



Meet Some of the Dirtiest Members of Congress

U.S. SENATE

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK)

Total Dirty Energy Money since 1999: \$1,188,050



It's not hard to see why dirty energy companies love Jim Inhofe. He is the Capitol's top climate change denier. Inhofe is renowned for his vehement attacks on climate science. He famously described climate change as "[the greatest hoax](#) ever perpetrated on the American people." He has described the EPA as "[a Gestapo bureaucracy](#)" and was accused of conducting a '[McCarthyite witch hunt](#)' after calling for top climate scientists to come under criminal investigation. Unsurprisingly, Inhofe has repeatedly voted against repealing subsidies for Big Oil and he is the sponsor of a [bill currently in progress](#) that seeks to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases.

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)

Total Dirty Energy Money since 1999: \$1,022,673



Since 1999 Landrieu has received over \$1 million in campaign contributions from oil, gas and coal companies. She was one of only two Democratic Senators to vote against removing subsidies for the oil and gas industry [in 2007](#) and recently voted for preventing the EPA from regulating greenhouse gasses. Landrieu recently [spearheaded a letter](#) to Secretary of State Clinton, signed by 14 Senators, urging the State Department to issue a permit for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline to the Gulf Coast; a project that is [touted as a boon](#) to U.S. energy security, but which will in all likelihood [raise gas prices in at least 15 states](#).

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX)

Total Dirty Energy Money since 1999: \$1,814,233



Barton is one of Congresses dirtiest politicians, with nearly \$2 million in dirty energy money contributions since 1999, 57 percent of which come from oil companies. Barton feels so indebted to the oil industry that he was compelled to [apologize to BP](#) for what he called a White House 'shakedown' after BP agreed to set up a \$20 billion fund to clean up and compensate victims of its 4.9 million barrel oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Even the GOP

found this hard to take, and he was forced to apologize for his apology or face removal from his treasured position on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Barton votes with Big Oil 100 percent of the time and has consistently voted against an end to oil and gas subsidies and most recently for removing the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Barton recently [told an incredulous ABC reporter](#) that removing tax breaks for Big Oil at a time when profits are bigger than ever could lead to oil companies deserting the United States.

Rep. Dan Boren (D-OK)

Total Dirty Energy Money since 1999: \$769,744



Dan Boren is the dirty energy industry's top man among House Democrats. Boren has consistently voted against repealing subsidies for Big Oil as well as opposing federal regulation of greenhouse gases. He voted against [repealing subsidies](#) for the oil and gas industry on March 01, 2011 and for [preventing the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases](#) on April 06, 2011. He also voted against the [American Clean Energy and Security Act 2009](#)

(Waxman-Markey), which passed the House in June 2009 only to die in the Senate.

Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI)

Total Dirty Energy Money since 1999: \$541,450



Upton's position on climate change seems to have changed since he started receiving large amounts of Dirty Energy Money. This about face has seen him make [completely opposing statements](#) on the issue within the space of 20 months: From April 2009 when he stated that "Climate change is a serious problem that necessitates serious solutions" to December 2010 when he said he was "not convinced" that "carbon is a problem in need of regulation."

This change seems to have coincided with a remarkable increase in Upton's contributions from oil and coal companies. From 1999 to 2006, Upton's dirty energy company contributions averaged less than \$20,000 per year. But then from 2009 to the end of 2010, dirty energy companies plied Upton with nearly \$230,000, including \$20,000 from Koch Industries. In the last election, Upton vied for and won chairmanship of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he now plays a powerful role in undermining America's clean energy future. In April 2011, he sponsored the [Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011](#), which seeks to amend the Clean Air Act in order to prohibit the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases. The bill passed the House and now goes on to the Senate although the White House [has warned](#) that the president will veto any such legislation that reaches his desk.