

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SLUSH-FUND CORRUPTION CASE

By:
The Center For Investigative Journalism Reporting

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This is how organized crime operates in plain sight in some government offices.

Your elected officials compete against you, rig contracts for cronies and help the companies that they OWN STOCK IN to *Cheat-Rather-Than-Compete!*

The issues had nothing to do with the environment. It was all about stock market insider investment bank scams owned and operated by corrupt Senator's families.

These are FACTS. They will stand up in a Grand Jury Hearing, A Civil Jury Trial and a Live Televised Congressional Hearing...

A Historical Perspective

Everyone who pays any attention to the news knows the name Solyndra. It has become synonymous with the overall failed green energy program administered by the Obama team. Politicos know there are [many other companies](#) that have received loan guarantees for various green energy projects that have since become a source of ridicule for the White House. Some might even be able to name a few. There is the now-bankrupt company that made batteries for electric cars: [Ener1](#). The plug-in electric sports car company, Fisker, that made its cars in Finland and has [troubles too numerous](#) to cite. And, of course, we know about the Chevy Volt—that our taxpayer dollars bailed out only to have demand so low that Chevrolet had to [pull the plug](#) on the production line and lay off workers for five weeks earlier this year. But few know the full story.

Connecting the dots will make your head hurt. There are various programs and special tax breaks and different kinds of companies that received green energy loans: solar, wind, and geothermal; and car companies, battery manufacturers, and biofuel producers. While the projects differ, they have several startling similarities. The vast majority of the green energy loan guarantees were given to companies that could not obtain enough financial backing from private investors. Their “junk” or “speculative” grade kept people from putting their own money into them —yet your money and mine was given to them, and we had no say in the matter. Of the 27 loans issued through the 1705 Loan Guarantee Program to 21 firms, virtually all of them have “connections” to either President Obama or other high-ranking Democrats—or both! The loans were made to fill a market created not by free-market demand, but by government mandates. And, all of the [“special seven”](#) got fast-tracked approvals through the Department of Interior with little scrutiny over environmental damages that would have taken any other energy company months, if not years, to get, and EPA regulations were applied selectively.

Many of the companies that received the funds had involvement with large donors and/or bundlers for the Obama campaign, and there is an amazing revolving door through which the players pass many times. They worked, for example, for Senator Harry Reid. Then they are on the staff of an investment firm that invested in one, or more, of the companies. Next you find he or she is on some White House commission—or worse, became part of the Obama Department of Energy team. Some 460 companies applied for DOE loans, but only 27 projects, 21 companies, got the funds. And 85% of these have been found to have “connections.” The remaining 15% may well have connections too, albeit more guarded or hidden.

These are not wild assertions. I have the data to back them up.

Following the publication of my column a couple of weeks ago on [crony capitalism](#), I was connected with Christine Lakatos. She's a private citizen and a single mom with a nose for research. Beginning in 2009, she was hired to work on investigative projects, following the green energy money. But when those projects were completed, she didn't stop digging. She kept finding more and more. With no outlet for her work, she started a blog where she "brain dumps" her findings—which for a total unknown has received an impressive number of readers. For anyone but the most stalwart, her [Green Corruption Blog](#) is like getting a drink of water from a fire hydrant.

On Sunday, some of Lakatos' research was presented in my [weekly column](#). The response prompted us to begin a collaboration.

For each of the next 17 weeks, we will expose one green-energy, crony-corruption story after another (though my travel schedule may require me to skip a week here and there). It will be a "book" released chapter-by-chapter. If you like what you find, we hope you'll let us know and come back the following week for the next installment.

Some single stories of what we'll expose are "out there"—though surely not covered by the mainstream media and not all in one place or all connected as we're doing. If you made a study of the green-energy, crony-corruption story your passion, you likely found out a lot of what we'll share. If you read the [report](#) from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HOGRC) on the Obama Administration's green energy gamble word-for-word, or watched the incriminating hearings, you'll already know some of what we'll present. Or, if you've read the chapter in Peter Schweizer's book *[Throw Them All Out](#)* that addresses alternative energy and "how the game of funneling taxpayer money to friends has exploded to astonishing levels in recent years," you have a good idea of the big picture. If you have made this your passion, have studied the report, and have coordinated with Schweizer, as Lakatos has, you are encouraged to help make these reports as complete as possible. Together, we'll connect the dots and present it here in bite-sized pieces.

Each of the energy projects we will profile in the "special seven" section were recipients of billions of taxpayer dollars through the 1705 Loan Guarantee Program (LGP) and many will be receiving millions more through the 1603 Grant Program. The 1705 LGP is an expansion of the 1703 program that was approved in 2005 under President Bush—increasing the expenditures from [\\$17.9 billion in 2007 to \\$37.2 billion in 2010](#). The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act significantly expanded the DOE's authority, under Energy Secretary Steven Chu, through the newly created 1705 LGP. (Under the Recovery Act, \$86 billion—approximately 10% of the stimulus package—was earmarked for green energy projects.) The LGP means that companies get risk-free money. If the company succeeds, the low-interest loan gets paid back. If they fail—as [many have](#)—we, the taxpayers, lose. In contrast, the [1603 Grant Program](#)—implemented as part the Obama stimulus—is administered by the Treasury Department, with the goal of reimbursing eligible applicants for a portion of the costs of

installing specified energy property used in a trade or business or for the production of income. Basically 1603 gives billions in favored businesses tax-free cash gifts that do not have to be paid back.

While we can prove that cronyism has run amok within the majority of 1705 LGP, we'll stay focused on the Special Seven. Here, in Part 1, we present a complete overview of the connecting dots on one project: SolarReserve, LLC. With this introduction made, we'll likely address several companies, with a common denominator, in subsequent releases.

In Sunday's column, the following thumbnail was presented: "SolarReserve's [Crescent Dunes](#) project is a solar thermal power tower plant utilizing the advanced molten salt power tower technology with integrated storage located in Tonopah, NV. The company's Fitch rating is BB, yet in September 2011, it was the recipient of [\\$737 million](#) in DOE loan guarantees. Obama's law school buddy and 2008 Obama campaign bundler, Michael Froman, was managing director of alternative investments at Citigroup—which became a [major investor](#) in SolarReserve. Froman currently serves on the [White House staff](#). Additionally, other high profile Democrats are involved with SolarReserve."

But there is more...

More about Michael Froman. Peter Schweizer reports that "When Obama ran for president, Froman helped raise large sums of money on Wall Street" for the 2008 campaign. The HOGRC report (page 47) confirms Peter's findings and adds that Froman was a \$200,000 bundler: "Michael Froman currently serves as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs. He was a friend of President Obama's from law school, and supported his political career by bundling over \$200,000 for his 2008 presidential candidacy. Prior to his arrival at the White House, Froman was the Managing Director of Alternative Investments at Citigroup, where he managed infrastructure and sustainable development investments. Citigroup became a major investor in SolarReserve, which ultimately received a \$737 million loan guarantee in September 2011."

The Citigroup connection is tighter. [Richard Parsons](#) was Chairman for Citigroup from 2009 until he [announced stepping down](#) in March 2012. [Citigroup](#) was a top Obama donor in 2008. Parsons served on the Obama Transition Team and on the Economic Advisory Board. In 2011, Parsons was appointed to the [President's Council on Jobs and Competiveness](#).

Next, David Sandalow—who is currently "the Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs at DOE, where he acts as Secretary's Chu's principal adviser on energy policy, as well as coordinating DOE's foreign policy involvement." (HOGRC report page 49) "Sandalow's ties to the White House date back to the Clinton Administration, during which he worked with President Clinton on environmental issues. After having gained this experience, Sandalow became the influential Chair of the Energy & Climate Working Group of the Clinton Global Initiative. He went on to advise President Obama's presidential campaign in 2008. Prior to

joining the Obama Administration, Sandalow was a senior advisor to Good Energies, Inc., an energy-focused venture capital firm. Good Energies is an [investor](#) in SolarReserve.”

Other SolarReserve connections to the Democratic Party include:

Ronald Pelosi—Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s brother-in-law, [Ronald Pelosi](#), holds a leadership position with Pacific Corporate Group Asset Management—which is an [investor in SolarReserve](#). Additionally, his colleague, [Jasandra Nyker](#), has served as a member of SolarReserve’s board of directors.

George Kaiser—Argonaut Private Equity is an investor in SolarReserve. Argonaut Private Equity is owned by [major Democratic fundraiser](#) and a 2008 Top Obama bundler George Kaiser, who also invested in Solyndra. Kaiser made multiple visits to the White House in the months before the company was granted a \$535 million loan from the government. The Managing Director for Argonaut Private Equity, Steve Mitchell, serves on SolarReserve’s Board of Directors.

Tony Podesta—[OpenSecrets.org](#) shows that SolarReserve paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in lobbying fees to the Podesta Group. Tony Podesta is the principal at the Podesta Group—which he [started with his brother John](#). John Podesta ran Barack Obama’s presidential transition team and is the Director of the Center for American Progress—which is “reportedly [highly influential](#) in helping to craft White House Policy.” Both Tony Podesta and his wife Heather (a Washington power couple) are frequent White House visitors that share high ranks in “lobbying power,” and Democrat bundling as well.

Lee Bailey—SolarReserve’s Chairman of the Board is Lee Bailey, a Managing Director with U.S. Renewables Group, who holds a significant financial stake in SolarReserve. [Bailey has donated](#) \$21,850 since 2008 to Democratic candidates, including President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, California Sen. Barbara Boxer and then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

James McDermott—[SolarReserve board member](#) James McDermott is also a Managing Director with U.S. Renewables Group. He contributed [\\$61,500 to various Democratic](#) campaigns since 2008, including \$30,800 to Obama’s presidential election campaign. U.S Renewable Energy Group has ties with Senator Harry Reid.

If there were only one connect-the-dots story, it would be easy to dismiss it as coincidence. But here, with just one company, you can see the dots connect, and connect, and connect. As you will continue to see, they keep on connecting. In this case, connect-the-dots is no innocent childhood game. It is a high-stakes gamble and only those with connections get to play. Obama and his Democratic friends are the winners. We, the taxpayers, the losers. We lose the financial investment of our tax dollars and our electricity rates go up (M. Noon)

On the Senate floor, the Majority Leader Harry Reid rambled on suggesting that instead of considering the latest Republican aim to derail the successful implementation of Obamacare, the Senate should be addressing things like energy efficiency and facing the reality of climate change. This was later [posted](#) by the left-wing propaganda machine, Think Progress, which is a blog run by Center for American Progress the high-powered (lobbying) organization that has a major foothold [inside](#) the Obama administration, and is a [driving force](#) inside this clean-energy scheme, which of course, includes pushing a "[radical](#) climate agenda."

Considering that the Affordable Care Act has since turned into a calamity, the Obama administration is now [grasping](#) for climate change legacy as his second-term agenda crumbles. However, behind the scenes, and before recent unfavorable events, it was [reported](#) that he [Obama] sees this [climate change] as a necessary part of his legacy."

This means that while the president released his "[Climate Action Plan](#)" in June 2013, the push to spend [billions more](#) of taxpayer [money](#) in order to save the planet will continue to spew out of the White House, coupled with various [executive actions](#), extreme measures, and further expansion of our federal government's control over our lives. What most Americans don't know is that a March 2012 report by the Brookings Institute, [places](#) the Obama administrations' "total government spending (both stimulus and non-stimulus) on green initiatives at [\\$150 billion through 2014](#)." And what did we, the taxpayer, get out of the deal? Billions [wasted](#), increased debt, outsourcing green energy money and green jobs to other countries, as well as massive amounts of corporate welfare, cronyism, and corruption. Even so, as the congressional Democrats and their allies [resume plotting](#), the senator from Nevada has more sinister motives: the "green" gave Reid a 2010 platform and facilitated a guaranteed reelection. Who knows what the future holds for Reid if the Obama administration and his "climate minions" continue to have their way. Senator Reid: Repeat Offender on "List of Washington's Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians"

Harry Reid is another one of those career politicians making their living off the backs of American taxpayers. Reid, who came from [humble beginnings](#), has "risen from the son of a hard-rock miner to a fabulously [wealthy](#) Senate Majority Leader" ([net worth in 2010](#) ranged from \$3,302,053 to \$10,309,999). First elected in 1986, Reid knows how to use the system, inside and out, in order to get elected over and over.

Reid is even a "repeat offender" at the Judicial Watch "List of Washington's Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." While Judicial Watch, in [2012](#), gives examples on how the majority leader has used earmarks and influence to enrich himself and his family, they do reference his tie to solar. Sen. Harry Reid's latest influence-peddling scandal involves ENN Energy Group, a Chinese green energy client of Nevada's largest and most prestigious law firm Lionel Sawyer & Collins, of which the Senator's son, Rory Reid, is a principal. Back in the summer of 2012, [news broke](#) on how Harry and his oldest son, Rory, were both involved in an effort by a Chinese energy giant, ENN Energy Group, to build a \$5 billion solar farm and panel manufacturing plant

in the southern Nevada desert. Needless to say, Reid's connection to green energy goes much deeper than one Chinese firm. In getting underneath the majority leader's clean-energy dirt, one must know that sometime in either late 2008 or early 2009, the senator was first instrumental in getting the "Recovery Act" to appropriate and expand the Energy Department's Loan Guarantee Program, which ultimately added stimulus loans to its repertoire. Then prior to, at the same time, or shortly thereafter, Reid received money from the geothermal industry, as well as those seeking stimulus loans. Reid, then, in September 2009, pressured President Obama, the Secretary's of Treasury and Energy as well as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to fund clean-energy projects "rapidly" all under the guise of "investments" and based on the false promise of job creation.

What we will be exposing in this Green Corruption File is that instead of creating jobs, there is a case whereas Reid's advocacy actually 'bailed out' his cronies. Meanwhile, the White House and those inside the DOE helped Reid secure clean-energy stimulus loans (and grants) for projects in Nevada that had "his support" all the while Reid used these wins as a campaign ploy to ensure a 2010 midterm victory, of which we can confirm that the senator is directly linked to over \$3 billion in just the stimulus loans alone in taxpayer money that created a whopping 224 permanent jobs.

Senator Reid's Role in the Recovery Act Stimulus Loans In June 2013, we reported that Senator Harry Reid had a small role (hypocrisy) in our "[Nuclear Crimes and Misdemeanors](#)" story, which involves the billion-dollar Colorado-based consulting, engineering and construction firm [CH2M Hill](#), who has been on the government dole for quite some time, and not only had input into the 2009-Recovery Act, but in 2009, [was awarded \\$1.3 billion](#) in stimulus funds. Apparently, it was appropriate to scrutinize the "conflict of interest" when President Bush was in office, but not a peep from Reid under President Obama. CH2M Hill may be just a fluke, but what we can confirm is that Majority Leader Reid is heavily involved in this green energy scheme.

Shortly after President Obama began his reign as our 44th president, in February 2009, he [signed into law](#) the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This was a massive economic stimulus bill among the biggest in history that was sold to the American people as a means save our economy from the brink of disaster and create American jobs. This stimulus package was jammed-packed full of [clean-energy provisions](#), of which about 10 percent (\$100 billion) of the monies were earmarked for renewable energy.

When looking at the entire Green Corruption scandal, it's important to reiterate that Senator Reid [led passage](#) of the \$814 billion stimulus bill (some reports say higher) and worked to include the loan guarantee program to help finance clean-energy projects. ***(Some say America should punch Reid in the eye for all of the corruption he engaged in against the public)***

Seven months after the stimulus was signed into law, on September 23, 2009, Senator Reid, wrote a letter to President Obama, which was cc:ed to Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, and Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Peter

Orsag, complaining as to the slow pace of implementation of the Department of Energy's loan guarantee programs. During the course of that correspondence, is also where Senator Reid patted himself on the back for his role (via the stimulus bill) in helping to "appropriate an additional \$6 billion for an expanded loan guarantee program." Despite Reid's acknowledgment of the risk involved, he proceeded to request that "obstacles be cleared away," and basically demanded that the Recovery Act monies for the loan program be dispensed "rapidly" all the while claiming that these billions in taxpayer funds "will grow tens of thousands of green jobs."

The loan program that Reid is referring to in this letter, which he helped expand under the stimulus law, is the Energy Department's Section 1705 a program of which in March of 2012, we discovered [from the](#) House Oversight and Government Reform committee that in excess of \$16 billion was doled to 26 projects, of which 22 of the loans were rated "Junk" grade due to their poor credit quality. The remaining ended up on lowest end of the investment grade of categories, giving the DOE's 1705 loan portfolio an overall average of BB-, which explains the term [DOE's "junk bond" portfolio](#) frequented throughout my work.

The Green Corruption Files has exposed many times that at least 90 percent of the winners of these DOE stimulus loans (the entire Energy Department loan portfolio) have meaningful politically connections (bundlers, top donors, fundraisers, etc) to the president and other high-ranking Democrats in some cases, to both.

Since 2009, the Energy Department, through three separate programs ([Section 1703](#), [Section 1705](#), which was [created](#) by the 2009-Recovery Act, and [Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing \(ATVM\)](#)) has guaranteed along with pressure and influence from President Obama, Vice-President Biden, and the White House \$34.5 billion of taxpayer money that thus far has [funded 33](#) projects. To date, the big [alternative energy losers](#) in just this clean-energy program are Solyndra, Beacon Power, Abound Solar, [SoloPower](#), Fisker Automotive, and the Vehicle Production Group with quite a few still in the shadows.

Later we learned that many of these same projects funded with DOE loans also won free taxpayer cash from one of the biggest stimulus scams: the [1603 Treasury Program](#), which has to date given out \$19,349,675,402 in another [part of this scandal](#) that we have been tracking.

"Reid's [platform](#) was power," wrote the Huffington Post back then: "the 71-year-old one-time boxer touted his ability to bring federal money to his home state no one could do more, he argued..."

In fact, Reid's 2010 campaign included taking credit for his part in the Recovery Act, bragging about his role in the SWIP-S project, and promoting himself as a major green jobs creator, which included this slogan: [FIGHTING FOR CLEAN ENERGY JOBS IN NEVADA](#). Ironically, part of Senator Reid's clean-energy legacy is his September 2010 appearance at the Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas [when he showed](#) up in [a fleet of SUVs](#) so that he and a few aides would not have to walk the mere 100 yards to address environmental activists.

Senator Reid brought home the federal dollars all right, and the White House and those inside the Department of Energy (DOE) made sure of that. Stimulus money that was supposed to save our economy from the brink of disaster and create American jobs not save an election. While there are three additional Nevada projects funded with stimulus money, we'll stay focused on the five stimulus loans, listed in the chart below.

- FIVE "speculative" loans: over \$3 billion that produced (or expected to create) 2532 temporary construction jobs and 224 permanent jobs.
- FOUR in Nevada: SWIP-S, Nevada Geothermal (Blue Mountain), Ormat Nevada, Inc. (OFC 2, LLC project), and SolarReserve (Crescent Dunes Solar) and one in California, BrightSource Energy (Ivanpah facility)
- FOUR got "special" Department of Interior "fast-track" approval: Nevada Geothermal, Ormat Nevada, SolarReserve, and BrightSource Energy
- FOUR included campaign donors: Nevada Geothermal, Ormat Nevada, SolarReserve, and BrightSource Energy with the latter firm even throwing a fundraiser for Senator Reid
- TWO involved former aides of Senator Reid: Nevada Geothermal and Ormat Nevada
- THREE were announced and/or finalized in time for 2010 midterms: SWIP-S, Nevada Geothermal, and BrightSource Energy with Ormat Nevada featured in a [2010 Midterm Ad](#) "approved by" Senator Reid.
- FOUR included special appearances and/or press releases by Senator Reid: SWIP-S, Nevada Geothermal, Ormat Nevada, and SolarReserve

Now with the overview presented, let me share some of the "behind the scenes" and "in front of the camera" details, starting with a project known as SWIP-E (winner of \$343 million; 2/2011), which was used as 2010 midterm ploy, and photo opportunity. In fact, the SWIP-E project is where Senator Reid even touts his role in the loan program with this February 2011 [press release headline](#): "ON Line Transmission Project Was Possible Thanks to Recovery Act Loan Guarantee Secured by Senator Reid."

We also learned [from the](#) Washington Free Beacon that, [Nevada Geothermal [winner of \$98.5 million; 9/2010], Ormat Nevada [winner of \$350 million; 9/2011] and SolarReserve [winner of \$737 million; 9/2011] are located in Reid's home state (as is the SWIP-E project) and that as of 2012, "executives from all three companies [had] donated to Reid and his fellow Democrats, contributing more than \$58,000 since 2008.

Last but not least, there is [BrightSource Energy](#), the winner of [\\$1.6 billion](#) in April 2011 for a huge solar project near the California-Nevada border. BrightSource Energy's then-CEO, John Woolard, and the then-chairman of PG&E Corporation, Peter Darbee hosted a breakfast fundraiser in August 2010 for Senator Reid in the Oakland offices of BrightSource Energy.

Adding to the Obama administration's larger green energy initiative (and cronyism), "on March 11, 2009, the Department of Interior (DOI) issued a secretarial order to fast track the siting of renewable energy projects on public lands managed by the agency." This included a "fast-tracked

approval of several major projects in California and Nevada, which "raised questions over negative environmental impacts and the agency's adherence to environmental regulations," [reported](#) by Beacon in 2012.

What's most disturbing is that these decisions were made with a little scrutiny over environmental damages, and [according to](#) the Los Angeles Times, it caused strife amongst environmentalists and some eco-drama, including news that Gang Green, the nation's big environmental players, were silent on the projects or actively lobbied for them. We can confirm that seven projects that also won DOE stimulus loans (some grants), also received fast-tracked approval by the DOI to lease federal lands in a no-bid process: Abengoa Solar, BrightSource Energy, First Solar, Nevada Geothermal Power, NextEra Energy Resources, Ormat Nevada, and SolarReserve."

While the environmentalists were mostly silent on this issue, The Beacon was alarmed by the "speed with which the projects were approved, coupled with the fact that the companies had already received Energy Department loan guarantees with strict time lines attached," concluding a suspicion "as to whether Interior's actions were predetermined."

Later we learned that at least two of these projects were having environmental problems. BrightSource's Ivanpah solar power project in the Mojave Desert was killing turtles an issue that they spent \$56 million to resolve, however, not without [causing more harm](#) to animals and other calamities to the tortoises that were made vulnerable by the project. And now this project is "executing birds"(more details forthcoming in the BrightSource section) a federal crime when perpetrated by an oil company. The second one is NextEra's Genesis solar energy project that was [killing the](#) sensitive desert kit fox population and "possibly desecrating an ancient Native American burial site."We first tackled this part of the Green Corruption scandal in the summer of 2012, in our "[Special Seven](#)" series, which as you can see includes four of Reid's DOE deals. But worse is that Reid not only [colluded with](#) the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in a June 29, 2009 special announcement regarding the "Fast Track" initiatives for solar energy development on western lands, but he also takes credit for this "fast-track permitting" itself in his "[Playing to win in CLEAN ENERGY](#)" report [released](#) in March of 2012. Reid also documents his clean-energy initiatives as far back as 2001, along with more "green" government favors that went to Nevada, which will be detailed later. Needless to say, the senator must have forgotten to share the fact that "Reid's staffers have been a key part of Washington D.C.'s revolving door, setting up shop with lobbying outfits that have ties to green energy companies and the Department of Interior, which oversees such projects," [noted](#) The Beacon in 2012. Internal Emails Proves that Projects in Nevada were Prioritized for Senator Reid, And these are decisions, by the way, that are made by the Department of Energy, they have nothing to do with politics. President Obama [responded to a reporter](#) in October of 2012, when asked about the green companies that have gone bankrupt despite receiving taxpayer support.

