Visit our Follow the Oil Money tool to find out how much \$\$ your representatives have taken from Big Oil, and how they voted on key energy, war and climate bills. [www.followthemoney.org](http://www.followthemoney.org)
- Send an email to Congress to let them know you are paying attention. Let them know you believe in a Separation of Oil & State, and will support candidates that swear off dirty oil money and vote with the public interest to end Big Oil subsidies and support Green Energy alternatives.
- Organize & work with us to keep up the pressure to end Big Oil's influence on our government and energy future. Contact us: [Info@priceofoil.org](mailto:Info@priceofoil.org)

It's time to Separate Oil & State! [www.priceofoil.org/oilandstate](http://www.priceofoil.org/oilandstate)