That statement was absolutely false. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee [released internal DOE emails](#) on October 31, 2012 that compromised "Obama's position on two counts: one, the emails show that Obama himself was involved in approving loans; two, DOE officials were keenly aware of the political interests at stake, as they regarded the loans as a way for the White House to help Reid by giving him a way to brag about bringing federal money into Nevada," [reported](#) the Washington Times.

The circumstantial evidence alone is enough to indict Senator Reid for cronyism and corruption, but it was the 2012 Halloween email dump that proved [how](#) the Obama administration used DOE loan money to help Harry Reid's 2010 campaign. As this revelation hit the airwaves, Marita Noon, energy columnist at Townhall.com, and I [immediately hammered away](#) by busting open the DOE's den of deception, exposing its coercion, corruption, cronyism, and cover-ups.

Today we'll stay focused on the Senator Reid's role, which began as early as December 2009, yet we'll begin with the Washington Examiner released back then, which involves James C. McCrea, Senior Credit Advisor of the Loan Programs and the DOE Loan Director Jonathan Silver.

NOTE: Silver is reported to be an Obama bundler, and had been a managing partner at Core Capital Partners [and co-founder] in Washington. It turns out that one of Silver's colleagues there was Tom Wheeler, another 2008 Obama bundler as well as part of the Obama-Biden Transition Team. Silver formerly served in the Clinton administration, and it has been reported that "he is a strict partisan when it comes to his own campaign contributions, the recipients have all been Democrats. Silver was appointed as the Executive Director of the Loan Programs Office in November 2009, of which he was responsible for the agency's strategic direction and oversees all of its transactions. Silver is a key figure inside these DOE loans, up until Silver [resigned](#) in early October 2011, amidst the "Solyndra \$535 Million Saga."

In December 2009, McCrea in an EMAIL forwarded one of his colleagues an article about how Reid would struggle in the 2010 campaign along with a comment on how it might affect the DOE loan program...

"...Reid may be desperate, McCrea wrote. WH may want to help. Short term considerations may be more important than longer term considerations and what's a billion anyhow?..."

In that same message, McCrea also speculated that, in light of Reid's campaign struggles, there may be an opportunity to move several transactions simultaneously, allowing LGPO to finish with a trifecta!

A May 2010 EMAIL shows that Reid requested a meeting with Jonathan Silver...

Silver interpreted Reid's request in light of the campaign. Reid is constantly hit at home for not bringing in the federal dollars, he wrote. Silver's task, according to the DOE memo prepared for his meeting, was to assure Reid that we anticipate a good number of projects to be approved in

the coming months. (*Did Reid have Dennis Hof killed because Hof said he was going to expose Reid/*)

The Washington Examiner also noted, "The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee proves that throughout 2010 LPO emails indicate that projects in Nevada were prioritized because they were "high profile" tied to larger events, or because they had Senator Reid's support. The Majority Leader's Energy Department Deals Those set of pesky and incriminating [2012 DOE email](#) dump, more specially inside the [350+ page Appendix II](#), reveal that many of the DOE loans were rushed and approved for political purposes Presidential visits, speeches, announcements, photo ops, and talking points for the president as well as for the purpose of helping those connected to the companies seeking the loans " CEO's, investors, and Democrat politicians, which goes beyond [subsidizing Nevada companies](#) in order to help Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid win his 2010 reelection. Yet, Reid's part in this Green Corruption scandal is unprecedented as reflected not only in his role in the 2009-Recovery Act, but also in the amount of clean-energy federal dollars that he brought home to his state of Nevada. As mentioned, Reid is tied to five green energy risky projects (four in Nevada and one in California). However, besides finding favor with the Interior Department, many of these same projects, as well as three others that we found, won cash free money from the stimulus package as well thus placing Reid's clean-energy stimulus tab over \$3.4 billion and counting.

#1. LS Power (Transmission Line project), formally known as SWIP-S, located in Nevada: [\\$343 million](#) DOE stimulus loan ([Rating BB+ by Fitch](#)) / Total taxpayer money to date: \$343 million, all stimulus

- Announced [October 2010](#), which included a special visit a photo op for Senator Reid. Finalized in February 2011, which involved [bragging rights](#) by Senator Reid.
- Status as of November 8, 2013: not completed
- Jobs: anticipated 400 construction and 15 permanent
- Also in my [February 23, 2013](#): Massive Green Money Machine

On April 14, 2010, Steve Shulman sent James McCrea (at that time the Loan Program Office Credit Advisor), an EMAIL asking if he had assigned anyone from his group to work on the Great Basin (LS Power) transmission project.

McCrea responds to Steve and Sandy Claghorn (at that time she was a Credit Consultant at the DOE, and ironically her background is from the credit-rating agency Fitch that gave the SWIP-S project a Rating BB+), I presume you mean SWIP? If so, Sandy Claghorn will be lead. McCrea, in his email response, addresses Sandy directly, "Sandy " This is a very high profile transaction that has, within the past 2 weeks, become the subject of a ton of high level focus. It is a priority for Jonathon..."

The "Jonathan" referred to here is Mr. Silver, who was head of the loan program from November 2009 to October 2011, of which we highlighted his role and background a bit earlier in this post, and throughout most these Green Corruption Files.

In an October 13, 2010 EMAIL, with the subject line "SWIP -- FERC Approvals," [Kimberly Heimert](#) (Deputy Chief Counsel at Loan Guarantee Program) writes to Jim McCrea....

"We (and OMB) have huge political pressure to get this deal done..."

In the middle of the entire ruckus regarding SWIP that occurred since April 2010 (that we know of), this project, five days after this email on [October 19, 2010](#), received a conditional commitment for a stimulus loan worth \$350 million. It also got a special celebration, which included [a special visit](#) and PHOTO OP from key (now formal) energy officials: Jonathan Silver, Executive Director of the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office, and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar as well as Senator Harry Reid.

Later in November 2010, during the course of several inter agency emails with the subject line, "SWIP - Fast Track," we can confirm that "SWIP" was on the fast-track process, which from what I gather, was "only intended to help get the conditional commitment, not closing."

However, it was a process of which many who were reviewing the DOE loans were frustrated with, as reflected in this November 19, 2010 EMAIL by McCrea:

Basically, they are going to fight us on transactions if they don't meet these criteria. That means that not much is likely to come through the process. We will now declare victory at Credit Committee approval, support the interagency process the best we can, hope for an outcome but not count on it and then, when someone needs a photo op or the applicant screams loud enough, an occasional transaction will be spit out into the conditional commitment. I know this is a harsh comment but it is also realistic unfortunately.

Later in February 2011, despite the fact that a month earlier, Fitch had rated the Nevada transmission line project as "non-investment grade," it was finalized. The SWIP-S project was set "to develop the first phase of a line that will carry approximately 2,000 MW of electricity" and it was projected to produce 400 construction jobs. When operational, it will provide 15 permanent jobs.

Nevertheless, it turns out that Reid has been in the middle of this project conflicts and all for many years, which dates as far back as 2007, putting a huge hamper into the transmission line project at that time. However, [according to](#) the Las Vegas Sun, "...in 2009, Reid again stepped in, this time not with a bullet, but a lifeline.

The Sun continues, Reid tucked \$3.2 billion worth of low-interest loans for transmission line development into the economic recovery act the stimulus bill President Barack Obama signed into law last February. Of which the Sun surmises, noting minimal campaign contributions, but that...

Reid gets a transmission line for Nevada an election-year trophy, no doubt, perhaps with a photo op of hundreds of workers building the power line, and the start of the state's the green energy future, just in time for Election Day.

NOTE: In February 2013, we unleashed Citigroup's massive "green" money machine, and how their renewable energy transactions tie them to approximately \$16 billion of "green" taxpayer money, which includes representing SolarReserve (we'll get to in a bit) as well as LS Power for at least two projects; one in California and Arizona.

But LS Power has a lot [of projects](#), and there is one in particular that stands out due to the fact that it was the recipient of one of those stimulus "junk" rated DOE loans. LS Power and its project labeled "One Nevada Transmission Line" a Nevada project called ON Line, which was formerly known as SWIP-S, and where [Great Basin Transmission, LLC](#), an affiliate of LS Power, is developing the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP).

#2. Nevada Geothermal Power Company, known as the Blue Mountain Geothermal Project located in Humboldt County, Nevada: [\\$98.5 million](#) DOE stimulus loan ([Rating BB+ by Fitch](#)) / Total taxpayer money to date: over \$164 million, all stimulus

- Announced on [June 15, 2010](#), which also included a special [press release](#) by Senator Harry Reid; and it was finalized on it was finalized on [September 7, 2010](#), which also involved the senator
- On July 6, 2011, NGP Blue Mountain I LLC won a \$65,741,725 stimulus grant from the 1603 Grant Program
- Received fast-tracked approval by the Department of Interior
- Status as of November 8, 2013: Plant reported to be completed and operational
- Jobs: 200 construction and 14 permanent jobs the plant's operation now provides
- Both the Nevada Geothermal and Ormat Nevada parts can be found in our [July 15, 2012](#) post entitled "Senator Harry Reid's Part in Green-Energy Crony-Corruption," which at that time was Part Three of our "Special Seven Series"

Nevada Geothermal Power (NGP), now [Alternative Earth Resources Inc](#), "holds leasehold interests in four geothermal projects located in the Western United States." Two months before NGP's Blue Mountain project received a conditional approval for an Energy Department loan guarantee (in April 2010), [Reid toured](#) the plant, promoting it as a jobs creator: "This project is exactly the type of initiative we need to ensure Nevada creates good-paying jobs,..." Mr. Reid said. In a June [2010 press release](#), when the \$98.5 million loan was moving at full speed, Reid stated, "I am glad to see economic recovery funding being used to put Nevadans to work on a project that will help us achieve energy independence. Reid at that time also declared, "Northern Nevada is the Saudi Arabia of geothermal energy..."The campaign contributions both from the geothermal industry as well as "[executives from](#)" NGP not to mention Reid's part in the ensuring that stimulus package expanded the Energy Department's loan program (1705), and the fact that Reid was campaigning for their project early on, could be why, despite the low credit rating of

the Blue Mountain geothermal project in Humboldt County, the \$98.5 million stimulus loan was finalized.

During the September 7, 2010 [announcement](#), Secretary Chu marked the Blue Mountain moment as part of the Obama administration's "commitment to reducing carbon emissions while creating clean energy jobs" all 214 of them. Meanwhile Senator Reid again takes credit, "As I led passage of the stimulus bill, I worked to include the loan guarantee program to help finance clean-energy projects like Blue Mountain geothermal that will put Nevadans back to work and bring us closer to energy independence."

Both the June and September press releases, with both Secretary Chu and Senator Reid claiming victory over "green jobs," runs into direct conflict with these claims. The House Oversight report stated: It was known to him [Secretary Chu] at that time [of the press conference], that the loan would not create a single job, but instead would simply refinance an existing loan, despite DOE's claim that it would create over 200 jobs.

Worse, instead of using the loan as Title XVI, Section 1602 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, requires: "Recipients shall use grant funds in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit" but the loan was used to pay off a creditor.

According to the Washington Times report, At the time the Energy Department announced its conditional approval of the guarantee, Mr. Issa said NGP would have defaulted on a loan from TCW Asset Management Co., then its primary lender, had DOE not swooped in to save the failing company with taxpayer money. A committee report said the loan did not finance any new construction and did not help to create a single job.

Despite the hype, at the time the DOE approved the loan in September 2010, they were well aware of NGP's "well-documented" financial difficulties. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee [called the loan a "bailout"](#) which violated the spirit and, quite possibly, the letter of the law and provided an opportunity for private industry to exit an investment, de-leverage and transfer the extraordinarily high default risk to taxpayers. Instead of creating jobs, in this particular case, Reid's advocacy actually "bailed out" his cronies and added another notch to his 2010 midterm bragging rights on clean-energy and green jobs", all the while sticking it to the taxpayer. And they didn't stop at \$98.5 million.

On July 6, 2011, NGP Blue Mountain I LLC won a \$65,741,725 stimulus grant from the [1603 Grant Program](#). By October 2011, the Nevada Geothermal, again was facing turmoil (operational and financial problems with the Blue Mountain plant"), as documented by the New York Times of which they also [reported](#) Senator Reid's part in the DOE deal. Reid was instrumental in securing that financing for Nevada Geothermal, noting that Mr. Reid has taken the nascent geothermal industry under his wing, pressuring the Department of Interior to move more quickly on applications to build clean energy projects on federally owned land and urging other members

of Congress to expand federal tax incentives to help build geothermal plants, benefits that Nevada Geothermal has taken advantage of.

You might think Reid has altruistic motives, such as creating jobs for his state, however, as the New York Times pointed out: Mr. Reid has received some support from the industry, in the form of at least \$43,000 worth of campaign contributions from the geothermal industry since 2009, according to an analysis of federal campaign finance records.

Nevertheless, problems persisted both before the stimulus loan and thereafter. Less than a year after the loan was issued, leading accounting firm Deloitte & Touche did a 2011 [audit of NGP](#) and [concluded](#): "significant doubt" about Nevada Geothermal Power's ability to continue as a going concern. The company's vital signs are not looking good: it has incurred net losses over the past several years, has an accumulated deficit of \$44.0 million and an anticipated inability to retire its long-term liabilities.

During the [May 16, 2012 testimony](#) before the House Oversight Committee, the CEO Brian D. Fairbank spoke about the many good things occurring at Blue Mountain and stated that they remained bullish on the future of geothermal resource potential at Blue Mountain.

However, in 2012, the future of Nevada Geothermal was [looking dim](#), as it was still facing financial problems, and "the company's internal auditors had questioned whether it could stay in business" ... insight that came from NGP auditors via a financial statement for the period ending March 31 [2012] and reported by the Washington Times.

With such a terrible 2011 audit and another grim financial statement completed in March 2012, one as to wonder how much did Fairbanks actually know about the status of NGP during that May 16 testimony when he defended their taxpayer subsidized geothermal project.

Needles to say, Nevada Geothermal Power (NGP), [in July of 2012](#), were still facing financial issues, and it was reported that NGP was on its way toward bankruptcy. However, as of May 2013, financial news [reported](#) that Blue Mountain had owed almost \$200 million to its private lenders, and that NGP "has completed the sale of the Blue Mountain Geothermal Project to funds managed by [EIG Global Energy Partners, LLC](#), the mezzanine lender for the project, pursuant to an equity and collateral transfer agreement."

It's not quite clear what went down behind the Blue Mountain, but as of April 3, 2013 NGP changed its name to [Alternative Earth Resources Inc.](#) Still, as of November 2013, the DOE states that the Blue Mountain project is operational, and it also claims 200 construction and 14 permanent jobs.

Wow, over \$164 million for 14 jobs, if we count the temporary.#3. Ormat Nevada, Inc, for [their project](#) known as "OFC2," which involves a portfolio of three different geothermal power facilities the state of Nevada Jersey Valley, McGinness Hills, and Tuscarora: [\\$350 million](#) DOE stimulus loan ([Rating BB by S&P](#)) / Total taxpayer money to date: \$455 million, all stimulus

- Announced on [June 9, 2011](#), which included Secretary Chu and Senator Reid. It was finalized in September 2011, of which Senator Reid made a [special announcement](#) as well, however, folks from Ormat were used in a 2010 midterm campaign ad.
- Ormat Technologies projects have received over than [\\$250 million in various DOE and Treasury grants](#), of which the majority came from the stimulus-created 1603 Grant Program.
- Received fast-tracked approval by the Department of Interior
- Status as of November 8, 2013: currently operational
- Jobs: expected to create 332 jobs during construction and 64 permanent jobs

Keep in mind that "[executives from](#)" Ormat had donated to Reid and his fellow Democrats, since 2008, and as mentioned during the course of covering the Nevada Geothermal deal, Mr. Reid has received support from the industry, in the form of at least \$43,000 worth of campaign contributions from the geothermal industry since 2009. Still, there's much more to the Ormat/Reid clean-energy story to share.

With all the "green energy campaigning" that Reid engaged in for the 2010 midterms, he failed to put into a press release that "meaningful ties exist between the senator and Ormat." Two of Ormat's federal lobbyists previously worked for Senator Reid," and they both donated to his campaign all well [documented](#) in the in the House Oversight report that came on March 20, 2012.

While Ormat's outside lobbyist, [Kai Anderson](#) of Cassidy and Associates, served as Senator Reid's Deputy Chief of Staff up until 2005, Ormat's company lobbyist, Director of Policy and Business Development from September 2005 until September 2013, was Paul Thomsen. Mr. Thomsen is another former aide to the Senator (2002 to 2005), where he handled public lands and energy issues. [Mr. Thomsen, amongst other roles](#), also sat on Senator Harry Reid's Blue Ribbon Council on Renewable Energy. He's now at the [Governor's Office of Energy](#) in Nevada.

To make this case more convoluted, the senator (in June 2010) launched a "[2010 Geothermal Campaign Ad](#)" starring his former staffer Thomsen, who heralded, Geothermal means 16,000 Nevada jobs Harry Reid saw the potential before just about anybody else.

We [find that](#) "in addition to Anderson and Thomsen, Ormat's President, Yoram Bronicki, gave thousands in political contributions to Senator Reid. The strong ties between the company and the Senate Majority leader raise questions about whether the DOE acted in the best interests of the American people when it approved the loan guarantee." Yoram Bronicki is the son of Mrs. Yehudit (Dita) Bronicki, the CEO and Director of Ormat Technologies, who recently [announced](#) that she, "plans on retiring in 2014."

Ormat Nevada is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ormat Technologies, Inc., on June 9, 2011, received a conditional commitment for a partial guarantee for a \$350 million loan from the Energy Department, which [was presented by](#) they dynamic duo once again, Chu and Reid.

Both made their case known. This project will help our nation maintain its position as the world's leader in installed geothermal capacity, while creating hundreds of jobs in Nevada, stated Secretary Chu. Meanwhile Senator Reid, once again, claimed jobs: Energy jobs.

Despite the projects low credit rating ("speculative"), in September 2011, the Department of Energy finalized the \$350 million DOE stimulus loan to support Ormat Nevada, Inc.'s OFC 2, of which the three projects involved are aided by this DOE loan as well production tax credits.

According to [the Senator's 2012 report](#), "Ormat is also taking advantage of the Treasury Department's (Section 1603) grant in lieu of tax credit program. In September 2010, Ormat received \$108.2 million for specified energy property in lieu of tax credits relating to its North Brawley geothermal power plant in California." However, during the June 19, 2012 House Oversight hearing, via written testimony by the CEO of Ormat, Dita Bronicki, we found that Ormat Technologies projects have received more than [\\$200 million in various DOE and Treasury grants](#), of which the majority came from the stimulus-created 1603 Grant Program.

A few months after the Jun 19th hearing (September 15, 2012), Ormat again won more free cash (close to \$47 million), which went toward one of its three projects in Nevada. So, this geothermal project in Nevada is not only funded by taxpayers with \$350 million stimulus loan, but three stimulus grants all doled out in 2012 (ORNI 15 LLC, ORNI 39 LLC and ORNI 42 LLC), totaling over \$105 million, meaning that Reid's Ormat deal, thus far has been subsidized with \$455 million.

Meanwhile in July of 2013, ORNI 18 LLC, Geothermal Electricity in California snagged another 1603 grant for \$122,970,821.

Still, Reid, at the time the loan was approved, in a [press release](#) took credit and said, Now that this loan guarantee is finalized, hundreds of Nevadans will soon be working again, while noting that this project will generate nearly 400 jobs. Yet, as of November 8, 2013, the DOE states that this geothermal project is currently operational, it has only produced 64 permanent jobs again another example on how the ratio of jobs created (even saved) versus the amount of taxpayer money spent on these "stimulus" green energy projects is laughable...at best.

Just these two Nevada geothermal projects (Blue Mountain and Ormat's "OFC2") funded with stimulus loans and grants, cost taxpayers over \$600 million stimulus money that was supposed to save our economy from the brink of disaster and create American jobs. Adding to the insult is that this administration and their "climate minions" continue to sell "green energy" as means to "end America's addiction to oil." Yet, these two projects only created 78 permanent jobs and 522 temporary construction jobs, bringing no relief to our economic woes or any closer to "energy independence. Geothermal wind and solarpower generates electricity. America is already electricity independent.

#4) SolarReserve Inc, LLC, know as the [Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project](#) located in Tonopah, Nevada: [\\$737 million](#) DOE stimulus loan ([Rating BB by Fitch](#)) / Total taxpayer money to date: \$737 million, plus 1603 treasury grants (amount unknown), all stimulus

- Announced on [May 19, 2011](#), even [by](#) Senator Reid; and [finalized](#) on September 28, 2011
- According to Senator Reid, "the Crescent Dunes project [also allowed](#) it to qualify for Treasury Department's (Section 1603) grant in lieu of tax credit program," yet I was unable to find an amount or date.
- Received fast-tracked approval by the Department of Interior
- Status as of November 8, 2013: Construction underway...
- Jobs: According to the Energy Department, "The project created 600 construction jobs. When the project is completed, it will also provide 45 jobs for plant-operations."
- We started chronicling the SolarReserve story in June 30, 2012 with "[Obama's Green-Energy, Crony-Corruption](#) Special series, however since that time, we've uncovered much more.

With the Department of Interior December 2010 [approval intact](#), which included "strong support from Washington, DC," and "Senator Reid's relentless assistance on the project," on May 19, 2011, the dynamic duo, Reid and Chu joined forces once again to announce the Department of Energy's conditional commitment for a loan guarantee to [SolarReserve](#) for a Nevada solar project. In [Reid's presser](#), again, both Chu and Reid claimed victory on the green jobs front: Today's announcement is about one thing: creating good paying clean-energy jobs right here in Nevada, said Senator Reid. SolarReserve, LLC is headquartered in Santa Monica, California, while the [Crescent Dunes](#) project, which is a solar thermal power tower plant utilizing the advanced molten salt power tower technology with integrated storage, is located in Tonopah, Nevada. Despite the projects low credit rating in August 2011, a month later (September 28, 2011), the \$737 million in DOE loan guarantee was [finalized](#).

Needles to say, just three months prior to the SolarReserve May 2011 DOE loan roll out (six months to its finalization), there is an intriguing set of March 23, 2011 EMAILS (with the subject line, "Re: "Tonopah" credit issues") that went on all day long between [James McCrea](#), the credit advisor for the DOE's "Loan Guarantee Program, [Alok Mathur](#) (Credit Team Consultant for DOE's Loan Guarantee Program and also part of the Greenwich Energy & Company "[team](#)"), and [Monique Fridell](#) (Supervisory Senior Investment Officer at the DOE's Loan Guarantee Program from 2009 until 2012), as well as executives from [Scully Capital](#) in the loop.

McCrea at one point (5:35 PM) wrote to Monique...

"Actually, at a time like this, it is imperative that I send the note to the senior Federal team with my recommendation. My recommendation is to kill the transaction."

Later that evening a more interesting interaction occurred at 7:17 PM when John Ravis of Scully Capital wrote...

"Jim, Just to let you know, while we were discussing the EPC Contract issues with Solar Reserve, when we reached an impasse, their CFO Michael Whalen, threatened to go scorch earth on the DOE in the press about our uncommercial and unrealistic positions. Best regards, John."

At 11:34 PM that same evening, Alok Mathur responded to Ravis and cc'd McCrea...

"John and I have pretty thick skins (a necessary qualification in this business), but I have to agree with John. Michael has a very arrogant attitude and has accused us of 'wasting his time'...."

Mathur continues to complain on how [Michael Whalen](#) (who served as the Chief Financial Officer of SolarReserve from September 2008 until [sometime in 2013](#)), mistreats the DOE, then he writes, "He has taken this attitude because nobody (to-date) has told him where to get off and he is convinced that with Harry Reid's backing, he can get Jonathan to agree to anything...."

Let me get this straight. First off, we have Senator Reid's "relentless assistance on the [Tonopah] project," which was documented as early as December 2010. In the mix, Reid captures [the gratitude](#) of the CEO of SolarReserve, Kevin Smith and by March 2011, the CFO, Michael Whalen, is all wound up because he has "the backing" of the senator.

Add in the fact that, SolarReserve, a [predominately](#) Democrat donor, [executives](#) had given to Reid's campaign since 2008. Still, we have their [founding partner](#), holding a significant financial stake in SolarReserve, which is [US Renewables Group](#) (USRG) "a \$575 million private equity firm exclusively focused on renewable power and clean fuel projects." USRG opens up the door to [two SolarReserve board members](#) that since 2008 have donated heavily to Democrats, including Reid, President Obama and other high-ranking Democrats. They include "SolarReserve's [Chairman of the Board](#) Lee Bailey, who is also the founder and Managing Director of USRG, as well as James McDermott, a [board member](#) at SolarReserve, who is also a Managing Director with USRG.

Apparently, Senator Reid is tied to another big [green energy cronyism story](#) that involves U.S. Renewable Energy Group ([US-REG](#)), which at first glance, seems to be the same firm here that has a stake in SolarReserve: US Renewables Group ([USRG](#)). However, in my opinion, they are two different companies. US-REG is "a Dallas investment firm with strong ties to Washington and the Democratic Party," with the public face of Cappy McGarr, "a wealthy Texas philanthropist, investor and longtime fixture in Democratic politics," documented NBC News. Meanwhile, USRG, having offices in Los Angeles and New York, doesn't seem connected here. I could be wrong. Nevertheless, Reid is in this middle of this US-REG deal, which is about a proposed wind farm in Texas ([Spinning Star](#)), [driving green jobs to China](#), top Democratic fundraisers and lobbyists, big unions, major ties to the White House, more donations to the senator from Nevada, and \$450 million in stimulus money. Typical of all these clean-energy

projects under Team Obama. In addition to the above players, we have Citigroup, who in September 2008 [became an investor](#) in SolarReserve along with [Good Energies Capital](#), now Bregal Energy, who is also [currently](#) an investment partner. This brings us to [David Sandalow](#), a DOE insider, who from March 2009 to the spring of 2013, served in senior positions at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), including Acting Under Secretary of Energy and Assistant Secretary for Policy & International Affairs.

It seems that Sandalow has many interesting positions, including Brookings Institution fellow, and serving as Chair of the Energy & Climate Working Group of the Clinton Global Initiative. But the most relevant is that Sandalow also served as a Senior Advisor to Good Energies, an energy-focused venture capital firm.

In 2008, before joining the DOE, Sandalow [had been paid](#) \$239,000 for consulting work for this venture capital firm. Probably not the most influential, because [Citigroup](#) this "too-big-to fail" bailed out bank, whose PAC [gives to both](#) political parties in 2008, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, were top contributors to both [Harry Reid](#) as well as [Barack Obama](#). This turn brings us to President Obama™s law school buddy, 2008 Obama campaign bundler, Michael Froman, who was managing director of alternative investments at Citigroup. Mr. Froman is the former chief of staff to Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin during the Clinton administration. During Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, [Froman](#) served as an informal adviser, raising money and helping to secure endorsements. In fact, Michael Froman, a close college friend of Obama™s, managed Citi's alternative investment portfolio [as well as other Citigroup positions starting in 1999] until he left for a [top White House post](#) in 2009. Froman was key to the President™s 2008 election effort, [connecting him](#) with major donors in New York™s financial industry," [notes](#) Lachlan Markay of the Heritage Foundation.

Since 2009, [Froman](#) was a member of Obama's National Economic Council as well as the Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs. In June 2013, Froman became the U.S. Trade Representative now he's [Ambassador Froman](#).

The tangled web and the [infiltration](#) of so many Citigroup executives and [Goldman Sachs](#) for that matter inside the Obama administration, even shaping his economic policy, as well as the fact that they scored big with the Green Bank of Obama, is extraordinary. Other than [Michael Froman](#), they range from the former chief of staff [Jack Lew](#), who in 2013 replaced Timothy Geithner as Treasury Secretary. Lew was also the head of Office of Management and Budget, from November 2010 to January 2012 (during the time these DOE loans were being processed). Lew was the CEO of Citigroup™s Alternative Investments, from January 2008; however, he was with Citi starting as far back as 2006, of which he departed either in late 2008 or in January 2009. Next is [Richard Parsons](#), who was Chairman for Citigroup from 2009 until he [announced stepping down](#) in March 2012. Parsons served on the Obama Transition Team and on the Economic Advisory Board. In 2011, Parsons was appointed to the [President™s Council on Jobs and Competitiveness](#), until it [closed down](#) in January 2013.

Last but not least we have the retired Chicago investment banker Louis Susman, who [served on Obama™s 2008 National Finance Committee](#). The staunch Democratic donor and fundraiser that Susman was, he turned out to be a top 2008 bundler that raised so much money for Obama that he got a nickname the Vacuum Cleaner." Obama showed his appreciation and [made him](#) ambassador to Great Britain. At the time of his nomination, Susman retired in February 2009 as Vice Chairman of Citigroup Corporate and Investment Banking. NOTE: Michael Schell, New York, Citigroup Global Markets was also a [2008 Obama bundler](#).

This year, Marita Noon and I exposed Citigroup's part in this massive mess in two exposés: "[Citigroup™s Massive 'Green' Money Machine](#)" and "[Wall Street Walks on the White House](#)," chronicling Citigroup's carbon footprint inside the Obama administration as well as this Green Corruption scandal which goes way beyond SolarReserve as well as LS Power's SWIP-S project mentioned in the begging of this post. In short, I personally and meticulously analyzed Citi™s [green stash](#) (dated March 19, 2012), and calculated that they are tied to approximately \$16 billion of taxpayer money, the majority from the the 2009-Recovery Act.

However, there is another key connection here that I unleashed in my last Green Corruption File: "[The RAT in the Recovery and the Gang of Ten](#)." It has to do with a Michael Eckhart, who after spending the last decade as the founding President (2001) and a member of the Board of Directors at American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE); [joined Citigroup](#) as Managing Director in February 2011.

ACORE is a renewable energy [lobby powerhouse](#), of which PJ Media [had alerted to 2011](#): Michael Eckhart and the ACORE membership also helped design the Department of Energy grant programs that partly offset the loss of tax equity financing arrangements..."

Other SolarReserve connections to the Democratic Party include:

Ronald Pelosi: Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi™s brother-in-law, [Ronald Pelosi](#), holds a leadership position with Pacific Corporate Group Asset Management"which is an [investor in SolarReserve](#). Additionally, his colleague, [Jasandra Nyker](#), has served as a member of SolarReserve™s board of directors.

George Kaiser: Argonaut Private Equity is an investor in SolarReserve. Major [Democratic fundraiser](#) and a 2008 Obama bundler George Kaiser, who also invested in Solyndra, owned Argonaut Private Equity. Kaiser made multiple visits to the White House in the months before the company was granted a \$535 million loan from the government. The Managing Director for Argonaut Private Equity, Steve Mitchell, serves on SolarReserve's Board of Directors.

Tony Podesta: [OpenSecrets.org](#) shows that SolarReserve paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in lobbying fees to the Podesta Group. Tony Podesta is the principal at the Podesta Group"which he [started with his brother John](#). John Podesta ran Barack Obama™s presidential transition team and is the founder of the left-wing think tank, Center for American Progress CAP, where [he is](#)

[currently](#) Chair of CAP and the CAP Action Fund. [CAP](#). It's important to point out that CAP has a major foothold [inside](#) the Obama administration, including the 2013 addition, [Denis McDonough](#) as the White House [chief of staff](#). Not only did a squadron of CAP experts work with president Obama's transition team, they are reportedly [highly influential](#) in helping to craft White House Policy and they are a driving force inside this clean-energy scheme.

Meanwhile, both Tony Podesta and his wife Heather ([a Washington power couple](#)) are frequent White House visitors that share high ranks in "lobbying power," and Democrat bundling as well.

With all this access and influence from Wall Street to the White House, to Senator Reid, and beyond, it's no wonder SolarReserve, despite its "speculative rating" and documented credit issues as well as the fact that the DOE loan credit advisor wanted to "kill" the transaction, won [\\$737 million](#) of taxpayer money, for a project that, after two years, is still under construction, and anticipates a whopping 45 jobs, plus the 600 temporary construction jobs.

#5) BrightSource Energy, Inc, for the [Ivanpah facility](#) located in the Mojave Desert of California: [\\$1.6 billion](#) DOE stimulus loan ([Rating BB and BB+ by Fitch](#)) / Total taxpayer money to date: \$1.6 billion, all stimulus

- Announced on [February 22, 2010](#), and finalized April 2011 for [\\$1.6 billion](#)
- Received fast-tracked approval by the Department of Interior
- Status as of November 8, 2013: predicted to be completed in late 2013
- Jobs: Construction phase, 1,000 full-time employees and when operational, 86 permanent

We've been uncovering BrightSource Energy's \$1.6 Billion Shady DOE Deal since [July 6, 2012](#), and as new information came available we've revisited this huge solar deal several times: [November 4, 2012](#), February 23, 2013 as part of [Citi™s Massive ~Green Money Machine](#) (handling their IPO), as well as in my [March 22, 2013](#) due to the connection to the left-wing billionaire George Soros. Lastly, in my [September 2013](#) post on their lobbyist McBee Strategic Consulting.

As I opened this Green Corruption file, there is [BrightSource Energy](#), the winner of [\\$1.6 billion](#), who in August 2010, then-CEO, John Woolard, and then-chairman of PG&E Corporation, Peter Darbee hosted a breakfast fundraiser for Senator Reid in the Oakland offices of BrightSource Energy. It [was reported](#) at that time, "PG&E will be a major consumer of the electricity generated by the new project, with the first plant expected to go on-line in 2012. Woolard and other company executives have given a total of \$6,000 to Sen. Reid since 2009 and PG&E's PAC has given \$2,000."

Six months earlier, on February 22, 2010, Energy Secretary Steven Chu [announced](#) the conditional commitment of the loan guarantees under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund BrightSource Energy's three-unit power system project known as [Ivanpah](#), located on federally-owned land in the Mojave Desert in southeastern California, near the Nevada border. The project uses a proprietary power-tower solar thermal system. Chu at that time, touted the

Ivanpah project as "an investment in American jobs and the clean, renewable energy our economy needs." Needless to say, just as BrightSource is the only DOE deal not located smack in the middle of Harry Reid's home state, it is also much bigger than the senator from Nevada. According [to Forbes](#), BrightSource was founded in 2004 by American-Israeli pioneer Arnold Goldman, whose Luz International built nine solar thermal power plants in the Mojave Desert in the 1980s and 1990s.

Despite the fact that BrightSource Energy™s project was one of the stimulus "junk" loans, it didn™t sway the DOE in the least, because on April 11, 2011, the [DOE announced](#) the finalization of \$1.6 billion in loan guarantees for BrightSource™s Ivanpah project.

Adding to the corruption, this billion-dollar DOE deal was a bailout, which is a clear violation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As Peter Schweizer puts it in *Throw Them All Out*, [describing the financial issues](#) they were having, "BrightSource badly needed this infusion of taxpayer cash a fact that [we elaborated on](#) many times. But still the Ivanpah project has since been plagued with financial issues and problems, including putting endangered desert tortoises at risk of being murdered.

While BrightSource has paid \$56 million to protect and relocate scores of desert tortoises, "even that has not been enough to avert catastrophe. Animals were crushed under vehicle tires, army ants attacked hatchlings in a makeshift nursery, and other calamities have befallen tortoises made vulnerable by the project," explained the Heartland Institute last year. Needless to say, BrightSource's "green executions" of animal are far from over. Just a few days ago, USA Today reported that they (and possibly other taxpayer-funded solar projects) are currently in the hot seat for burning and killing birds: "California solar power plants singeing bird feathers." "Of 34 birds reported dead or injured at Ivanpah in September, 15 had melted feathers. Dozens of other bird carcasses, not singed but with critical injuries, have been found in recent months at two solar projects about to go online on public land between Joshua Tree National Park and Blythe, Calif., a town of 20,800 on Interstate 10 near the Arizona border," documented USA Today. With BrightSource's plans for an initial public offering [cancelled in 2012](#), citing adverse market conditions, it's unclear where they now sit financially, however, nineteen months later, after getting \$1.6 billion from the American taxpayer, the Ivanpah solar project is still not ready. More BrightSource "Energy & Players" Nevertheless, other than the Majority Leader Reid in the mix, there are additional powerful players found inside this billion-dollar DOE deal, starting with it's former CEO, [John Woolard](#), who during the time of the loan review process [was the](#) president and CEO of BrightSource Energy, and now serves as a director. Woolard was not only a Reid fundraiser and donor but also an [Obama donor](#) that has visited the White House dozens of times since Obama took office. A March 16 2012 [hearing](#) before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee revealed that Woolard used his connections to try to get a commitment for the DOE loan for BrightSource ” despite the fact that Secretary Chu has

repeatedly said the loans were based on merit. During the hearing, Woolard said: I believe that everything we did in our project was fully on the merits. It was a very solid project.

However, a series of emails involving Mr. Woolard show him interacting with decision-makers in the administration seeking political influence. The House Oversight Chairman Issa told [The Hill](#): Clearly we have a discovery of emails showing there was direct conversation intended by the people having those conversations to be lobbying all the way up to and including President Obama.

These particular emails reveal communications between Woolard and Matt Rogers and between Woolard and Jonathan Silver. The January 2010 EMAIL is where John Woolard (then CEO of BrightSource), [told the DOE](#) of Obama's involvement when he was pushing for a conditional commitment.

"Darbee at PG & E talked directly to Obama about the program's challenges and the bad situation it puts him in," Woolard emailed to Matt Rogers

At the hearing, Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, [emphasized](#) to Woolard, PG& E and Darbee had a vested interest in getting this thing approved because you were providing them their required commitment for green power.

The stakeholder here is Peter Darbee then-CEO and chairman of Pacific Gas and Electric, who when the "three-plant Ivanpah Solar Complex" was moving forward it was [also announced](#) that, "Electricity from the project will be sold under long-term power purchase agreements with Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison Company (SCE)."

Rogers and Silver, on the other hand, each has their own interesting connections, of which we profiled many times. In fact throughout this post we've established Jonathan Silver's role as the Director of the Loans Programs Office at the DOE from November 2009 to early October 2011. Meanwhile, Matt Rogers, from January 2009 until September 2010, served Senior Advisor to Energy Secretary Steven Chu. Rogers oversaw the disbursement of tens of billions of dollars in stimulus funds for renewable energy projects.

The March 7, 2011, Woolard/Silver EMAIL asked Silver to look over a letter drafted by Woolard and then-BrightSource chairman John Bryson that requested direct White House influence in BrightSourceTMs loan guarantee application. The letter, intended for then-White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley, said...

We need a commitment from the WH to quarterback loan closure between OMB and DOE. It also included a request for guidance and support from the White House. According to testimony from Woolard, the email was never submitted.

Keep in mind, too, that Mr. Bryson, months after the DOE loan was approved, joined the Obama administration in October 2011 (appointed in May 2011) as the [Secretary of Commerce](#) although [he resigned](#) in June 2012 following a series of mysterious auto

accidents. The Washington Free Beacon [reported in 2012](#), According to financial disclosures, Bryson had up to \$500,000 in stock options from BrightSource and a \$700,000 advisory fee from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, an investment group that has bought a number of solar farms in California. He was also the CEO of Edison International, which obtained exclusive power purchase agreements for four of the solar projects, at the time the awards were issued.

During the [July 18th Oversight hearing](#) regarding Obama™s green energy failures, Silver (the loan program Director) admitted that he had known John Bryson for many years as well as to making some "modest edits" to this particular email asking for White House intervention and it came from his private email account. More astonishing, is that in the [July 2012 Oversight Hearing](#) we discovered that Silver (and others inside the DOE) had a habit of using personal email accounts to conduct DOE business, which clearly violates at least the spirit of the [Federal Records Act](#) of 1950 as well as hampers any type of transparency and accountability.

Still, one month after the March 7, 2011 email exchange asking for direct White House influence, whereas both Woolard and Silver claimed that it was never sent, the [\\$1.6 billion federal loan guarantee](#) was approved with a handful of reporters taking note:

- The [Washington Post](#) stated, venture capitalists who held advisory roles with the Energy Department were given access to Obama™s top advisers.
- The [Washington Examiner](#) report, President Obama discussed the Department of Energy loan program with a stakeholder dependent on the DOE, and the conversation appears to have expedited the process.

Even so, others will give the credit to Bernie Toon, who served then-Senator Joe Biden as his Chief of Staff, and became a lobbyist for BrightSource Energy on [March 6, 2011](#). According to [the](#) Wall Street Journal, BrightSource spent more than \$500,000 on lobbying in the third quarter of 2010 through the second quarter of 2011. \$40,000 of the lobbying money went to Toon. In fact, Toon and BrightSource executives made two visits to the White House in March. The loan was approved the following month. Toon™s contract ended [the day after](#) BrightSource got the loan.

However, the BrightSource [push](#) started as early as September 2009, which involved the top DC lobbyists, [McBee Strategic Consulting](#), as reflected in the House Oversight leaked EMAILS that were [unleashed](#) late October 2012 a treasure trove of "DOE Intel" that we have been revealing since their release. These emails not only confirm the above shady scenario, but it implicates more BrightSource executives and stakeholders, DOE officials as well as [Obama™s Green Team](#) and several in Congress from the Democrat side.

On September 29, 2009, CEO of BrightSource John Woolard had written an EMAIL to Sanjay Wagle (subject line Steve Chu email?)....

Sanjay I need to send a note to Matt R and Secretary about our situation and my only email for Dr Chu is old lbnl address. Can you please send his new email?

Related to this, will likely be in DC again this week if you can free up for a beer (or am coffee)?
JW

"Matt R" is Matt Rogers, the DOE Advisor mentioned above, but who is Sanjay?

[Sanjay Wagle](#) was an Obama fundraiser in 2008 rallying [support](#) through a group he headed known as [Clean Tech for Obama](#). According to the 2012 House Oversight report, has most recently served as Renewable Energy Advisor to DOE under Secretary Chu [from June 2009 to November 2011], making him another DOE insider tied to many of the green deals. The report continues, Prior to arriving in Washington, Wagle was a principal at Vantage Point Venture Partners, a cleantech venture capital firm, whose investments received billions in taxpayer funds, which are not limited to the \$1.6 billion BrightSource deal. His former firm and the companies it invested in, therefore had a large stake in the financing decisions being made by DOE at the time.

Wagle joined the DOE just as, according to the [Washington Post](#), the administration embarked on a massive program to stimulate the economy with federal investments in clean-technology firms a firm by the way that won a slew of "green" money from the Obama administration. As of September 2013, [VantagePoint's](#) investment portfolio [has at least](#) nine clean-energy firms/projects, which includes three DOE loans that received loans, grants, and special tax breaks, and places their total at about \$3 billion of taxpayer money.

In a December 8, 2009 EMAIL with the subject line: Bobby K, please read, which was also labeled "Importance: High" is where we find an interaction between Woolard and Kris Courtney where she writes...

Call Bobby when you have a moment. He spoke with Carol Browner, who spoke with DOE and DOE promised a call back to you/BSE within 24 hours. He also spoke with Ed Markey. Wants you to call him so he can brief you.

Response from Woolard: Just got scheduled with Chu at 5:15 today for a call - JW

Response from Natalie Shaefer, "Great - when should we move our McBee call to?"

Woolard answer, "5:45 should work"

Carol Browner, an Obama bundler, was part of the both the Transition and Green teams, and eventually was promoted to ObamaTMs Climate Czar, where she reigned during the time when many of these loans were being approved (2009 to early 2011). Meanwhile, Bobby K is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is a [partner and Senior Adviser](#) at VantagePoint. Also, Ed Markey is the Democrat House Representative for Massachusetts, who has made [energy policy](#) his top priority. He sits on several energy committees and subcommittees, and is the former chairman of the [Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming](#).

In the [350+ page Appendix II](#), there is ongoing interaction and pressure from the heavy weight K Street firm [McBee Strategic Consulting](#) the top DC lobbyists, which I thoroughly analyzed and exposed in September 2013, starting with the president and CEO, Steve McBee. In 2011, Tim Carney of the Washington Examiner [exposed](#) McBee's influence: "Energy lobbyists on Capitol Hill say that this provision, which opened the spigot on the DOE loans, was written by Steve McBee. The "provision" Carney is referring to was inserted into the 2009 stimulus bill that removed the portion of the "2005 law" that had required from the beneficiary a sort of "down payment," to cover the risk of default. So not only were most of these loans "junk" rated, but this allowed the DOE to give out loan guarantees without the "down payment."

McBee's lobbying firm, not only represented BrightSource Energy, but the other key investors, and those that had an invested interest in this \$1.6 billion loan, such as VantagePoint where [Steve McBee](#) is also a Senior Advisor, as well as Google and PG&E the former VC firm listed above, and the latter two, there is much more to share. However, what's key here is that [my research reflects](#) that of McBee struck stimulus gold: with 31 energy clients (that I found), 19 (over 60 percent) received green-government subsidies under the Obama administration, totaling approximately \$13.7 billion of taxpayer money. In an EMAIL dated December 20, 2009, there is a very suspicious email exchange about BrightSource [that included](#) John Woolard again (the former CEO), Joshua Bar-Lev the Vice President Regulatory Affairs for BrightSource, and the lobbying firm representing BrightSource, [McBee Strategic Consulting](#) with well as some unknown Democrats that are tied to energy-related issues: We discovered that in 2009, Steve McBee alerted the masses with the following EMAIL:

"Wanted to let you know that the BrightSource application appears to moving apace at OMB and has a fighting chance of getting over to DOE..."

"DOE is another story. We are hearing that despite a strong push by Silver, Spinner, Rogers and others internally, the process is getting sideways by any number of bureaucratic hold ups and there is now real potential for consideration of the project to slip until next year."

The next paragraph, Steve undermines the "integrity of the Loan Guarantee Program, and then writes that if the project slips to 2011, that there is a strong likelihood that the project will be redeployed to China..."

McBee continues, "ANYTHING you guys would be willing to do with DOE in terms of moving the process would be deeply appreciated."

Joshua Bar-Lev in response says, "Do you all think we should have vantage point insist on mtg with chu or silver or rodgers? Should john or I try to fly out for something similar? Looking for some game changer but perhaps weTMve done all we could. Is dc shut down by the snow or is there some impact we could make? Joshua"

It seems that 2010 was a busy year for the BrightSource players, because other than the January 2010 Woolard/Rogers email to get Jonathon SilverTMs assistance, as well as Peter DarbeeTMs

meeting with President Obama divulged above, there were more and all prior to the April 11, 2011 finalization of the \$1.6 billion DOE loan.

EMAIL January 13, 2010 (subject DOE Loan Guarantee): Joshua writes to Steven L. Kline and cc™s John Woolard...

Steve, would have a few minutes to discuss both 1) status of our efforts with DOE, and then 2) our strategy of trying to meet with 3-4 members (Reid, Boxer, Bingaman, maybe Feinstein) in early February to either say ~huge problem, need your help or ~thank you for your assistance,' but it could have been better or something like that|

EMAIL: January 12, 2010 (subject line DOE update): Woolard writes to Peter Darbee (at that time the CEO and chairman of PG&E)...

Peter " I understand you might be having breakfast with Secretary Chu tomorrow morning"

Woolard then goes on to complain about issues they are having, stuck in bureaucracy and that Peter should drive the point home...you could let him [Chu] know that if it not approved we would likely move to build projects in China as it will be the final signal that the US is dysfunctional|

Woolard closes with, "Thanks in advance if there is any way you can help move this forward. Bechtel and Brightsource are in a detailed project review and are ready to move this project forward. Regards, John."

The next day, Woolard writes, "...without the doe loan guarantee pge is at risk for losing entire commitment and CA is at risk for RPS requirements."

Needless to say, about a month prior to the April 2011 approval, additional correspondences took place between March 5 and March 10, 2011:

EMAIL March 5, 2011 (subject line: Outline for DOE presentation), Joshua Bar-Lev (the Vice President Regulatory Affairs for BrightSource) alerts his internal masses|

- The attached Outline will be filled in as talking points to be used by the political team. Over the weekend. Arthur, Jack and the deal team coming into DC Monday.
- Meetings at the highest level possible should be arranged for Tuesday/Wednesday with our champions. We will need you to schedule. You should work with Arthur on appropriate mtgs with DOI (like Steve Black) etc. Woolard coming in the following week. JW Will want meetings that week with the VP, Reid, Chu, Feinstein and other principles.
- Once Bernie Toon inculcated (shortly), you guys need to fold him in to the arguments, roles and get him the litigation and other info. NOTE: Bernie Toon, mentioned earlier, is the lobbyist that served for then-Senator Joe Biden as his Chief of Staff. And we know

that visits by him Toon and BrightSource executives made two visits to the White House in March 2011.

- JW just now heard from GovTMs asst Picker that Governor wants to talk to JW. That is happening now or shortly. Governor wants to express, as Gov and as former AG, STRONG STATE INTEREST[!]. Will call Chu and may want to call President and VP. [this just happened SWEET].

EMAILS March 8th and 9th, 2011 (subject line: DOE UPDATE): Again Joshua Bar-Lev in an email exchange with BrightSource folks, and cc's Bernie Toon writes...

We just had a political meeting and concluded that it is prudent for JW and possibly others to be in DC next Tuesday. We are working on mtgs with our key senators, and with the VP and WH offices, and of course with Jonathan Silver, and possibly others..." Joshua concludes, Is this like the Stanley Cup finals, seventh game, overtime, or what? Joshua

There was also discussion of a signing ceremony, whereas Gabe Horwitz (at that time the Executive VP at McBee Strategic Consulting) states...

Yes, it can be organized and having JW suggest it is a perfect avenue. Key is whether DOE wants a big splash to tamp down the downward pressure as a result of the IG report and solyndra or they want to just churn these out with much less fanfare.

Mr. Horwitz goes on...

John can further reference the Hill meetings/conversations we have been having and note to Silver that there is interest from senior leaders on the Hill to take a victory lap along with the WH on this and have a collective talking point for both Obama and the entire Administration to use in the midst of the unrest in Libya and need for further demonstration of domestic power.

Natalie Schaefer responded with concern...

Personally I donTMt think you want to have a signing ceremony until everything is said and done[!]

Ms. Schaefer mentioned another concern...

NRG met with Silver last week and was told by him: DOE will be ready by the 17th/18th, but its 'OK' if equity is not, we donTMt need to fund until you are ready[!]she went on, [!]we MUST CLOSE by the 18th[!]this is the miss-messaging that people get confused about and I find myself having to explain away the differences and sensitivities here to timing and what issues impact the various dates (running out of money vs. govt shut down and loss of appropriations).

Josh replies with urgency...

The third week of March is a recess week; politically its better to do it next week and take a victory lap even BEFORE the cps are satisfied[!]

In the middle of all the pruning and prodding (mostly in early 2011), we find Woolard biking and having sleepovers with Silver. We also see that Silver was hosting a party for John Bryson. Also, David Crane, the CEO of NRG Energy, was sending invitations to Woolard and Bryson to a fundraising dinner at his home that included Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu. But Bryson declined CraneTMs invite only due to the fact that it conflicted with a dinner he was having with Ted Craver and California Senator, Diane Feinstein. There you have it, despite the fact that during the loan review process, BrightSource Energy was bleeding money; obviously desperate for the cash; and their huge solar project loan was rated "speculative" at best, it didnTMt sway the DOE in the least, because on April 11, 2011, the [DOE announced](#) the finalization of \$1.6 billion in loan guarantees that was made available by the passing of the 2009-Recovery Act, for their Ivanpah project stimulus money that they predict will create 1000 construction jobs, with only 86 permanent jobs, once it ever gets completed.

But there's more...

Three Key Players Inside the Ivanpah project: PG&E, Google, & NRG Energy Besides all energy expended on getting the BrightSource \$1.6 billion loan approved, plus the key participants listed above, many of which were friends of President Obama, we must throw in the fact that BrightSource has an [array of investors](#) that are high-powered [Obama donors](#) such as VantagePoint Capital, Google, BP Alternative Energy, Morgan Stanley, and [Goldman Sachs](#) with BrightSource having partnered with NRG Energy and Google on their Ivanpah project, though, according to [Forbes](#), the federal loan guarantee is financing the bulk of IvanpahTMs construction costs. VantagePoint, which I outlined earlier, noting many direct connections to the president, and that as of September 2013, [VantagePoint's](#) investment portfolio [has at least](#) nine clean-energy firms/projects, which includes three DOE loans that received loans, grants, and special tax breaks, and places their total at about \$3 billion of taxpayer money.

While each of the listed investors deserve further scrutiny, we'll stay with three that are directly part of the [Ivanpah](#) project located on federally-owned land in the Mojave Desert in southeastern California, near the Nevada border.

The BrightSource strategy not involved their gang, which ranged from the CEO John Woolard, its chairman John Bryson, and their lobbyists McBee Strategic Consulting. But in the mix was their vice president connection Bernie Toon; VantagePoint ties to the president; key DOE insiders and high-profiled Democrats such as Senator Harry Reid working on their behalf, as well as other key figures in the mix, which included the former chairman of PG&E, Peter Darbee, who was also working on their behalf due to the fact that PG&E had an invested interest in the Ivanpah project. Still, PG&E is a [strong](#) Obama and Democrat donor. In fact, PG&E is jam-packed with Washington "[green cronies](#)," including Cathy Zoi, who is the "most controversial former PG&E employee to hold an influential government position." Zoi, an Al Gore acolyte, in April 2009, became the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, who oversaw

the disbursement of [more than \\$30 billion](#) in renewable energy stimulus funds in her DOE position at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ([EERE](#)). Later in 2010, during a series of [DOE vacancies](#), Zoi briefly filled the role of Acting Undersecretary for Energy, and in February 2011, she [jumped](#) the DOE ship to work for George Soros another friend of Obama and [key villain](#) in this Green Corruption scandal, and also a shareholder of NRG Energy. Meanwhile, [Zoi is also tied](#) to a few other green energy companies that got stimulus funds. Additionally, with their high-powered connections all the way up to the president and inside the DOE, [PG&E](#) won a significant amount of stimulus money for various projects: [at least seventeen to date](#) and over \$55 million. Still, the big win for this Big Utility corporation is that they have an invested interest in \$7.6 billion of Energy Department stimulus loans, which includes the BrightSource's Ivanpah project and details into these taxpayer-funded projects can be found in my [April 2013 post](#). Factor in Google, which had made a \$10 million equity investment in BrightSource in 2007. Then on April 11, 2011, the day that the DOE had finalized BrightSource's billion-dollar DOE loan, Google [announced](#) its largest investment in renewable energy to date: \$168 million [into the](#) Ivanpah project. Google has an array of ties to the president, including the fact that Google™s [\\$814,540](#) contribution to then-Senator Obama™s campaign made it the fifth largest donor in 2008, and [in 2012](#) moved up to the number three spot with a whopping \$805,119. Meanwhile, top Google executives not only donated, but also were heavily involved in both Obama's [2008](#) and [2012](#) campaigns. So, it's no coincidence that in [September 2013](#), when I tackled [Google Ventures](#) via their "Energy Investments" and other "green deals" that I was able to confirm that they have at least ten verified winners of stimulus and other green energy funds, which places their investment score at close to \$5 billion of taxpayer cash. This figure does not include Silver Spring Networks and their connection to \$1.3 billion in smart-grid stimulus grants [that I divulged](#) a few times. Enter in NRG Energy, another huge energy corporation that sometime in October 2010, during the time of the BrightSource DOE loan review process, [NRG became the lead investor](#) (\$300 million) in the Ivanpah solar project of the 392 MW Ivanpah project." It so happens that NRG Energy a Fortune 500 and S&P 500 Index company and its subsidiaries was the recipient of most of 1705 stimulus loans worth \$5.2 billion of taxpayer money, and counting. Due to the George Soros connection to NRG Energy as a shareholder; his role as another "stimulus author;" and the fact that he bankrolled both of Obama's elections, you can find more on NRG Energy as well as Soros in my [March 2013 Green Corruption File](#): Left-wing Billionaire George Soros: Obama™s 'Agent of Green.' There you will also discover that NRG Energy has its fair share of Obama connections as well. NOTE: In case you'd like to learn more about all the "stimulus authors" that financially benefited from the stimulus package that they helped craft, I exposed them in my last Green Corruption File, "[The RAT in the Recovery and the Gang of Ten](#)." Now we discover that the [Ivanpah Solar project](#) is "being constructed by Bechtel," another big corporation with their hand in the stimulus a piece of this scandal that I divulged in my June "[Nuclear Crimes and Misdemeanors](#)" story with the main focus on the billion-dollar Colorado-based consulting, engineering and construction firm [CH2M Hill](#). Senator Harry Reid Brings Home More "Green" In October 29, 2009, Reid, and his

pal Secretary Chu [announced](#) more than \$90 million for Nevada related geothermal energy projects. This is on top of the two geothermal projects documented earlier. Then in Senator Reid's 2012 "Playing to win in CLEAN ENERGY" [portfolio](#), we find that there are three more projects, whereas Reid brought home to Nevada more special favors and additional money from the 1603 grant program, which was created by the 2009 economic stimulus law. Spring Valley Wind It was reported that the Spring Valley project "[sits on](#) federal land and relied on financial support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," However, how much taxpayer money that this wind project received is unclear. According to Reid's 2012 document, the [Spring Valley Wind](#) a project of Pattern Energy utilized the Department of Treasury™s Section 1603 program for its funding. And, "In order to help take advantage of the 1603 program, [the](#) Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management designated Spring Valley as a priority project in 2009." In fact, the Spring Valley project and its "fast-track process" caused some environmental alarm, including [a lawsuit](#), which was covered in an [August 2012 report](#) by E&E Publishing that stated...

The project sits on 7,673 acres of public land, requiring Pattern to receive approval from the Bureau of Land Management and complete environmental reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act before construction could begin. BLM said early on that it wanted to "fast track" the approval process ([Land Letter](#), Jan. 14, 2010).

That review did not satisfy environmental groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity, which filed a lawsuit in early 2011 seeking to halt the project, arguing it would be harmful to bats that roost in the area. Pattern and the environmentalists settled the lawsuit earlier this year, with the company agreeing to undertake additional mitigation measures and pay up to \$50,000 for a study on bat roosting habits ([Greenwire](#), April 18).

It seems that in [April 2012](#), "Pattern's Spring Valley Wind Project Reaches Settlement Agreement." Senator Reid was also one of those in Congress [pushing for](#) the extension of the [Production Tax Credit](#) (PTC) that was set to expire at the end of 2012, thus helping his "wind pal" over at Pattern Energy. This (wind energy and the PTC) is another huge piece of the clean-energy scandal that I've covered a few times, but most recently in my [January 2013 post entitled](#), "Big Wind Energy Subsidies: A Hurricane of Carnage, Cronyism and Corruption." Silver State North and Copper Mountain

According to Reid. "In Nevada, First Solar partnered with Sempra Generation to expand the existing solar facility in the Eldorado Valley known as Copper Mountain and is the developer of the Silver State North near Primm, Nevada." While the Eldorado and Copper Mountain solar projects, are owned by Sempra Generation, the Silver State North project belongs to First Solar. It turns out that First Solar™s projects in Nevada were "aided by the federal government™s 1603 grant program." "In addition, these projects were also assisted by the BLM™s fast-track permitting process. Finally, the State of Nevada™s renewable energy tax abatement program also helped First Solar offer lower prices to utilities." The two grant I found were as follows:

- On October 17, 2012, Silver State Solar Power North, LLC won a \$54,633,872 stimulus grant.
- On June 11, 2013, Copper Mountain Solar 2, LLC won a \$74,207,365 stimulus grant.

Stillwater Solar

According to Reid. "In Nevada, Enel Green Power North America has already constructed the Stillwater and Salt Wells geothermal power plants near Fallon. The availability of renewable energy tax credits and the U.S. Department of the Treasury™s Section 1603 grant in lieu of tax credit program have played an important role in the development of the Stillwater project."

On September 25, 2012, EGP Stillwater Solar, LLC won a \$20,830,904 stimulus grant.

.....In closing... These five "speculative" stimulus loans, with a few that also received stimulus grant, costs American taxpayers over \$3.3 billion, while producing (or expected to create, save or whatever) 2532 temporary construction jobs and only 224 permanent jobs. If we add in the additional stimulus funds that Harry brought to his home state, the total is much higher.

What is clear is that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was a massive economic stimulus bill that was sold to the American people as a means save our economy from the brink of disaster and create American jobs. Needless to say, the American were intentionally misled, because even though the job figures don't add up, we now know that the stimulus package wasn't about our economy or jobs.

Eventually, in early 2012, most Americans discovered the truth behind the trillion-dollar Recovery Act, which was jammed-packed full of [clean-energy provisions](#) (about 10 percent of the monies were earmarked for renewable energy). Internal [revelations](#) revealed that the [real intent](#) behind Obama's trillion-dollar spending spree: it was a key tool for advancing the Obama administration™s clean-energy goals and fulfilling a number of campaign commitments. In reality it was "walking around money" for the president to payback his wealthy bundlers and donors as well as his "green" cronies and allies, which unequivocally in an unprecedented and corrupt tactic included Senator Harry Reid. (C. Lakatos)

Case No. **TBD**

- JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
- GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION DEMANDED
- APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DEMANDED
- DEMAND IS MADE FOR DOJ TO JOIN THIS CASE
- DEMAND IS MADE FOR A COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY DUE TO HARDSHIP AND CIVIL RIGHTS CRITERIA ATTAINMENT

CAUSES OF ACTION: FELONY RICO RACKETEERING VIOLATIONS, FRAUD, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, ANTI-TRUST VIOLATIONS, INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS; INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE; CYBER-STALKING; INVASION OF PRIVACY; UNFAIR COMPETITION; THEFT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND OTHER CAUSES TBA...

Comment

In America today, the only effort made by political executives is to steer the annual expenditure of trillions of dollars of taxpayer funds to one group of friends or another. It is called “Cronyism”.

The benefits of almost every public official have little or nothing to do with their salaries and everything to do with real estate, stock market ownership, revolving door payola jobs and investment bank accounts that show profits from each deal that a politician pushes.

Our team can show the FBI-level tracking of the covert accounts, trusts, shell corporations, family members and associates of every public official involved in this case and prove that they made money by competing with the Applicant’s business ventures. The Panama Papers Leaks, Swiss Leaks, Snowden Leaks, and all of the other leaks prove this as fact.

The Bottom Line:

Whiny fraternity boys from rich family dynasties joined forces at Yale and Stanford University frat clubs and placed their associates in the U.S. Government in order to get taxpayer funds kicked back to their “*Palo Alto Mafia*”, AKA “*PayPal Mafia*”. By creating government sponsored monopolies, using networks and resources that only these “rape-culture” oligarchs controlled, they gained exclusive access to massive wind-fall profits.

They copied many of their companies from companies previously created, patented, launched and marketed by Plaintiff and ostracized Plaintiff when he complained of their thefts and Cartel plans. This PayPal Mafia created, financed and internet manipulated the Obama campaign in exchange for industry monopolies.

U.S. Senators and White House staff ordered, financed and operated the attacks on the Plaintiff in order to please their Silicon Valley oligarch financiers.

The White House Sponsored Attackers

The following companies sell attack services. They are hired by famous politicians in order to try to distract from the fact that those politicians are engaged in financial crimes:

IN-Q-Tel - (DNC); Gawker Media - (DNC); Jalopnik - (DNC); Gizmodo Media - (DNC); K2 Intelligence - (DNC); WikiStrat - (DNC); Podesta Group - (DNC); Fusion GPS - (DNC/GOP); Google - (DNC); YouTube - (DNC); Alphabet - (DNC); Facebook - (DNC); Twitter - (DNC); Think Progress - (DNC); Media Matters - (DNC); Black Cube - (DNC); Mossad - (DNC); Correct The Record - (DNC); Sand Line - (DNC/GOP); Adrian Covert (DNC); John Hermann (DNC); Nick Denton (DNC); John Cook (DNC); Blackwater - (DNC/GOP); Stratfor - (DNC/GOP); ShareBlue - (DNC); Wikileaks (DNC/GOP); Cambridge Analytica - (DNC/GOP); Sid Blumenthal- (DNC); David Brock - (DNC); PR Firm Sunshine Sachs (DNC); Covington and Burling - (DNC), BuzzFeed - (DNC) Perkins Coie - (DNC); Wilson Sonsini - (DNC) and hundreds of others... These are the people and companies that except cash, revolving door jobs, political appointments, insider trading stock in Silicon Valley tech companies, prostitutes and real estate in exchange for destroying the lives of others.

<https://bigleaguepolitics.com/they-literally-know-nothing-ben-rhodes-bragged-about-manipulating-clueless-reporters/>

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<https://freedom.press/news/lawsuit-seeks-government-guidelines-surveillance-journalists-leak-investigations-surge/>

<http://www.attacked.biz>

<http://www.google-is-a-mobster.com>

<https://knightcolumbia.org/>

<https://bigleaguepolitics.com/brennan-and-clapper-accused-of-hacking-john-roberts-to-blackmail-him/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP5jqLAjbDw>

!!!! Mueller Hears That Silicon Valley Has Been Manipulating The Entire BREXIT Campaign !!!!!

- Second former employee of controversial data firm to be questioned by special counsel's inquiry into Russia collusion

By Carole Cadwalladr

Brittany Kaiser is said to be cooperating fully with the Mueller inquiry.

A director of the controversial data company Cambridge Analytica, who appeared with Arron Banks at the launch of the Leave.EU campaign, has been subpoenaed by the US investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government.

A spokesman for Brittany Kaiser, former business development director for Cambridge Analytica – which collapsed after the Observer revealed details of its misuse of Facebook data – confirmed that she had been subpoenaed by special counsel Robert Mueller, and was cooperating fully with his investigation.

He added that she was assisting other US congressional and legal investigations into the company's activities and had voluntarily turned over documents and data.

Kaiser, who gave evidence to the UK parliament last April in which she claimed Cambridge Analytica had carried out in-depth work for Leave.EU, is the second individual connected to the firm subpoenaed by the special counsel. The Electoral Commission has said its investigation into Leave.EU found no evidence that the campaign "received donations or paid for services from Cambridge Analytica ...beyond initial scoping work".

Damian Collins, chairman of parliament's inquiry into fake news, said it was "no surprise" that Kaiser was under scrutiny by Mueller because "her work connected her to WikiLeaks, Cambridge Analytica and [its parent company] SCL, the Trump campaign, Leave.EU and Arron Banks".

He said it was now vital Britain had its own inquiry into foreign interference: "We should not be leaving this to the Americans."

Tom Watson, the deputy leader of the Labour party, echoed Collins's statement, saying: "This is the first evidence that a significant player in the Leave.EU campaign is of interest to the global Mueller inquiry. People will be bewildered that the British government has no interest in establishing the facts of what happened."

In August, Sam Patten, a US political consultant who had worked for Cambridge Analytica on campaigns in the US and abroad, struck a plea deal with Mueller after admitting he had failed to register as a foreign agent for a Ukrainian oligarch.

He became a subject of the special counsel's inquiry because of work done with Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign manager, in Ukraine. He had also set up a business with Konstantin Kilimnik, a key figure who Mueller has alleged has ties to Russian intelligence and who is facing charges of obstruction of justice. In a 2017 statement to the Washington Post, Kilimnik denied any connection to intelligence services. Kaiser, however, is the first person connected directly to both the Brexit and Trump campaigns known to have been questioned by Mueller.

The news came to light in a new Netflix documentary, *The Great Hack*, which premiered at the Sundance film festival last month and is expected to be released later this spring. Film-makers followed Kaiser for months after she approached the Guardian, including moments after she received the subpoena. She claims the summons came after the Guardian revealed she had visited WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange while still a Cambridge Analytica employee in February 2017, three months after the US election.

One part of Mueller's investigation focuses on whether the Trump campaign sought to influence the timing of the release of emails by WikiLeaks before the election. Investigators are looking at communications between them. In the film, Kaiser says that she has gone from being a cooperating witness to a subject of investigation because of her contact with Assange.

In October 2017, it was revealed that Alexander Nix, the chief executive of Cambridge Analytica, had contacted Assange in August 2016 to try to obtain emails from Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign – which indictments from Mueller’s team say were obtained by Russian military intelligence – to use in Donald Trump’s campaign. When Kaiser gave evidence to parliament last year, she was asked about her relationship with Assange and WikiLeaks but failed to reveal that she had met Assange.

In the documentary, Kaiser is shown after receiving an email from the Guardian last June asking about meeting Assange and alleged donations of cryptocurrency to WikiLeaks. Kaiser did not respond to the email at the time, but on camera says: “She knows I met Assange. And she knows I donated money to WikiLeaks in bitcoin.”

Her legal representatives later wrote to the paper to say that the allegations, including that she had “channelled” donations to WikiLeaks, were false. Kaiser said she had received a small gift of bitcoin in 2011 – long before she worked at Cambridge Analytica – and, not knowing what else to do with it, gave it to WikiLeaks, because she had benefited from material it had released over the years.

Her lawyer told the Observer that the meeting with Assange came about after a chance encounter in London with an acquaintance who knew him. It lasted 20 minutes and consisted mainly of Assange telling her “about how he saw the world”. He said they did not discuss the US election.

Patten and Kaiser were involved in a controversial election campaign in Nigeria in January 2015, which former Cambridge Analytica employees say had “unsettling” parallels to the US presidential election.

The Guardian revealed that the data firm had worked alongside a team of unidentified Israeli intelligence operatives on the campaign. Ex-Cambridge Analytica employees described how the Israelis hacked the now-president of Nigeria’s emails and released damaging information about him to the press weeks before the election.

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CBS NEWS 60 MINUTES Lara Logan "I'm Being 'Targeted'

by Tamar Auber

On Wednesday, former CBS News foreign correspondent Lara Logan spoke with Fox News Sean Hannity about her recent comments slamming the media as “mostly liberal.”

Logan told Breitbart podcaster Mike Ritland the remarks made on his show — which drew widespread attention online — amounted to “professional suicide.”

Defending her remarks on Hannity’s show, Logan said that as the result of her speaking out about how the media is “mostly liberal” she has been targeted because she is an independent voice.

“Any journalists who are not beating the same drum and giving the same talking points,” she insisted “pay the price” for not going along with the liberal crowd.

She also called out her targeters by name.

“I know they’re going to come after me,” she told Hannity. “Michael Calderone who is at the Huffington Post. I can give you the script now. I can tell you who the players are. Joe Hagan. Brian Stelter.”

She added: “They smear you personally. They go after your integrity. They go after your reputation as a person and a professional. They will stop at nothing. I am not the only one. And I am just, I am done, right, I am tired of it. And they do not get to write my story anymore. They don’t get to speak for me, I want to say loudly and clearly to anybody who is listening, I am not owned. Nobody owns me, right? I’m not owned by the left or the right.”

Logan made headlines recently when, during a scorched earth podcast interview with Ritland, she said that there was a lot of “weight” in most news organizations on “one side of the political spectrum.”

“The media everywhere is mostly liberal. But in this country, 85 percent of journalists are registered Democrats. So that’s just a fact, right?” she told Ritland.

She also trashed reporting based on single, anonymous government sources.

“That’s not journalism, that’s horseshit,” Logan stressed. “Responsibility for fake news begins with us. We bear some responsibility for that, and we’re not taking ownership of that and addressing it. We just want to blame it all on somebody else.”

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Internal documents from a private Israeli intelligence firm called Psy-Group show that, at the time of many incidents, the company, and possibly other private investigators, were targeting U.S. citizens because they spoke up about crimes.

Psy-Group’s intelligence and influence operations, which included a failed attempt in the summer of 2017 to sway a local election in central California, were detailed in a New Yorker investigation that I co-wrote earlier this month. Before it went out of business (ie: changed it’s name) , last year, Psy-Group was part of a new wave of private-intelligence firms that recruited from the ranks of Israel’s secret services and described themselves as “private Mossads.” Psy-Group initially stood out among its rivals because it didn’t just gather intelligence; its operatives used false identities, or avatars, to covertly spread messages in an attempt to influence what people believed and how they behaved. In 2016, Psy-Group held discussions with the Trump campaign and others about conducting covert “influence” operations to benefit the candidate. Psy-Group’s founder and C.E.O., Royi Burstien, a veteran Israeli intelligence officer who established the firm in 2014, told me that his talks with the Trump campaign went nowhere. The

company's posturing, however, attracted the attention of Robert Mueller, the special counsel, who has been investigating interference in the 2016 Presidential race.'

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FED BOMBHELL: Fusion GPS Bribed Dozens of MSM Journalists With Cash To Run Character Assassinations, While News Companies Paid Firm to Dig Dirt on Trump

High-ranking FBI insiders are pulling back the curtain on Fusion GPS, the firm that commissioned and spread the bogus Trump dossier.

It appears the embattled intelligence firm was quite busy paying off Big Media reporters, according to federal sources who have traced dozens of transactions between TD Bank and media members as well as media organizations, sources confirm.

But stunningly, Big Media organizations have employed Fusion GPS to dig dirt on politicians and D.C.'s elite — namely Donald Trump.

“Fusion GPS was on the payroll of the media and in turn had members of the media on its payroll,” one FBI insider said.

Bombshell revelations.

FBI insiders confirm Fusion GPS employed law firms as well as shell companies to send and receive funds to and from media and reporters. But the embattled firm also used its accounts at TD Bank to directly commission reporters. Likewise, Fusion GPS received funds from media companies into its own accounts at TD Bank, FBI insiders said,

“There are dozens of payments from the media flowing into their (Fusion GPS’) account,” one federal law enforcement official said. “One company wired funds to Fusion (GPS) more than a dozen times.”

Why would media companies commission Fusion GPS? Likely to dig dirt on enemies or secure records that reporters could not legally obtain, one federal law enforcement insider said. One FBI insider said the payments to Fusion GPS coincide with Donald Trump’s run for the White House.

The payments were made between Sept. 2015 and Sept. 2017, records show.

The unthinkable: The mainstream media paying Fusion GPS for dirt on Trump to the same firm the Democratic National Committee paid to fund the bogus Trump dossier. And at the same time Fusion GPS bribing journalists to place stories — likely negative about Trump, as well as spread the bogus Trump dossier around.

Stunning.

Was BuzzFeed — the only company to publish the full bogus dossier — on that list?

And who is on the payroll? We are trying to run that information down.

And why aren't these people behind bars?



National News Coverage Exposes Reprisal Problems With DOE, DOJ, SSA, IRS, HUD and other Government Agencies

By Conner Lee

A vast number of agency abuse cases and lawsuits are now on public record in the Inspector General's offices and federal courts.

It is an indisputable fact that some government agencies run "hit-jobs" on citizens on orders from certain corrupt politicians. These actions are felony violations of the law.

Federal and State Agencies including SSA, FEC, DOE, HHS, VA, CIA, HUD, SA, SEC, FBI, DOJ and many others, have been charged, and found guilty, in these crimes against citizens.

In the Congressional investigation published by the United States Congress in review of the U.S. Department of Energy LGP/ATVM programs, it is clearly proven that the U.S. Department of Energy was used as a slush-fund by some DOE executives in order to pay off campaign financiers by attacking and sabotaging their competitors.

The DOE Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant under contracts with the Department of Energy and the government-owned U.S. Enrichment Corp paid \$5M whistle-blower awards to those whistle-blowers who were attacked, using government agency resources, for reporting a crime.

Dept. of Energy Hanford URS has agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by former employee Walter Tamosaitis for \$4.1 million. The settlement in the whistle-blower case comes almost one year before the case was set for a jury trial in federal court in Richland and compensates Tamosaitis for attacks against him, by DOE officials, in retribution for reporting a crime.

VA officials attacked hundreds of citizens who reported corruption, ie:

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/health-care/item/18610-va-whistleblowers-facing-retribution>.

As shown in this report: <https://www.pogo.org/analysis/2018/08/new-report-confirms-whistleblower-retaliation-is-alive-and-well-at-department-of-veterans-affairs/>

, Agencies attack often and harshly.

CIA and NSA executives have been widely shown to use spy tools to attack domestic citizens they don't like, ie: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2435011/NSA-employees-used-phone-tapping-tools-spy-girlfriends-cheating-husbands.html> , and hundreds of other news links that can be provided.

Elon Musk and Tesla, as well as Eric Schmidt and Larry Page at Google, have been proven to use the CIA group: IN-Q-TEL, to run government sponsored/financed attacks on business competitors.

In Civil Action No. 1:13-cv-00777-RBW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WERE CAUGHT BEING USED FOR ATTACKS AGAINST CITIZENS AND PUNISHED IN THE COURT AND THE MEDIA!

The IRS, and hordes of other government agencies have been caught and proven, IN COURT, to target and attack people for presumed political differences.

Why should we assume that the Social Security Administration is not ALSO doing this too to harm citizens who speak out?

The Lois Lerner IRS attacks took many years to resolve. In an unprecedented victorious conclusion to a four year-long legal battle against the IRS, the bureaucratic agency admitted in federal court that it wrongfully targeted citizens, during the Obama Administration, because of their political viewpoints and issued an apology to those people for doing so.

In addition, the IRS is consenting to a court order that would prohibit it from ever engaging in this form of unconstitutional discrimination in the future.

In a proposed Consent Order filed with the Court, the IRS has apologized for its treatment of U.S. citizens including organizations from 20 states that applied for 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) tax-exempt status with the IRS between 2009 and 2012 -- during the tax-exempt determinations process. Crucially, following years of denial by the IRS and blame-shifting by IRS officials, the agency now expressly admits that its treatment of our clients was wrong and a total violation of our Democracy..

As set forth in the proposed Order:

“The IRS admits that its treatment of Plaintiffs during the tax-exempt determinations process, including screening their applications based on their names or policy positions, subjecting those applications to heightened scrutiny and inordinate delays, and demanding of some Plaintiffs’ information that TIGTA determined was unnecessary to the agency’s determination of their tax-exempt status, was wrong. For such treatment, the IRS expresses its sincere apology.”

Throughout litigation of this case, activists have remained committed to protecting the rights of the public who faced unlawful and discriminatory action by the IRS and other agencies. The objective from the very beginning has been to hold agencies accountable for corrupt practices.

This Consent Order represents a historic victory for the public and sends the unequivocal message that a government agency’s targeting of citizens organizations, or any organization, on the basis of political viewpoints, will never be tolerated and that revenge will be swift and vast.

The Order will put an end, once and for all, to the abhorrent practices utilized against citizens, as the agreement includes the IRS’s express acknowledgment of – and apology for – its wrongful treatment of the public. While this agreement is designed to prevent any such practices from

occurring again, rest assured that all public interest lawyers will remain vigilant to ensure that the IRS, SSA, DOJ or SEC does not resort to such tactics in the future.

Per detailed reports, in March of 2012 lawyers began being contacted by literally dozens of citizens and groups who were being harassed by the Obama IRS after submitting applications for tax-exempt status. Their tax-exempt applications were held up for years (over seven years in some cases), and they began receiving obtrusive and unconstitutional requests for donor and member information. That began a now more than five and a half year fight with the burgeoning bureaucracy at the IRS. Then on May 10, 2013, Lois Lerner, the then head of the IRS Tax Exempt Organizations Division, publicly implicated the IRS in one of the worst political targeting scandals of the century.

This is an extraordinary victory against government agency abuse. It sends a powerful warning to the deep state bureaucracy that it will not be allowed to violate the Constitution in order to silence and shut down the whistle-blowers.

In addition to the IRS's admissions of and apology for its wrongful conduct, the Consent Order would specifically award Plaintiffs the following:

- A declaration by the Court that it is wrong to apply the United States tax code to any tax-exempt applicant or entity based solely on such entity's name, any lawful positions it espouses on any issues, or its associations or perceived associations with a particular political movement, position or viewpoint;

- A declaration by the Court that any action or inaction taken by the IRS must be applied evenhandedly and not based solely on a tax-exempt applicant or entity's name, political viewpoint, or associations or perceived associations with a particular political movement, position or viewpoint; and

- A declaration by the Court that discrimination on the basis of political viewpoint in administering the United States tax code violates fundamental First Amendment rights. Disparate

treatment of taxpayers based solely on the taxpayers' names, any lawful positions the taxpayers espouse on any issues, or the taxpayers' associations or perceived associations with a particular political movement, position or viewpoint is unlawful.

In the Order, the IRS has also agreed that (unless expressly required by law) certain actions against the Plaintiffs— i.e. the sharing, dissemination, or other use of information unnecessarily obtained by the IRS during the determinations process (such as donor names, the names of volunteers, political affiliations of an organization's officers, etc.) – would be unlawful. In addition, the IRS promises not to take any retaliatory action against our clients for exposing the targeting scheme.

Finally, and of crucial significance, the IRS admits it targeted persons and groups based on their viewpoints (i.e., “policy positions”) and that such viewpoint discrimination violates fundamental First Amendment rights. This is the first time the IRS has admitted that its targeting scheme was not just “inappropriate” – as TIGTA found – but, as alleged, blatantly unconstitutional.

To ensure consistency and uniformity within the agency's operations going forward, the IRS is required, pursuant to the Order, to inform all employees within the Exempt Organizations Division, as well as the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners within other divisions, of the Order's terms.

This Order not only validates allegations about their treatment at the hands of the corrupt Obama-era IRS but also provides important assurances to the American public that the agency understands its obligation to refrain from further such discriminatory conduct. As Attorney General Sessions acknowledged in this regard, “[t]here is no excuse for [the IRS's] conduct,” as it is “without question” that the First Amendment prohibits the conduct that occurred here, i.e., subjecting American citizens to disparate treatment “based solely on their viewpoint or ideology.” Sessions further confirmed his Department's commitment to ensuring that the “abuse of power” in which the IRS engaged here “will not be tolerated.”

It is impossible to overstate the importance of this victory. This marks a years-long fight for justice in defense of the constitutional rights of the public.

This is an extraordinary victory against abuse of power and corruption.

It sends a powerful warning to the deep state bureaucracy that it will not be allowed to violate the Constitution and manipulate the IRS, SSA and other agencies in order to silence and shut down those who speak out about political corruption crimes.

In the wake of Wisconsin Watchdog's investigation into SSA staff allegations of incompetence, misconduct, and retaliation in Social Security disability appeals offices, several employees have taken their complaints to a Senate committee led by Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson.

An official with knowledge of the complaints said the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by the Oshkosh Republican, has received emails and other contacts from "certain people" inside the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

The initial complaints came from an employee inside the Milwaukee office following Wisconsin Watchdog's opening investigative report that found some claimants waiting more than 1,000 days for an appeals decision on their disability benefits claim.

Following Wednesday's story of a whistleblower in the Madison ODAR office, the committee has received more specific complaints about retaliation against employees, the source said.

Committee staff members sent the latest Watchdog piece to SSA administrators hoping they will "cooperate," the source said. To date, the agency has been less than cooperative.

"This is an ongoing process, and they are not always as forthcoming as we'd like them to be," the source said. "Hopefully with your continued reporting, this is an issue they can't duck."

A Senate committee member said officials there are working with the Office of Special Counsel on “multiple whistleblower retaliation claims.” The committee continues to request information from the SSA.

The whistleblower in the Madison office claims management retaliated against her after she was called to testify in a misconduct case. The incident involved “inappropriate behavior” by an administrative law judge, she said.

“They are so corrupt. It’s absolutely horrible,” said the woman, a lead case technician in the Madison Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

She spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing more retribution from her supervisors. While she said recounting her particular experiences will more than likely betray her identity anyway, the ODAR case worker insisted she has had enough.

“I’m at point where they don’t care about me, I don’t see why I’m protecting them. This is my last resort,” she said. “I want to do my work without fear of retaliation.”

She said she has contacted the Senate committee.

“I forwarded my information to them and I got an email back from them. They said people are coming out of the woodwork with their complaints (about ODAR) following your story,” the whistle-blower said.

Ronald Klym, a long-time senior legal assistant in the Milwaukee ODAR office, alleges he has been retaliated against by supervisors for going public with his charges of incompetence and misconduct in the agency.

The federal employee, who has worked for SSA for 16 years, provided Wisconsin Watchdog with documents showing extremely long wait times for claimants appealing their denied applications for benefits.

Doug Nguyen, SSA regional spokesman, in a previous story said the agency acknowledges that Milwaukee ODAR has a “high average processing time for disability appeal hearings, and we are working to address the issue.”

Beyond the delays is what Klym calls the “shell game,” the wholesale transferring of cases to other parts of the country by administrators to make the Milwaukee office’s numbers look better than they are.

The Madison office whistle-blower confirmed Klym’s allegations, saying at one point she saw 2,000 cases from the Milwaukee office handed off to the Oak Brook operation.

There are over 10,000 SSA disability manipulation charges against SSA executives and staff.

A Personal Note To The Department Of Energy From The Victims:

“Dear Dong:

The public, the media, Congress and every knowledgeable member of the public has examined the facts and concluded that your ATVM and LGP loan programs are corrupt, organized crime, dark-money, crony payola, political slush-funds which have only EVER been used to pay off political campaign financiers.

Everyone now knows that you have a policy of NEVER approving an application that is not part of a dark money political quid-pro-quo bribery deal.

The DOE ATVM and LGP loan programs have proven, to every non-crony applicant (AND WE INTERVIEWED MOST OF THEM) that it will always:

- Stonewall*
- Obfuscate*
- “Lois-Lerner” manipulate*
- Intentionally ignore data*
- Intentionally misinterpret data*
- Run political “hit-jobs”*
- Operate as “deep state” slush fund*
- Run decades-long delays*

..and, generally, be criminal crony stooges for the Palo Alto Mafia Cartel Oligarchs

Everything in your response letter is manipulated interpretations based on your desire to try to avoid another lawsuit for corruption. You did a fine job of building a counter-case for what you think is coming next but your vision was limited.

You will NOT avoid the fruits of your corruption.

WE WON THE LAST LAWSUIT AGAINST YOUR LITTLE “CORRUPTION PARTY”. WE EXPOSED YOUR WHOLE DIRTY OPERATION. THE MATERIAL, NOW ONLINE, TAKES THE “PANAMA PAPERS” TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

THE NEXT ACTIVITY WILL USE 100% LEGAL RESOURCES , MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES AND TACTICS YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO COMPREHEND! IN FACT, IT IS ALREADY UNDERWAY!

You have to live with the fact that every history book, until the end of time, will document you, and your program, as a “criminal political slush-fund crony payola scam”

Your staff lied when they said: “Oh, no, don’t worry, we got rid of the bad ones from Solyndra”

Not only did you not get rid of the crooks in your hen-house, you kept the worst ones and hired more of them.

We should know, we were one of the whistle-blowers that led to the FBI kicking in the doors at Solyndra.

You spent days in private meetings with campaign financiers Tesla and Fisker to guide them to the cash. You spent vast numbers of hours on phone calls with Tesla and Fisker bosses because they were the financiers of the Obama Administration and The Obama White House told you to just hand them the crony cash.

You NEVER called us or met with us, even once, to clarify the facade of conjectures and false statements in your bullshit response today. You wanted to make certain that we were never funded by your offices again because we caught you doing crimes! You didn’t want to know the truth because you can’t handle the truth!

You have known since 2008 that you would never approve any additional funding for us as “political payback” for exposing your felony corruption.

Every response in your letter is either false, or a lie, or an intentional misreading of our plan in order to build a case to try to get out of the next lawsuit.

Your cheap mobster slush-fund antics have truly been a joy to expose. You guys are really cheese-ball shabby mobsters in your slush-fund game.

You, and your staff, own some conflict-of-interest stock market stocks, off-shore accounts and share some assets with some very interesting people... all at the expense of the taxpayers. Let’s examine that further.. we have officially asked the FBI, SEC, FTC, DOJ, EU and global investigative news industry to assist in that effort.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr has now publicly stated, before Congress, and on the record, that the Obama Administration DID abuse intelligence agency resources to manipulate federal agencies and attack U.S. Citizens in illegal and extreme reprisals, vendettas, revenge and benefits blockades and we were one of those entities that was attacked.

The Department of Energy was one of the biggest tools in that operation. You used federal employees and contractors to seek harm U.S. born, natural citizen taxpayers by subjecting them to extreme reprisals, vendettas, revenge and benefits blockades as payback for assisting law enforcement in the Solyndra/Palo Alto Mafia/DOE political corruption case.

That kind of abuse of a public office like DOE is a felony violation of the law. We will be delighted to see the crowd-sourced public forensics hobbyists use all of their global social-media resources to put you, and your crony’s, in prison and out of public offices.

What kind of a tunnel-vision bubble of delusion do you people live in? Do you not realize that the entire world knows what a crony scam you operate? Have you never typed: “Solyndra Corruption” into a search engine or watched the 60 Minutes Episodes: “The Cleantech Crash”, “Congress Trading on Insider Information”, “The Lobbyists Playbook”, etc.?? How can you sleep at night knowing you are going into work the next day to operate a criminal, campaign financing, payback scheme?

While we love the letter from the heads of Bright Automotive: proclaiming your agency to be a sham, we think our letter gets to the meat of things.

We demand a qualified, unbiased, conflict-free, review of the entire process of your crony kick-back scam since it was first crafted. case instructed by the United States Congress. Our international alliance of federal investigators, FBI experts, White House staff, forensics examiners, investigative journalists and voters will not rest until this matter is fairly resolved....”

A case study in pay-to-play cronyism

By Dan Epstein —

News flash: Government subsidies and special-interest favors go hand in hand.

The latest example comes from a federal green-energy loan program. Last month, the DC District Court [ruled](#) that Cause of Action, where I am executive director, can [proceed with a lawsuit](#) against the Department of Energy. We're suing the federal government for the blatant political favoritism in its \$25 billion "Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program."

In principle, this taxpayer-funded program was supposed to support the manufacture of energy-efficient cars. In practice, it rewarded a select few well-connected companies.

Since the program was created in 2008, numerous businesses have applied for its taxpayer-backed financial support. Yet only a small number were approved. Among the lucky few were two electric car manufacturers: [Tesla](#) and [Fisker](#).

Both companies' political connections run deep, especially Tesla's. The company's founder, Elon Musk, was a [max donor](#) for President Obama. One of its board members, [Steven Westly](#), was appointed to a Department of Energy [advisory board](#). And another Obama bundler, Tesla investor and adviser Steven Spinner, [secured employment](#) in the department's Loan Program Office—the very office that gave the company a taxpayer-backed loan.

Fisker also has friends in high places. The company, which has since [gone bankrupt, was backed](#) by a San Francisco [venture capital firm](#) whose senior partners [donated millions](#) to the 2008 Obama campaign and other Democrat causes. [One partner, John Doerr](#), parlayed his support into a seat on the President's Council of Jobs and Competitiveness.

Such connections can allow a company to exert political pressure to enrich itself. Unsurprisingly, Department of Energy emails show that such pressure was rampant in its loan programs.

There's no shortage of examples. The department's leaders—including then-Secretary of Energy Steven Chu—repeatedly promised to deliver results to politicians like Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Sen. [Harry Reid](#) (D-Nev.). [One emails reads](#), "DOE has made a political commitment" to approve a company's loan. Another says the "pressure is on real heavy" from none other than Vice President [Joe Biden](#). And still [another shows](#) an employee asking, "what's another billion anyhow?"

Unsurprisingly, the Obama administration gave Tesla and Fisker preferential treatment, and then some.

The Department of Energy revised its review process in order to finish the companies' applications faster. The government [gave them extraordinary access](#) to its staff and facilities—even to the point of having government employees personally walk them through the loan application and approval process. The department ignored its own lending rules in order to approve the companies' loans. And it [renegotiated the terms of some loans](#) after the companies could not keep their original commitments or were experiencing financial difficulties. Tellingly, Fisker has since gone out of business, despite receiving over a billion dollars in loans through this federal program.

Now contrast this preferential treatment with what happened to XP Vehicles and Limnia, neither of which have the same political connections. (My organization is suing the Department of Energy on their behalf). The two companies partnered to manufacture an energy-efficient sport utility vehicle that would have competed with Tesla and Fisker's cars. They applied for loans in 2008 and 2009 under the same loan program.

The department refused them both—and it used bogus reasons to do so.

For starters, the department made claims that were laughably false. To take one example: It rejected XPV's application because [its vehicle was powered by hydrogen](#). It was an electric SUV. It also raised objections that it didn't raise with other companies whose applications were approved. For instance: The bureaucracy [criticized](#) the proposed all-electric vehicle for not using a specific type of gasoline. Yet Tesla and Fisker received the loans despite producing similar all-electric cars.

In light of these obvious problems and hypocrisy, both companies presented the Department of Energy with detailed rebuttals. Yet the government failed to respond. To this day, both XPV and Limnia are awaiting a satisfactory reply. In the meantime, [XPV has gone out of business](#), unable to compete against its politically connected—and subsidized—rivals.

This casts the Department of Energy's loan program in a new light. It was sold to the American public as a means of promoting energy-efficient vehicles. Instead, it was used to benefit a select few well-connected companies. It was a blatant crony handout, paid for by the U.S. taxpayer.

Sadly, similar examples are widespread in Washington. That's no surprise considering the feds spend [roughly \\$100 billion a year](#) in taxpayer-funded handouts to businesses. This breeds the sort of government-business collusion Americans think is rampant in Washington. In fact, [over two-thirds of likely voters](#) think the federal government helps businesses that hire the most lobbyists, shake the right hands, and pad the right pockets. They're right.

This points to a simple conclusion: Politicians and bureaucrats shouldn't use the public's money to pad private companies' bottom lines. As the Department of Energy's green-vehicle loan program shows, the capacity for corruption is immense—and inevitable.



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2011

The Honorable Robert F. Portillo
Chairman, Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Portillo and Ranking Member Cantwell:

All Members of Congress with a strong interest in fuel cell and hydrogen technologies, we thank you for consistently funding the FC&H2 Energy (2011). We are writing to urge your continued support to begin consideration of Fiscal Year 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations to help create jobs, stimulate exports, increase the efficiency of operations, reduce dependence on foreign oil and enhance energy job performance and greenhouse gas emissions.

Fuel cell and hydrogen technologies create jobs and are a crucial part of the portfolio of advanced energy technologies that will help achieve the nation's oil and greenhouse gas reduction goals. Fuel cells for stationary power and material handling equipment are becoming commercially available in niche markets and creating jobs today in domestic and export-oriented

As the Committee develops the FY2014 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we request that you support \$147.5 million for the fuel cell and hydrogen energy programs managed by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (OEE), and \$30 million for the Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA) solid oxide fuel cell program in the Office

of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (OEE).

Thank you for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

 JOHN LAWSON Member of Congress	 MICHAEL DOYLE Member of Congress
 JUDI CHU Member of Congress	 JOE COURTNEY Member of Congress
 ROSA DELAURIO Member of Congress	 TAMMY DUCKWORTH Member of Congress
 ELIZABETH H. ESTY Member of Congress	 BILL FOSTER Member of Congress
 PAUL TONKO Member of Congress	 NIKI TSONGLAK Member of Congress
 CHRIS VAN HOLLN Member of Congress	

 COLLEEN HANAHAN Member of Congress	 ALCEE HASTINGS Member of Congress
 CONCHITA CASPEY Member of Congress	 KEVIN HOGGAN Member of Congress
 BARBARA LEE Member of Congress	 DANIEL LIPINSKI Member of Congress
 DAVE LUJAN Member of Congress	 ZOE LOFGREN Member of Congress
 JIM MORAN Member of Congress	 PERRY CHRISTIE Member of Congress
 MARK POCAN Member of Congress	 C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER Member of Congress
 LOUIE GOHMERT Member of Congress	 LOUIE BLIGHT Member of Congress
 MIKE THOMPSON Member of Congress	 DANA LATA Member of Congress



Hillary In San Francisco: Who Are The Bay Area Power Players

John Doerr of Kleiner Perkins and Walter Shorenstein of the bay area real estate empire, rub shoulders with Ann Winblad (who told everyone she once dated Bill Gates) and Susie Tompkins of Esprit.

Warren Buffet told Mr. Shorenstein that "he had some Windmills" and tried to convince the spry Shorenstein to get into the "Green Game" but Shorenstein argued back that real estate was "actually the only sure thing."

Everyone was asked to drill Warren with one public question, in front of everybody, the answer to which "would change the world." Buffet adroitly responded to interrogatories about "Israel and Palestine", "How to deal with Russia" and "Clean Energy".

San Francisco Sentinel



The Washington Post

In lawsuit against Energy Department, two firms claim cronyism in 'green car' loan program

By David E. Siders, The Washington Post

Washington (AP) — Two firms that sued the Energy Department on Thursday, claiming favoritism in the auto loan program, argued that the program favored them and other firms that have such access to a "back" door to the federal government.

In addition to complaints of cronyism, AP's Justice staff reported that two witnesses supporting the Energy Department allegedly showed their potential testimony with manipulating information before the lawsuit filing.

More From The Politics

Perseus to take settlement from



Perseus, the company that filed a lawsuit against the Energy Department, is seeking a settlement from the government. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., on Thursday.

John Kerry's arrival in Egypt



John Kerry, the former secretary of state, is expected to arrive in Egypt on Thursday. He will be accompanied by a large delegation of officials.

How the energy industry will react to



The energy industry is expected to react to the lawsuit with a mix of anger and concern. Some industry officials are expected to call the lawsuit a "crisis of confidence."

AP's Justice staff reported that two witnesses supporting the Energy Department allegedly showed their potential testimony with manipulating information before the lawsuit filing.

The lawsuit claims that the Energy Department favored two firms, Perseus and EFCO, in the "green car" loan program. The lawsuit also claims that the Energy Department favored these firms in the selection process.

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Lawsuit Alleges “Corruption and Negligence” at Department of Energy

Laohlan Markay | November 16, 2012 at 11:35 am | (22) | Like (5.6)

Tweet (339)



A lawsuit filed in federal court on Wednesday alleges mass favoritism in the Department of Energy's decisions to award federal grants to major car companies to develop electric vehicles, according to a legal complaint obtained by Scribe.

The plaintiff, San Francisco-based XP Technology, says in a complaint filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims that “corruption and negligence” pervaded DOE's decision to award loan guarantees to Ford, Nissan, Tesla Motors, and Fisker Automotive for the development of electric vehicle technology.

“Investigations have shown that DOE officials intentionally stalled numerous applicants' reviews in order to force them out of business and protect favored players,” the complaint claims. It adds:

“XP has received information demonstrating that the unprecedented number of failures in the DOE program relative to what DOE officials have claimed to be ‘the most expensive and extensive due diligence in history’ is explained by manipulated reviews, in the due diligence effort, on behalf of what the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigations found to be ‘favoritism’ in published investigation reports. A senate ethics investigation states, in published reports, that ‘negligence and mismanagement by DOE officials’ was a regular occurrence.”

COPY, PASTE, LEGISLATE - You elected them to write new laws but Crooked California Senators are letting corrupt Silicon Valley corporations do it instead.

After you pay the stock market bribe to the Congress-person/U.S. Senator, you hand them a paper with the law you want them to push...a law that ONLY benefits Google or Facebook!

While Plaintiff's have created and changed multiple federal laws to help the public, Google, Facebook, Netflix and LinkedIn have ORDERED U.S. Senators to create laws to harm the Plaintiff's for competing with them. In Fact, DNC Silicon Valley Company lobbyists produce as much, or more, fake copy/paste legislation as GOP-connected parties.

Silicon Valley tech corporations have submitted tens of thousands of pages, through their covert lobbyists, of COPY/PASTE legislation designed to make domestic inventors, such as the Plaintiff, obsolete, and the U.S. Government has assisted those corporations with that effort in the USPTO... THAT IS AN ANT-TRUST FELONY!

An investigation by USA TODAY, The Arizona Republic and the Center for Public Integrity Rob O'Dell and Nick Penzenstadler

Each year, state lawmakers across the U.S. introduce thousands of bills dreamed up and written by corporations, industry groups and think tanks.

Disguised as the work of lawmakers, these so-called "model" bills get copied in one state Capitol after another, quietly advancing the agenda of the people who write them.

A two-year investigation by USA TODAY, The Arizona Republic and the Center for Public Integrity reveals for the first time the extent to which special interests have infiltrated state legislatures using model legislation.

USA TODAY and the Republic found at least 10,000 bills almost entirely copied from model legislation were introduced nationwide in the past eight years, and more than 2,100 of those bills were signed into law.

The investigation examined nearly 1 million bills in all 50 states and Congress using a computer algorithm developed to detect similarities in language. That search – powered by the equivalent of 150 computers that ran nonstop for months – compared known model legislation with bills introduced by lawmakers.

The phenomenon of copycat legislation is far larger. In a separate analysis, the Center for Public Integrity identified tens of thousands of bills with identical phrases, then traced the origins of that language in dozens of those bills across the country.

Model bills passed into law have made it harder for injured consumers to sue corporations. They've called for taxes on sugar-laden drinks. They've limited access to abortion and restricted the rights of protesters.

In all, these copycat bills amount to the nation's largest, unreported special-interest campaign, driving agendas in every statehouse and touching nearly every area of public policy.

About this report

This story was produced as part of a collaboration between USA TODAY, The Arizona Republic and the [Center for Public Integrity](#). More than 30 reporters across the country were involved in the two-year investigation, which identified copycat bills in every state. The team used a unique data-analysis engine built on hundreds of cloud computers to compare millions of words of legislation provided by LegiScan.

The investigation reveals that fill-in-the-blank bills have in some states supplanted the traditional approach of writing legislation from scratch. They have become so intertwined with the lawmaking process that the nation's top sponsor of copycat legislation, a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, claimed to have signed on to 72 such bills without knowing or questioning their origin.

For lawmakers, copying model legislation is an easy way to get fully formed bills to put their names on, while building relationships with lobbyists and other potential campaign donors.

For special interests seeking to stay under the radar, model legislation also offers distinct advantages. Copycat bills don't appear on expense reports, or campaign finance forms. They don't require someone to register as a lobbyist or sign in at committee hearings. But once injected into the lawmaking process, they can go viral, spreading state to state, executing an agenda to the letter.

USA TODAY's investigation found:

- Models are drafted with deceptive titles and descriptions to disguise their true intent. The Asbestos Transparency Act didn't help people exposed to asbestos. It was written by corporations who wanted to make it harder for victims to recoup money. The "HOPE Act," introduced in nine states, was written by a conservative advocacy group to make it more difficult for people to get food stamps.

- Special interests sometimes work to create the illusion of expert endorsements, public consensus or grassroots support. One man testified as an expert in 13 states to support a bill that makes it more difficult to sue for asbestos exposure. In several states, lawmakers weren't told that he was a member of the organization that wrote the model legislation on behalf of the asbestos industry, the American Legislative Exchange Council.

- Bills copied from model legislation have been used to override the will of local voters and their elected leaders. Cities and counties have raised their minimum wage, banned plastic bags and

destroyed seized guns, only to have industry groups that oppose such measures make them illegal with model bills passed in state legislatures. Among them: Airbnb has supported the conservative Arizona-based Goldwater Institute, which pushed model bills to strike down local laws limiting short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods in four states.

- Industry groups have had extraordinary success pushing copycat bills that benefit themselves. More than 4,000 such measures were introduced during the period analyzed by USA TODAY/Arizona Republic. One that passed in Wisconsin limited pain-and-suffering compensation for injured nursing-home residents, restricting payouts to lost wages, which the elderly residents don't have.

How model bills work and why you should care

How special interests use copycat bills to peddle laws in your statehouses.

Patrick Shannahan, USA TODAY

“This work proves what many people have suspected, which is just how much of the democratic process has been outsourced to special interests,” said Lisa Graves, co-director of Documented, which probes corporate manipulation of public policy. “It is both astonishing and disappointing to see how widespread ... it is. Good lord, it’s an amazing thing to see.”

The impact of model legislation is undoubtedly larger than the 10,000 copied bills identified by USA TODAY/Arizona Republic.

Because the investigation relied on matching identical text, it flagged instances where legislators copied model legislation nearly verbatim, but it did not detect bills that adapted an idea without using the same language.

Sherri Greenberg, who spent 10 years in the Texas Legislature and is now the Max Sherman Chair in State and Local Government at the University of Texas at Austin, said bills used to spring from lawmakers’ experiences, constituents, or lobbyists representing long-established industries. Model legislation has flourished as gridlock in Congress forced special interest groups to look to the states to get things done, she said.

The states that copy the most

Every state legislature copies model legislation, but the types of special interests they copy from and how frequently vary nationwide. Here’s how the model bills we found break down based on the stated political leaning or purpose of the group that wrote each bill.

■

SOURCE: USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis of legislation from 2010 to 2018; LegiScan

Veronica Bravo, Mitchell Thorson/USA TODAY

Not all model legislation is driven by special interests or designed to make someone money. Some bills were written to require sex offenders to register with law enforcement, while others have made it easier for members of the military to vote or increased penalties for human trafficking.

Charles Siler, a former external relations manager for the Goldwater Institute, which has pushed copycat bills nationwide, said it's a fast way to spread ideas because with little modification lawmakers can adapt it to their state.

"It's not inherently bad, one way or the other," said Siler, who now works for a political action committee. "It depends on the idea and the people pushing it. Definitely people use model legislation to push bad ideas around."

Allison Anderman, managing attorney at the pro-gun-control Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said model bills are simply how the system works now.

"This is how all laws are written," she said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find a law where a legislator sits in a chamber until a light bulb goes off with a new policy."

==

Bills promise to protect the public.
They actually bolster the corporate bottom line.

The Asbestos Transparency Act sounds like the kind of boring, good-government policy voters expect their representatives to hammer out on their behalf to safeguard public health.

Better transparency was one reason Colorado state Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg said he introduced the bill in 2017, and again last year, at the urging of a tort reform group called the Colorado Civil Justice League and backed by insurance companies, including Nationwide Insurance.

"Whenever you add transparency to the mix, it helps all consumers," said Sonnenberg, a Republican.

But the bill had nothing to do with requiring companies to disclose to consumers what products contained asbestos or informing those who had been exposed to the cancer-causing mineral how to get help.

It, in effect, cast corporations as victims of litigation filed by people harmed by asbestos. The model bill requires people battling the asbestos-triggered disease mesothelioma to seek money from an asbestos trust, set up to compensate victims, before they can sue a company whose product might have caused their cancer.

That process can take months or even a year.

Many mesothelioma victims die within a year of their diagnosis. Their families can still sue on their behalf, but for far less money.

“I can tell you for a fact that families don’t have time for all these hoops they want you to jump through,” said Chris Winokur, whose husband Bob was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2015 and died nine months later. “They’re trying to make it more difficult to sue.”

Bob Winokur, who worked for the U.S. Forest Service and served as mayor of Fort Collins, Colorado, never pinpointed where he came in contact with asbestos. And he never filed a claim to help pay his medical bills. The disease progressed too rapidly to allow it, even without the additional requirements proposed by the model bill, Chris Winokur said.

The model legislation was the work of corporations seeking to limit their exposure to billions of dollars in litigation associated with asbestos. Insurance companies Nationwide, AIG, Travelers, Hartford and CNA Financial Corp. together hold more than half the nation’s asbestos claim exposure totaling over \$870 million.

USA TODAY/Arizona Republic found the Asbestos Transparency Act, a product of the American Legislative Exchange Council, an industry-supported model bill factory, has been introduced in at least 17 states since 2012. It became law in at least 11 states.

■

Chris Winokur with a portrait of her late husband, a former Fort Collins city councilman and mayor, in January 2019 in Estes Park, Colo. Bob... Timothy Hurst, The Coloradoan

Sonnenberg, the lawmaker who introduced it in Colorado, said he didn’t write the bill and relied on “my experts” to explain it during a February 2017 hearing.

One of those experts was Mark Behrens, who logs thousands of miles a year testifying before lawmakers about ALEC’s model asbestos legislation. He has done so in at least 13 states, where he was billed as an objective authority.

Behrens is an attorney with Shook, Hardy and Bacon, which represents companies in complex civil litigation. He is a co-chairman of ALEC’s Civil Justice Task Force and is a paid consultant for the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for Legal Reform, an arm of the nation’s largest business lobby, which has the stated goal of reducing litigation.

During the hearing, Behrens testified: "The only thing the legislation does is accelerate the timing of when the trust claim is filed. It's not putting any new burdens on plaintiffs."

A Democratic legislator pressed Behrens on why the 26-page bill needed technical language that could confuse victims trying to be compensated. She called it, "a gift to defendants," before voting against it.

Which bills were copied?

Of the 10,000 bills state lawmakers introduced that were copies of model legislation, most were written by industry and conservative groups.

■
SOURCE: USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis of legislation from 2010 to 2018; LegiScan
Veronica Bravo/USA TODAY

Sonnenberg told USA TODAY he didn't know Behrens worked for the Chamber of Commerce when he called him to testify. "I just knew they were experts and they indeed understood the legal issues and process much better than I," he wrote in an email.

Behrens said the Asbestos Transparency Act seeks to hold wrongdoers accountable, while exonerating innocent companies paying for harm they didn't cause.

"These companies don't get a vote; all we can do is make our case," Behrens told USA TODAY. "I don't care who I'm there for, I still have to be credible and honest."

Graves said special interests have "so-called experts who aren't neutral. They go around the country and testify about those bills as if they're good for that state or even as if they're products of that state."

Colorado lawmakers rejected the Asbestos Transparency Act in 2017 and 2018, and Sonnenberg said he doesn't plan to introduce it this year.

"It would be wise," he said, "for someone with a better understanding of these types of issues to carry the bill in the future."

Bill Meierling, chief marketing officer and executive vice president of ALEC, said supporters of the asbestos model believed it did create more transparency, "but it's up to each individual state to choose how they would name" the bill when they copy ALEC's model.

USA TODAY found more than 4,000 bills benefiting industry were introduced nationwide during the eight years it reviewed. More than 80 of those bills limit the public's ability to sue corporations, including limiting class-action lawsuits, a plaintiff's ability to offer expert testimony, and cap punitive damages for corporate wrongdoing.

"No citizens are saying, 'Hey, can you make it harder to sue if ... low-paid (nursing home) orderlies happened to kill or injure my parents,' " Graves said. "That's not a thing citizens are clamoring for. But you know who is? The nursing home industry, and big business in general."

Many of the bills USA TODAY found were copied from models written by special interests were couched in unremarkable or technical language that obscured their impact. Bans on raising the local minimum wage were dubbed "uniform minimum wage" laws. Changes to civil court rules to shield companies from lawsuits were described as "congruity" or reforms to make laws consistent. Repealing business regulations was disguised under the term "rescission."

■

Politicians get a shortcut to success.
Special interests get their agendas turned into law.

A moderate Republican from the Philadelphia suburbs shows how copycat bills in some states set the legislative agenda.

Rep. Thomas Murt has sponsored more model legislation than any other state lawmaker in the nation, according to USA TODAY's database.

Murt, whose biggest campaign donors include the Pennsylvania Republican Party and labor unions, said he was stunned to learn that he was listed as a sponsor on 72 bills substantially copied from model legislation from 2010 to late 2018.

■

Matt Rourke, AP

Pennsylvania House members solicit co-sponsors by circulating short memos summarizing a bill without including its actual language or who wrote it.

"I had no way of knowing unless it's put in the ... memo," Murt said of the bills he helped sponsor.

Murt's situation highlights how critical bill titles and summaries are – especially when it comes to copycat legislation – because lawmakers, even sponsors, often don't read bills.

Had Murt probed further, he would have seen the bills he signed onto came from ALEC, its liberal counterpart ALICE, the State Innovation Exchange, Council of State Governments, Goldwater Institute and other groups that specialize in writing copycat bills.

They dealt with cities' ability to take action against blighted properties, prohibitions on businesses banning guns in employees' vehicles, and a call for the U.S. president to be elected by popular vote, among many others.

Which copies became law?

Industry and conservative groups are even more dominant at getting copycat bills passed and signed into law.

■
SOURCE: USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis of legislation from 2010 to 2018; LegiScan
Veronica Bravo/USA TODAY

USA TODAY provided Murt with a list of all 72 bills, 13 of which became law, and asked questions about his support for them. He was the primary sponsor of only one: a ban on smoking in workplaces written by the liberal State Innovation Exchange.

Murt said he would reconsider his support for two of the bills that were copied from ALEC, after learning more about their impact. One was a call for a constitutional convention to curb federal spending, backed by the controversial Koch brothers conservative political network. The other was a bill protecting Crown Cork & Seal from asbestos liability.

"I would be suspect of such a proposal," Murtsaid of the constitutional convention model. "But bear in mind that when that co-sponsor memo was circulated, I'm sure it never mentioned the Koch brothers, because for some people that would have been a show-stopper."

Murt also said he would never support limiting asbestos victims' ability to sue.

USA TODAY interviewed more than 50 sponsors of model legislation nationwide. Half said they knew they had sponsored model legislation. But 20 legislators said they didn't know the source of their bill or claimed they wrote at least part of the bill.

Five insisted the bill was their own work, even though the wording of each included multiple passages that matched model legislation nearly verbatim. Almost all of the sponsors defended the practice of copying model legislation or had no opinion of it.

In Michigan, Republican state Sen. Joe Haveman said he worked with a lobbyist from a Lansing law firm to draft his state's version of the law aimed at shielding Crown Cork & Seal from asbestos liability stemming from a corporate merger in the 1960s. The law firm, Clark Hill, has donated \$1,800 to his campaigns since 2012, according to state records.

Help us report this story

We found more than 10,000 bills that were based on model legislation were introduced nationwide. Help us find more. Submit language you think might be from model legislation and we will run it through our system to see if it has been introduced by state lawmakers.

[Tell your story](#)

Haveman said he had no issues with relying on model bills and said even though Crown Cork & Seal is not a Michigan company, he said he saw it as a "fairness issue." He said he was approached by a lobbyist and agreed with the bill when he saw a draft.

“It really had nothing to do with my passion for anything. They had to do this in all 50 states,” Haveman said. “Somebody targeted me, and I had to do it.”

It’s not just legislators circulating copycat bills. In Pennsylvania, the nonpartisan service that drafts all bills for the state Assembly – the Legislative Reference Bureau – frequently copies directly from model legislation, said director Vincent DeLiberato. But the legislator ultimately decides whether to use it, he said.

In Wisconsin, the Legislature’s nonpartisan legal staff is similarly tasked with converting lawmakers’ ideas into bills. A March 1, 2017, email to that staff from the office of Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos requested that an attached document be “drafted as stated.”

■

Andy Manis, AP

The document contained the Campus Free Speech Act, which prevents universities from blocking controversial speakers and imposes penalties on students, including expulsion, for disrupting such events. The measure, written by the Goldwater Institute, is a reaction to liberal protesters at Middlebury College, UC-Berkeley, University of Florida and other campuses who have disrupted speeches by conservative commentator Ben Shapiro and white supremacist Richard Spencer, among others.

Vos did not respond to questions about the origin of his bill, which was copied nearly verbatim from Goldwater’s model. It didn’t pass, but the ideas were incorporated in new university rules adopted by Wisconsin.

USA TODAY’s algorithm found the same model was introduced in 13 states, becoming law in Arizona and North Carolina. A similar version passed in Colorado.

The relationship between groups writing model legislation and the lawmakers introducing them is a marriage of convenience, experts said.

Special interests give lawmakers fully conceived bills they can put their names on and take credit for. And those special interests can become dependable donors to their campaigns.

Conservative groups like ALEC nurture those relationships at annual conferences where lawmakers and corporate lobbyists discuss policy and mingle over meals and drinks paid for by corporate sponsors.

This arrangement is particularly appealing to new lawmakers, said Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, an assistant professor at Columbia University who has studied the influence of ALEC and other conservative groups.

His research showed less-experienced lawmakers are more likely to use copycat legislation.

They “know they are conservative, they know they are pro-business, but ... they don’t really know what it means to translate that into different bills,” he said. “These networks are able to fill in what it means to be a conservative Republican who wants to support business.”

Meierling, ALEC's chief marketing officer, said there are checks and balances on corporate influence within the organization "just like our government structure."

Companies join ALEC because they want feedback and insight from a variety of legislators, he said.

"Sure they (companies) are going to share their perspective, but a legislator is there to represent their constituents and if they don't they'll be held accountable at the ballot box," Meierling said. "ALEC ... has proven it's an asset to society."

Progressive groups, meanwhile, have failed to replicate conservatives' success because they've not invested in facilitating the relationships between lawmakers and special interests, Hertel-Fernandez said.

“What ALEC does is more than provide the model bills: They provide relationships. They approach you when you are first elected and build these enduring social connections with you at recurring events that happen every year,” he said. “You really need that social connection in addition to the model-bill resources that you’re getting, the research help.”

■

Bills sound like they're protecting people from a problem. They're actually for promotion, and persuading people to open their wallets.

“Countless American lives will be saved. ... I don’t want to say thousands because I think it’s going to be much more – hundreds of thousands,” President Donald Trump said at a signing ceremony for the national “Right to Try” bill in May 2018. “It is such a great name. From the first day I loved it. It’s so perfect: Right. To. Try.”

With the stroke of a pen, Trump made a bill that had circulated in statehouses for four years the most successful copycat bill in history. Not only did it pass in 41 states, it also had conquered Congress.

The version passed by Congress allows terminally ill individuals a right to try experimental medications that have not been fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The bill’s title left the public with the impression it was spurred by a groundswell of patients demanding lifesaving treatment.

Instead, it was a focus group-tested name, coined by a consultant to a for-profit corporation.

■

Evan Vucci, AP

That corporation, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, a chain focused on alternative cancer treatments, wanted access to experimental drugs.

Right to Try illustrates another finding of USA TODAY's investigation: Some copycat bills amount to little more than marketing and posturing, with organizations behind them highlighting a perceived problem and then offering a solution with little or no measurable impact.

The point is seemingly to score political points, draw attention to the organization behind the model, and raise funds off the effort.

Former Goldwater President Darcy Olsen parlayed this campaign into the book "Right to Try." In it, she said Cancer Treatment Centers of America approached Goldwater for help addressing a "national medical emergency": the government blocking terminally ill patients from receiving potential lifesaving treatments.

When asked, Goldwater could not produce any of those patients.

Chuck Warren, corporate consultant to Cancer Treatment Centers of America, said he came up with the bill's name.

Goldwater and CTCA paid for focus groups to make sure the name struck the right chord. "It was always our favorite name and it was the name that resonated the most with focus groups," Warren said.

While the marketing was cutting edge, its policy largely had been implemented decades earlier.

Alison Bateman-House, an assistant professor of medical ethics at New York University's Langone Health, said Right to Try is "an effort to address a problem that did not actually exist." Patients have been able to access experimental drugs since the 1970s, she said.

Through the FDA's compassionate-use program, about 1,000 patients a year have gained access to non-approved drugs in recent years. The FDA approves more than 90 percent of those requests, often within days and, in emergencies, sometimes more quickly.

"The Goldwater Institute was taking advantage of a very heart-rending and sympathetic issue to push for their pet policy, which is basically to roll back regulations," Bateman-House said. "They did pick a winner of a name. ... Unfortunately, it's a lie."

It's unclear how many people have received experimental drugs through Right to Try. Bateman-House said she's heard of two. Goldwater points to those same two patients, and a Texas doctor who ran a trial involving 200 patients.

Goldwater CEO Victor Riches said those were only the individuals who informed his organization about their success using the law.

Riches said Goldwater crafts legislation it sees a need for in Arizona, where it's based. It then considers the "exportability" of its model legislation to other states, he said.

Goldwater's strategy for Right to Try was to get it passed in as many states as possible to pressure Congress to enact a version, Riches said.

"When you are in 41 states and you've had literally thousands of legislators, Democrats and Republicans alike, it is hard for the federal government not to take notice," he said.

It's even harder to pin down what problem the American Laws for American Courts bill is solving.

The model bill, which was introduced in legislatures 53 times during the past eight years, mandates judges' rulings be void if based on a foreign law or doctrine that violates the rights granted to U.S. citizens under the Constitution or state law.

Even backers struggle to identify situations where this has occurred.

■

Joe Jaszewski for USA TODAY

"This is a solution looking for a problem," said Ahmed Abdelnaby, an engineer who testified against the bill last year at the Idaho Legislature because he felt it fomented hate against his Muslim faith.

While proponents are unable to cite court cases where U.S. law has been supplanted by Sharia or some other doctrine, those lobbying for it collected about \$206 million in donations between 2008 and 2013, according to a study released by the Council on American-Islamic Relations and University of California, Berkeley's Center for Race and Gender.

"They wouldn't be doing it if they weren't making a buck," said Robert McCaw, government relations director for CAIR.

Drazkowski also pushed a bill in 2011 to declare English as the official language of Minnesota and prohibit conducting routine business in foreign languages, including driver's license exams. The bill was strikingly similar to model legislation by a group called ProEnglish, which calls itself the "nation's leading advocate for official English."

The Saint Paul Pioneer Press editorialized that Drazkowski was using it to ensure his reelection by "pandering to the mostly conservative and card-carrying residents of ... the paranoid states of America."

Drazkowski said he is aware of ProEnglish but couldn't remember where he got the language for his English-only bill.

"The use of these model bills is not the end of the world," he said, noting that immigrants are more successful when they learn English. "The idea that one organization or group is somehow

controlling legislation or legislators or states, that's a fallacy."

Voters say they want one thing.

Special interests get lawmakers to do the opposite.

For Susan Edwards, it seemed like a godsend when Arizona lawmakers introduced a bill to create a new kind of school voucher for students with disabilities.

With the money – funded by dollars taken from a recipient's local district school – the mother of two children on the autism spectrum could send her kids to a private school where they would receive specialized attention they wouldn't get elsewhere.

With a sympathetic group of students as the face of the legislation, Democrats and Republicans rallied behind the 2011 bill which borrowed language from the Goldwater Institute, ALEC, and American Federation for Children, the pro-school choice group founded by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

Edwards' opinion of the program, however, changed drastically as legislators later introduced bill after bill to give vouchers to more students, culminating in lawmakers approving them for all students.

None of those bills, however, guaranteed Edwards' sons and others with disabilities could keep their vouchers as more students were added. She didn't know it at the time, but lawmakers were drawing their ideas from model legislation.

Edwards said she realized in retrospect that students with disabilities were used as a Trojan horse to put on the legislative agenda a fringe idea that was part of a much bigger campaign. In the years that followed, 19 other states debated 93 nearly identical proposals based on model legislation. They became law in Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina and Tennessee.

"Every single, little expansion, if you look at who's behind it, it is the people that want to get that door kicked open for private religious education," Edwards said. "All we (families with disabled students) are was the way for them to crack open the door."

Riches, Goldwater's CEO, said starting the Empowerment Scholarship Account voucher program with a small group of students and expanding it was the best approach.

"When you are talking about a big idea, a new idea, usually the best way of approaching it is to wade into it and demonstrate it can work on a smaller level and then grow it from there," Riches said.

The groups behind Arizona's move toward universal vouchers, however, were shown in indisputable terms that the public opposed their ideas.

On Election Day 2018, Arizona voters rejected universal vouchers by a 65-35 margin.

It was only the most recent example of model legislation that didn't reflect the will of voters, USA TODAY/Arizona Republic found.

Model-legislation factories have increasingly proposed what are known as "preemption" bills. These laws, in effect, allow state legislators to dictate to city councils and county governing boards what they can and cannot do within their jurisdiction—including preventing them from raising the minimum wage, banning plastic grocery bags, and destroying guns.

USA TODAY's algorithm found more than 100 such bills had been introduced on an expanding array of topics.

Kansas stopped local efforts to require restaurants to list calories on their menus.

Arizona and New Hampshire prevented local regulations on home rentals. Airbnb has lobbied against home-sharing restrictions, often with the Goldwater Institute's assistance.

One model pushed by ALEC and the Goldwater Institute prohibits local jurisdictions from creating occupational licensing requirements. It reflects conservatives' and libertarians' belief that job licensing stifles competition and hurts the economy, and should only be required when it involves health and safety.

Drazkowski, the Minnesota representative, said he introduced such a bill "so you don't have a patchwork kind of discombobulated mess of different ordinances from one community to the next."

But Riches said his group stopped promoting similar model legislation because of the public outcry.

"We found very quickly that you bring people out of the woodwork when you try to get rid of occupational licenses," he said. "What I would refer to as the status-quo crowd."

Goldwater returned with another that allows anyone who's been harmed by occupational regulation to sue for damages, including harm that occurred before the law was enacted.

It was introduced in at least five states and passed in Arizona. But Riches acknowledged no one has used it to file suit, and the only beneficiary he can point to is a person with ties to the administration of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, a vocal supporter of occupational licensing restrictions.

Because preemption bills have almost exclusively been advanced by Republicans, many of whom rail against the excessive mandates of Washington, D.C., critics see such legislation as the height of hypocrisy.

"There's real ... hypocrisy in many of these so-called conservative legislators trying to rip away local control when they preached for years that a government that's closest to you...is most responsive to you," said Dawn Penich-Thacker, who campaigned to overturn Arizona's school-voucher expansion with a public vote.

Penich-Thacker saw a similar disregard for the will of voters when within hours of Arizonans' vote to overturn universal school vouchers, the Goldwater Institute and American Federation Children declared they would continue to feed their model proposals to state lawmakers.

More in this series

- [Copy, Paste, Legislate: A visual introduction](#)
- [Used car dealers didn't want to fix deadly defects, so they wrote a law to avoid it](#)
- [Stand your ground, right to work and bathroom bills: 5 model bills that spark controversy](#)
- [What is ALEC? 'The most effective organization' for conservatives, says Newt Gingrich](#)
- [How we uncovered 10,000 times lawmakers introduced copycat model bills — and why it matters](#)
- [What's the solution for model bills? Reveal who wrote them, critics say](#)

Bills to modify Arizona's voucher program were soon introduced. One bore a striking resemblance to model legislation from the Heartland Institute, granting vouchers to any parent who feels their child is unsafe or being bullied at school.

The sponsor, Shawna Bolick, denied any knowledge of the Heartland model. Her bill, she said, was based on the experience of her daughter.

Edwards, the voucher supporter-turned opponent, noted that just like the first Arizona bill granting vouchers to children with disabilities, Bolick had sympathetic victims—kids who'd been bullied—to help sell her bill.

“It really does seem like you are fighting against the tide,” Edwards said of the influence of model legislation and the groups behind it. “They are ignoring the vote of the people.”

A letter to the editor appeared in *The Arizona Republic* defending renewed efforts to expand the voucher program despite defeat at the ballot box.

The letter's author, Scott Kaufman, wasn't a concerned parent, or even an Arizona resident.

He had sent his letter from the Washington, D.C., suburbs, from a model-bill factory: the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Contributing: Yvonne Wingett Sanchez, Dustin Gardiner, Ronald J. Hansen, Kelsey Mo, Agnel Philip, Giacomo Bologna, Paul Egan, Dan Nowicki, Chris Amico, Matt Wynn, Justin Price, Pamela Ren Larson

Federal Audit Confirms Government Employee Corruption In Solyndra Deal And Other DOE Cronyism

The “serious concerns” of U.S. Treasury officials involving a risky \$535 million infusion for a fly by night solar panel firm were ignored as the deal was fast-tracked by the Obama Administration, according to a federal audit released this week.

Bankrolled by Obama fundraiser George Kaiser, the now-defunct northern California company (Solyndra) got more than half a billion dollars from the U.S. government to promote green energy. Instead, it abruptly folded last fall, stiffing American taxpayers and laying off more than 1,000 workers. From the start, it was a controversial deal that was suspiciously rushed through for a politically-connected entrepreneur that had raised large sums for Obama.

This week a Treasury Inspector General report sheds light on the scandalous process that, not only ignored warning signs about the startup company’s viability, but also blew off the concerns of officials at the agency responsible for doling out the cash. The “loan,” which will never be repaid, was rushed through by Obama appointees at the Department of Energy (DOE) without Treasury input.

That violated the terms of the program, which was created by the president’s disastrous stimulus. It allows the DOE to make loan guarantees to companies investing in “innovative clean technologies” but specifically requires the Secretary of the Treasury to be consulted on the terms and conditions of the loan guarantee concurrent with its review process. As of December 2011 the DOE guaranteed 28 projects totaling \$16.1 billion after consulting with Treasury, the audit says.

Evidently this did not occur with the Solyndra deal because it was expedited for a political donor. In fact, the IG report cites an electronic mail written by a Treasury official after a conference call with DOE brass, presumably to discuss the pros and cons of the huge Solyndra deal. “We pressed certain issues...but the train really has left the station on this deal.”

Judicial Watch is investigating the Solyndra scandal and has sued the Obama DOE and Office of Management and Budget to obtain records involving the deal. In September JW submitted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests seeking records from both agencies, but the DOE says it’s reviewing documents in preparation for public release. The Office of Management and Budget has totally blown off the request. This indicates that the administration is on cover-up mode.

How Silicon Valley Frat Boy Oligarchs Took Over The Department Of Energy And Ordered The Energy Department To Help Wipe Out Their Competitors

- Silicon Valley elite-family Stanford University frat boys combined their Sandhill Road “venture capital” offices in order to purchase every lobbyist they could find, using monopolistic windfall profits. They placed their own friends in the White House and the Department of Energy and ordered all of the taxpayer cash to go to themselves, while sabotaging their competitors, and outsiders, who were not in the “Palo Alto Mafia” crony club.

The Year That Green Tech VCs Ruled The Hill

On average, the U.S. federal government's investment in energy research and development is paltry--about \$5 billion a year, compared to the \$30 billion that goes to the National Institutes of Health, according to figures from the newly launched American Energy Innovation Council.

But the past couple of years haven't been average when it comes to federal energy funding. The Obama administration has used the stimulus funds to pump between \$50 billion and \$80 billion into green tech initiatives (depending on what you define as green tech) since 2009.

I applaud this funding and agree with the American Energy Innovation Council--which counts Bill Gates, GE CEO Jeff Immelt Jeff Immelt , and Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr as members. The Council is calling for a \$16 billion federal investment in energy innovation every year. Boosting federal funding will be crucial to deliver innovation around energy technology.

One thing I have noticed from the sudden massive boost in green tech stimulus funding is just how much influence green tech venture capitalists have quietly developed. VCs have been at the forefront of shaping federal energy investing policy, including weighing in on which sectors should get funding and perhaps even which companies should receive federal support.

Take Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Byers managing partner John Doerr. He's the man who seeded Google and Amazon.com , and kicked off the green-tech investing boom in 2007 when he reportedly cried during a climate change themed TED talk. Doerr has morphed into one of the most influential political movers in Silicon Valley and sits on President Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board. He and his partners managed to convince former Vice President Al Gore to join Kleiner Perkins as a partner in late 2007 and before that brought on former Secretary of State Colin Powell (who now works with oh-so-buzzy fuel cell firm Bloom Energy).

Kleiner, which is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in green tech startups, has benefited from some notable government support. The most significant is a \$529 million federal loan to its portfolio company electric car maker Fisker Automotive. The Obama administration also set aside some \$4 billion in stimulus funds for smart grid technology, which gave a nice boost to its investment in smart grid network builder Silver Spring Networks.

Last year the Obama administration named former venture capitalist Jonathan Silver to head the Department of Energy's highly competitive loan guarantee program and green car loan program. Silver is in charge of the programs' application process, analysis and negotiation as well as staffing. According to a release from the DOE, he also manages "the full range of the Department's alternative energy investments."

Over the past year over a third of the DOE's loan guarantee commitments (roughly 5 out of 12) have gone toward venture-backed startups, including solar thermal company BrightSource, solar panel maker Solyndra, efficient window developer SAGE Electrochromics, wind developer Nordic Windpower and thin film solar company Abound Solar. Obama commonly holds public speeches at these types of venture-backed and government-supported clean energy startups and stumped at Solyndra in May.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the Obama administration has turned to VCs as guides for how to invest stimulus funds in clean energy. More than anyone else, the venture capitalists in

Silicon Valley have been leading the investments in clean power and energy efficiency in recent years. In the third quarter of 2009 when the recession hit hard, green tech startups became the top venture investment sector (ahead of IT and biotech).

As Silver put it in an interview with Earth2Tech: "As a VC, I was looking for important, potentially transformative technologies. I was looking for companies that could scale ... and projects that would have impact. The same thing certainly is true on the public-sector side."

But could so much green tech VC influence negatively affect the allocation of funds? Probably not. However, there could be potential drawbacks.

VCS have some of the highest appetites for risk among all investors: For every 10 venture investments, VCs hope that one or two will make them a whole lot of money. Given that stimulus funds are meant to create jobs and revive the economy, if 80% to 90% of the green tech stimulus investments don't create jobs, we're going to be in a world of hurt.

The Silicon Valley venture world is still an elite club. Many times companies receive investments because, frankly, the founder has a personal relationship with the investor. Has that mentality carried over to the federal funds?

The Government Accountability Office, the watchdog arm of Congress, recently found that the DOE has treated some companies unfairly in their bids to receive loan guarantees and risked excluding some potential applicants unnecessarily. In particular the GAO found that the DOE approved conditional awards to at least half of the first 10 winning companies before all of the project reviews had been completed.

In one case the GAO found that the DOE didn't bother to get a single report from an external reviewer about a specific (unnamed) project before fast tracking it for a loan guarantee. The DOE responded that the project in question was on the fast track because the department already had enough information that the project made solid business sense. But from the GAO's

perspective, "It is unclear how the DOE could have sufficient information to negotiate commitment without such reviews."

I wondered earlier this year if the DOE's first loan guarantee was actually a mistake. Solyndra has one of the highest production costs of any of its thin film solar competitors. The company had been planning on going public this year, but had to withdraw its IPO plans and its own auditor found that Solyndra's operating losses, negative cash flow, and \$532.3 million deficit raised substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern. Solyndra has raised close to \$1 billion from private investors including Argonaut Ventures, CMEA Ventures and RockPort Capital Partners.

The influence of venture capitalists on federal green tech funding will lead to a lot of startups--both good and bad--receiving crucial capital that could get them from early stage to commercialization--the so-called Valley of Death. But it's a situation that should be watched very closely. (Katie Fehrenbacher is editor of the website Earth2Tech.com.)

[Venture capitalist says U.S. losing green race - SFGate](https://www.sfgate.com/green/article/Venture-capitalist-says-U-S-losing-green-race-3255503.php)

<https://www.sfgate.com/green/article/Venture-capitalist-says-U-S-losing-green-race-3255503.php>

Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr, whose early investments helped launch Google and Amazon, delivered a stark warning to Congress on Wednesday that the United States is on the verge of ...

[The Year That Green Tech VCs Ruled The Hill - Forbes](https://www.forbes.com/2010/07/19/alternative-energy-doerr-technology-venture-capital.html)

<https://www.forbes.com/2010/07/19/alternative-energy-doerr-technology-venture-capital.html>

The Year That **Green** Tech VCs Ruled The Hill ... and **Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr** as members. The Council is calling for a \$16 billion federal investment in **energy** innovation every ...

[John Doerr's Plan To Reclaim The Venture Capital Throne - Forbes](https://www.forbes.com/sites/connieguglielmo/2013/05/07/john-doerrs-plan-to-reclaim-the-venture-capital-throne/)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/connieguglielmo/2013/05/07/john-doerrs-plan-to-reclaim-the-venture-capital-throne/>

May 07, 2013 · In the middle of the scrum: **John Doerr**, the 61-year-old billionaire **venture capitalist** who for years was the undisputed king of **Silicon Valley**, a Flipboard T-shirt over his button-down. **Doerr** has ...

[Silicon Valley Venture Capitalist Sees Big Opportunity in ...](https://www.enn.com/articles/4044)

<https://www.enn.com/articles/4044>

As one of **Silicon Valley's** most respected investors, **Doerr's** decision to champion **green** technology as the next big thing is generating buzz in the **venture** capital community. "When **John Doerr** talks, people listen," said Mark Heesen, president of the National **Venture** Capital Association.

[John Doerr - California Museum](#)

<https://www.californiamuseum.org/inductee/john-doerr>

b. 1951. One of **Silicon Valley's** most successful **venture capitalists**, **John Doerr's** keen eye for technological innovation has helped write the success stories of companies like Amazon, Google, Compaq, Intuit and Symantec.

[John Doerr to Step Aside and Become Chairman at Kleiner ...](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/01/technology/john-doerr-to-step-aside-and-become-chairman-at-kleiner-perkins.html>

Apr 01, 2016 · **John Doerr** to Step Aside and Become Chairman at Kleiner Perkins ... its investing in **green** technology and has refocused on tech investments. ... of the guard at the **Silicon Valley** venture capital ...

[Venture capitalist John Doerr to testify in Silicon Valley ...](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/mar/03/john-doerr-testify-sex-discrimination-ellen-pao-silicon-valley>

Mar 03, 2015 · **Venture capitalist John Doerr** to testify in **Silicon Valley** sex discrimination case ... He is known for championing **green energy**, an area with a mixed track record for the firm. ...

[The next generation of Silicon Valley's sustainability ...](#)

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/next-generation-silicon-valleys-sustainability-investing-needs-strategic-corporates>

Other new **Silicon Valley** funds focused on sustainability investing include Breakthrough **Energy Ventures**, a billion-dollar fund from **John Doerr**, Bill Gates and Vinod Khosla; and **Green Bay Ventures**, a fund from NEA co-founder Dick Kramlich. There's also 1955 Capital, a fund from former Khosla **Ventures** partner Andrew Chung, which is looking to ...

[Venture Capital: Do Seattle VCs turn off the light on ...](#)

<https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Venture-Capital-Do-Seattle-VCs-turn-off-the-1229852.php>

"There aren't, to my knowledge, any allocated alternative **energy** funds in Seattle." Unlike **Silicon Valley**, where notable **venture capitalists** such as Vinod Khosla and **John Doerr** have picked up the ...

[The Wrong Model for Clean Energy Innovation - energy.mit.edu](#)

energy.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/MITEI-WP-2016-06.pdf

Venture Capital and Cleantech: The Wrong Model for **Energy** Innovation? 2 Introduction Beginning in 2006, **Silicon Valley** venture capital (VC) firms bet heavily that the **energy** sector was ripe for disruption. That year, clean **energy** technology (cleantech) start-up companies attracted \$1.75 billion in VC

[Tech CEOs Push Green Energy - environment - TechNet - Silicon ...](#)

<https://www.inc.com/news/briefs/200611/energy1116.html>

Tech CEOs Push **Green Energy**. ... to use in solving our serious environmental and **energy** challenges," TechNet founder **John Doerr**, a partner at **Silicon Valley** venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins ...

[Venture capitalist John Doerr of Kleiner Perkins Caufield ...](#)

<https://matr.net/news/venture-capitalist-john-doerr-of-kleiner-perkins-caufield-&-byers-makes-pitch-for-green-tech/>

Venture capitalist John Doerr of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers makes pitch for **green** tech. March 25, ...

[Al Gore joins famed Silicon Valley venture capital firm - Reuters](#)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gore-vcfirm-idUSN1247526320071112>

Al Gore joins famed **Silicon Valley** venture capital firm ... company backer **John Doerr**, alternative **energy** financier Vinod Khosla and former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. ... **Doerr, Silicon** ...

[Pizarro: Silicon Valley Education Foundation to honor venture ...](#)

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2015/10/16/pizarro-silicon-valley-education-foundation-to-honor-venture-capitalist-john-doerr/>

Oct 16, 2015 · The **Silicon Valley** Education Foundation will present its Pioneer Business Leader award next month to **venture capitalist John Doerr**, one of the **valley's** most iconic figures. And **Doerr**, a partner ...

[Green Energy Enthusiasts Are Also Betting on Fossil Fuels ...](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/16/technology/16venture.html>

Mar 16, 2007 · The **venture capitalist John Doerr** is helping lead investors toward projects that aim at developing alternative energies. Credit Dino Voumas/Reuters . In 2006, **venture capitalists** put \$727 million ...

[John Doerr - Wikipedia](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Doerr

L. **John Doerr** (born June 29, 1951) is an American investor and **venture capitalist** at Kleiner Perkins in Menlo Park, California. In February 2009, **Doerr** was appointed a member of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board to provide the President and his administration with advice and counsel in trying to fix America's economic downturn.

[The Color Of Money - newsweek.com](#)

<https://www.newsweek.com/color-money-106627>

Silicon valley venture capitalists are typically reluctant to invest in companies more than an hour's drive from their offices. Far-flung start-ups are simply too difficult to manage. So it was

[Silicon Valley's John Doerr and TJ Rodgers Invest \\$10M in ...](#)

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Silicon-Valleys-John-Doerr-and-TJ-Rodgers-Invest-10M-in-Enphases-Microin>

Silicon Valley's John Doerr and TJ Rodgers Invest \$10M in Enphase's Microinverters and Storage ... He frequently consults for **energy** startups and **Silicon Valley's** premier **venture capitalists** ...

[Gore joins Silicon Valley 'clean-tech' venture capital firm ...](#)

archive.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/11/13/gore_hops_on_green_venture_company/

Also yesterday, Kleiner Perkins partner **John Doerr** announced he is joining the advisory board of Generation Investment Management, the \$1 billion investment firm that Gore founded with David Blood, who previously managed \$325 billion in assets out of Goldman Sachs' London office. **Doerr** is one of **Silicon Valley's** most outspoken clean-tech advocates.

[VC John Doerr Is Optimistic But Panicked About Energy and ...](#)

<https://forwardthinking.pcmag.com/show-reports/314036-vc-john-doerr-is-optimistic-but-panicked-about-energy-and-climate-change>

"The days of huge returns are most definitively not over," said **John Doerr**, one of the best-known **venture capitalists**. At the Fortune Brainstorm TECH conference, **Doerr**, a general partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, discussed emerging areas for "disruption," defended the role **Silicon Valley** plays in American society, and confessed he is "panicked" about **energy** technology and climate ...

[Silicon Valley venture capital enhancing US-China economic ...](#)

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Silicon-Valley-venture-capital-enhancing-USChina-economic-ties>

Silicon Valley venture capital enhancing US-China economic ties ... is rapidly expanding its **influence** in **Silicon Valley** through a tech-oriented seed accelerator it supports. ... The key architect ...

[SiliconBeat: Bush echoes Silicon Valley's Doerr -- "It could ...](#)

www.siliconbeat.com/entries/2006/02/01/bush_echoes_silicon_valleys_doerr_it_could_be_the_stalk.html

John Doerr has gone half-**Green**; gets word to President Excerpt: **John Doerr**, one of the **valley's** most successful **venture capitalists**, has been on the **green** tech warpath for some time. It's hard not to listen. He's a moving evangelist.

[Bill Gates and Other Famous Investors Launch \\$1 Billion ...](#)

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/bill-gates-investors-launch-1-billion-energy-tech-fund>

Bill Gates and Other Famous Investors Launch \$1 Billion **Energy** Tech Fund Using Lessons Learned. ... The fund includes investments from well-known **Silicon Valley venture capitalists** **John Doerr** ...

[Articles about John Doerr - latimes](#)

articles.latimes.com/keyword/john-doerr

Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr made his name and fortune with early investments in pioneering tech firms such as Sun Microsystems, Netscape and Google that went from scrappy start-ups to industry leaders.

[Smart Grid in New Mexico the next Silicon Valley ...](#)

<https://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2009/04/27/editorial1.html>

John Doerr, the legendary **Silicon Valley venture capitalist**, who helped fund startups like Google, says "**green** tech," especially **energy**, is the "mother of all markets."

[Green VC - News & resources for social entrepreneurs](#)

greenvc.org

Engage with more than 400 leaders from the world's largest IT companies, **Silicon Valley** startups, investment funds, utilities, government, environmental organizations, and research

institutions; Gain insights on the latest **energy** technologies, corporate practices, market trends, and emerging government policies.

[Silicon Valley's VCs are investing in green technology ...](#)

 archive.fortune.com/magazines/fortune/fortune_archive/2007/04/16/8404301/index.htm

(Fortune Magazine) -- There's a new bubble in **Silicon Valley**, and I'm in the office of **John Doerr**, watching it expand. **Doerr**, of course, is the legendary **venture capitalist** and inflator-in-chief of the last glorious investment craze. (Remember "The Internet is the greatest legal creation of wealth ...

[Top Venture Investor Goes Green - latimes](#)

 articles.latimes.com/2006/apr/11/business/fi-doerr11

As one of **Silicon Valley's** most respected investors, **Doerr** is generating buzz in the **venture** community with his decision to champion **green** technology. "When **John Doerr** talks, people listen," said Mark Heesen, president of the National **Venture** Capital Assn. "**John** appears to have an innate ability to spot trends and execute a business plan that ...

[The greening of Silicon Valley | New Scientist](#)

 <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg19826581-600-the-greening-of-silicon-valley/>

John Doerr is only half joking. He is one of the most influential **venture capitalists** in **Silicon Valley**, and he knows a thing or two about financing the future. ... one of the **Valley's** best ...

[Investors keep early-stage cleantech alive with lessons ...](#)

 <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/investors-keep-early-stage-cleantech-alive-lessons-learned>

Venture firms focused on early-stage cleantech startup are rare these days. That's thanks to the considerable losses that some **Silicon Valley** firms have suffered over the past decade related to overly aggressive investments in sectors such as next-generation solar panels, independent electric car companies and **green** building materials.

[The vast majority of tech entrepreneurs are Democrats — but a ...](#)

 <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/6/16260326/tech-entrepreneurs-survey-politics-liberal-regulation-unions>

The vast majority of tech entrepreneurs are Democrats — but a different kind of Democrat ... **Silicon Valley** **venture capitalist John Doerr** was a frequent guest in the ... also be threatened by ...

[Kleiner Perkins Shifts Strategy After a Rough Decade - The ...](#)

 <https://dealbook.nytimes.com/2013/05/07/a-humbled-kleiner-perkins-adjusts-its-strategy/>

At a Congressional hearing last month, Republican members of a House oversight committee asked witnesses from Fisker and the **Energy** Department whether Democratic political contributions and **influence** of Kleiner partners, led by the Obama adviser **John Doerr**, had helped Fisker gain \$192 million in government **green-energy** loans.

[Green Kingpins Part 3: VC John Doerr of KPCB | Greentech Media](#)

 <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Green-Kingpins-Pt-3-VC-John-Doerr-of-KPCB>

He frequently consults for **energy** startups and **Silicon Valley's** premier **venture capitalists**. More articles from this author > **Green Kingpins Part 3: VC John Doerr** of KPCB

[Silicon Valley Capitalists Eye Green Energy Investments](#)

 <https://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/71547-silicon-valley-capitalists-eye-green-energy-investments>

A leading **Silicon Valley venture capitalist** firm that cut its teeth on early investments in such winners as Sun Microsystems, Netscape and Google told California news media Monday it plans to ...

[Venture Capital and Energy in the United States: Where to ...](#)

 https://www.huffingtonpost.com/ray-a-rothrock/energy-venture-capital_b_1178721.html

Six or seven years ago the broader **venture** capital community took an interest in **energy** as a category for **venture** capital investing. Storied **venture capitalist** like **John Doerr** and Vinod Khosla ...

[The Energy War: How Fossil-Fuel Democrats Became An ...](#)

 <https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-energy-war-how-fossil-fuel-democrats-became-an-endangered-species>

The **Energy War**: How Fossil-Fuel Democrats Became An Endangered Species ... like **venture capitalist John Doerr** and Wall Street giants ... in the **green-energy** sector, as the **valley's** new dominant ...

[SiliconBeat: John Doerr has gone half-Green; gets word to ...](#)

 www.siliconbeat.com/entries/2006/05/18/

[john_doerr_has_gone_halfgreen_gets_word_to_president.html](#)

John Doerr, one of the **valley's** most successful **venture capitalists**, has been on the **green** tech warpath for some time. It's hard not to listen. He's a moving evangelist. He pumped up the Internet boom of the late 1990s, saying it was the greatest legal creation of wealth in history -- and there was ...

[The Ellen Pao trial is spilling Silicon Valley secrets - The ...](#)

 <https://www.theverge.com/2015/3/3/8141053/ellen-pao-kleiner-perkins-venture-capital>

Opening arguments for Ellen Pao v. Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers — the gender discrimination lawsuit that cracked **Silicon Valley's** claim to meritocracy like an iPhone screen — began a ...

[Obama Meets With Silicon Valley Tech Elite - greenlining.org](#)

 greenlining.org/issues/economic-equity/2011/obama-meets-with-silicon-valley-tech-elite/

The president was expected to touch down at San Francisco International Airport shortly before 6 p.m. and to meet with 12 tech executives at a private dinner at the Woodside home of **Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr**.

[Why Bill Gates is embracing clean tech | ITworld](#)

 <https://www.itworld.com/article/2752795/why-bill-gates-is-embracing-clean-tech.html>

Part of the answer lies with the story of a **Silicon Valley** startup that's merging IT and clean **energy** technologies ... and if the push in Washington by Gates and **venture capitalist John Doerr** to ...

[John Doerr: Not nearly enough money going to green tech - CNET](#)

 <https://www.cnet.com/news/john-doerr-not-nearly-enough-money-going-to-green-tech/>

Culture **John Doerr**: Not nearly enough money going to **green** tech. Speaking at the MIT **Energy** Conference, famed **venture capitalist** sees a "**green-tech boom**," but he says it's happening too slowly to ...

[Silicon Valley Venture Capital Firm Names Former ... - The Tech](#)

<https://thetech.com/2007/11/13/long4-v127-n54>

John Doerr, a partner at Kleiner Perkins who is a fierce advocate for the development of alternative **energy** technologies, said Gore will help the firm, one of **Silicon Valley's** largest, attract innovative start-ups — an advantage in the firm's competition with other **venture capitalists**. **Silicon Valley's venture** firms have focused ...

[Does Silicon Valley Have an Insider Trading Problem? - CNBC](#)

<https://www.cnbc.com/id/42377452>

Does **Silicon Valley** Have an Insider Trading Problem? ... thought in an article about the **venture capitalist John Doerr**. "Legendary **venture capitalist John Doerr** is said to have once described his ...

[Bloom Energy makes the news | Energy Central](#)

<https://www.energycentral.com/c/ec/bloom-energy-makes-news>

Today's **energy**-problem-solver is Bloom **Energy**. The company has been around since 2001, quietly developing what it claims is a new fuel-cell technology, much of it on the dime of **Silicon Valley venture capitalists** like **John Doerr** of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

[Venture Archives - Page 8 of 52 - SiliconBeat](#)

www.siliconbeat.com/category/venturecapital/page/8/

John Doerr, a longtime leader of one of **Silicon Valley's** most prestigious **venture** capital firms, announced Thursday he's taking a step back from some of his managerial duties. **Doerr**, 64, is [...] continue reading →

[The top Silicon Valley biotech venture capitalists and ...](#)

<https://www.businessinsider.com/silicon-valley-life-science-biotech-vc-investor-list-2018-8>

Mohammad Islam, Racquel Bracken, Julie Grant, and Dan Estes are among **Silicon Valley's** top young **venture capitalists** investing in biotech. Shayanne Gal/Business Insider

[Silicon Valley to Invest Heavily in Emerging Green Technology ...](#)

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/green-tech-angel-investors/>

Venture Capitalists are poised to invest hundreds of millions in the emerging "**green** technologies" and believe they could become as lucrative as anything that preceded it in **Silicon Valley**.

[The Color Of Money - newsweek.com](#)

<https://www.newsweek.com/color-money-107039>

Silicon valley venture capitalists are typically reluctant to invest in companies more than an hour's drive from their offices. Far-flung start-ups are simply too difficult to manage. So it was

[A Green Doerr and Al Gore - wildershares.com](#)

<https://wildershares.com/pdf/Motley Fool, Nov13.07.pdf>

even won a Nobel Prize this year. Now, visionary **venture** capital firm Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield & Byers has brought Gore on board to help pursue the next big (**green**) thing. The firm, which boasts well-known **Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr** among its partners, has backed such successful companies as Google (Nasdaq: GOOG), Amazon.com ...

[Alternative energy lighting it up / Big venture capitalists ...](#)

<https://www.sfgate.com/business/article/Alternative-energy-lighting-it-up-Big-venture-2547875.php>

But fledgling **Silicon Valley** firms like Miasole that are trying to make breakthroughs in producing **energy** from alternative sources like the sun, corn or even bio-waste, may end up finding a bigger ...

[Silicon Valley's Green Energy Mistake - The Global Warming ...](#)

<https://www.thegwpf.com/silicon-valleys-green-energy-mistake/>

Silicon Valley's Green Energy Mistake. Date: 28/12/12; The Wall Street Journal **Silicon Valley's** investment wizards are fleeing the so-called **green** economy, and not a moment too soon for American prosperity. As painful as the era of enviro-investing has been for taxpayers and shareholders, there's an emerging silver lining.

[John Doerr, MBA 1976 - Alumni - Harvard Business School](#)

<https://www.alumni.hbs.edu/stories/Pages/story-bulletin.aspx?num=1992>

As one of **Silicon Valley's** most successful **venture capitalists**, **John Doerr** thinks big. Working side by side with entrepreneurs, he has funded companies that have had a dramatic impact on life in the 21st century, from online retail giant Amazon.com to Internet behemoth Google to synthetic biology leader Amyris.

[Gore, Joy See Green Economy Powered by Silicon Valley | WIRED](#)

<https://www.wired.com/2007/11/gore-joy-see-green-economy-powered-by-silicon-valley/>

In an exclusive interview, former vice president Al Gore and Sun co-founder Bill Joy talk about the coming **green** economy -- and how **Silicon Valley** **venture** capital will help fund it. It'll be like ...

[KPCB partner John Doerr: Venture capitalists ... - Fortune](#)

fortune.com/2015/07/14/john-doerr-diversity/

John Doerr: Venture capitalists 'are pathetic' on diversity ... The storied **Silicon Valley** firm won the jury's judgment, but it emerged battered from public scrutiny. ... Primack asked **Doerr** if ...

[BreezEnergy™ | The Future of Green & Clean Transportation](#)

<https://breezenergy.wordpress.com>

"I don't think we're going to make it," **John Doerr, Venture Capitalist**, says in an emotional talk about climate change and investment. To create a world fit for his daughter to live in, he says, we need to invest now in clean, **green energy**. **John Doerr, Silicon Valley's** legendary moneymen, is afraid of eco-apocalypse.

[Kleiner Perkins | Make History](#)

<https://www.kleinerperkins.com>

Kleiner Perkins is an American **venture** capital firm headquartered on Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park in **Silicon Valley**. Kleiner Perkins | Make History Kleiner Perkins Logo

[Venture capitalist testifies in Silicon Valley sex-bias suit ...](#)

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-venture-capitalist-to-take-stand-in-silicon-2015mar03-story.html>

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A legendary billionaire investor defended his **Silicon Valley** **venture** capital firm Tuesday while testifying in a high-profile sex discrimination lawsuit that has accused the ...

[John Doerr's five recommendations for Congress - SFGate](#)

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/John-Doerr-s-five-recommendations-for-Congress-3177865.php>

The legendary **Silicon Valley venture capitalist** made five recommendations to Congress and President-elect Barack Obama to jumpstart a **green-tech** revolution and fight global warming: The federal ...

[John Doerr: Obama Should "Kick Start" Green Energy Research ...](#)

 https://cascadia.center/2008/11/12/john_doerr_obama_should_kick_s/

John Doerr: Obama Should "Kick Start" **Green Energy** Research Matt Rosenberg November 12, 2008 **Alternative Energy**. Legendary **Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr** of Kleiner, Perkins, Caulfield & Byers sat down for an interview at the recent Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco and shared some thoughts in this video from ZDNet (click here or on embed below):

[John Doerr Makes a Social Call - Bloomberg](#)

 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2010-10-21/john-doerr-makes-a-social-call>

Oct 21, 2010 · **John Doerr** nearly relinquished his crown. The famed king of **Silicon Valley's venture** capital community led early investments in Netscape, Amazon.com (AMZN), and Google (GOOG), building a global ...

[The startup Drift is one of New York's newest utilities ...](#)

 <https://qz.com/995551/the-startup-drift-is-one-of-new-yorks-newest-utilities-allowing-peer-to-peer-trading-for-the-electric-smart-grid/>

Quartz is a guide to the new global economy for people excited by change. ... prominent **Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr** proclaimed **green** ... (pdf) that almost all of the 150 renewable ...

[Al Gore becomes partner at venture capital firm - ABC News](#)

 <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/story?id=3857122>

Former vice president Al Gore is becoming a partner at one of **Silicon Valley's** most storied **venture** capital firms. ... backer **John Doerr**, alternative **energy** financier Vinod Khosla and former ...

[Vinod Khosla pledges half his \\$1.4 bn fortune to charity ...](#)

 <https://indianexpress.com/article/news-archive/web/vinod-khosla-pledges-half-his-1-4-bn-fortune-to-charity/>

Vinod Khosla pledges half his \$1.4 bn fortune to charity Indian-American **Silicon Valley venture capitalist** Vinod Khosla and his wife Neeru are among the latest billionaires to have pledged half of their vast fortunes to charity either during their lifetime or after death.

[Report raps Steve Westly over stimulus money doled out to ...](#)

 <https://www.mercurynews.com/2011/04/01/report-raps-steve-westly-over-stimulus-money-doled-out-to-cleantech-firms/>

Apr 01, 2011 · "This is what people always said they wanted to see in **Silicon Valley** executives. ... It noted that **John Doerr's** **venture** ... Josh **Green**, a **venture capitalist** who heads cleantech investments ...

[Kleiner Perkins and Ellen Pao: Our coverage guide | Fortune](#)

 fortune.com/2015/03/27/kleiner-perkins-ellen-pao-fortune-guide/

A jury has cleared Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, the storied **Silicon Valley** **venture** capital firm, of allegations of gender discrimination by ex-employee Ellen Pao. It's been a long road to ...

[Silicon Valley VCs join Bill Gates in clean-energy investment ...](#)

<https://www.onenewspage.com/n/Business/759yu15pd/Silicon-Valley-VCS-join-Bill-Gates-in-clean.htm>

Two big-name **Silicon Valley venture capitalists** have joined an new initiative to back advances in clean **energy** technology through a new \$1 billion investment fund. Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Chairman **John Doerr** and Khosla **Ventures** founder.. • Business • One News Page: Monday, 12 December 2016

[U.S. Losing Green Race, Leading Venture Capitalist Warns ...](https://e360.yale.edu/digest/us-losing-green-race-leading-venture-capitalist-warns)

<https://e360.yale.edu/digest/us-losing-green-race-leading-venture-capitalist-warns>

Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr has warned Congress that the U.S. is falling behind in the global competition to develop renewable **energy** technology and has presented a five-point plan to put the country on a path to a clean **energy** future. Speaking before the Senate's Environment and ...

[Bloom Energy makes the news - Knowledge Problem](https://knowledgeproblem.com/2010/02/24/bloom-energy-makes-the-news/)

<https://knowledgeproblem.com/2010/02/24/bloom-energy-makes-the-news/>

Today's **energy**-problem-solver is Bloom **Energy**. The company has been around since 2001, quietly developing what it claims is a new fuel-cell technology, much of it on the dime of **Silicon Valley venture capitalists** like **John Doerr** of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

[Obama's Green Energy Crony Corporatism | Breitbart](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2012/07/19/markay-on-venture-coporatism/amp/)

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2012/07/19/markay-on-venture-coporatism/amp/>

Jul 19, 2012 · The story extends well beyond Solyndra to a string of other **green energy** firms. Recent coverage has shed light on Obama's connections to two individuals specifically: Steve Westly and **John Doerr**. The latter is a partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, a **Silicon Valley venture** capital firm whose portfolio includes 16 recipients of federal ...

[KPCB Launches Green Growth Fund - North American Windpower](https://nawindpower.com/kpcb-launches-green-growth-fund)

<https://nawindpower.com/kpcb-launches-green-growth-fund>

Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers (KPCB), a **Silicon Valley venture** capital firm, has launched the **Green** Growth Fund, a \$500 million investment vehicle intended to help speed mass market adoption of ...

[VC legend Doerr: Tech is booming, not in a bubble - CNET](https://www.cnet.com/news/vc-legend-doerr-tech-is-booming-not-in-a-bubble/)

<https://www.cnet.com/news/vc-legend-doerr-tech-is-booming-not-in-a-bubble/>

Culture VC legend **Doerr**: Tech is booming, not in a bubble. At TechCrunch Disrupt, **John Doerr** points out that today's tech **venture** capital environment is just about a third of what it was a decade ago.

[UPDATE 1-Al Gore joins famed tech venture capital firm](https://www.reuters.com/article/gore-vcfirm-idUSN1251852220071113)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/gore-vcfirm-idUSN1251852220071113>

In addition, **John Doerr**, **Silicon Valley's** best-known **venture capitalist** and long a major backer of Gore's political and policy efforts, will join Generation's advisory board, the two ...

[Why Bill Gates is embracing clean tech | Computerworld](https://www.computerworld.com/article/2518887/why-bill-gates-is-embracing-clean-tech.html)

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/2518887/why-bill-gates-is-embracing-clean-tech.html>

Why Bill Gates is embracing clean tech Part of the answer lies with the story of a **Silicon Valley** start-up that's merging IT and clean **energy** technologies

The **FBI** really, really needs to arrest some of these “venture capitalists”!