



BUYING BILLS:

HOW THE BIOFUELS INDUSTRY
INFLUENCES CONGRESS TO WASTE
YOUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS

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Introduction

Current U.S. biofuels policy benefits the industrial farm lobby while failing to meet the needs of the American people. Some of the world's largest corporations receive duplicative and unnecessary subsidies, which include a consumption mandate, several tax credits, and a protective tariff. American consumers continue paying at the pump for fuels that destroy native ecosystems, increase air and water pollution, and contribute to rising domestic and international food prices. Yet Congress continues to lavish the industry with tens of billions of dollars in giveaways.

These giveaways are part of an established system of exchange of corporate money for political influence. Running for office is increasingly expensive and politicians receive millions of dollars needed for their campaigns from lobbyists and political action committees (PACs). Powerful agricultural corporations such as Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and Monsanto line Congress' pockets with political contributions, while energy industry groups like the Renewable Fuels Association and Growth Energy spend millions of dollars on lobbyists. Therefore it is no surprise that federal biofuels policies benefit powerful corporations and wealthy individuals who are able to give their money generously to senators and representatives.

The importance of money in politics will only intensify. In January 2010 the Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that corporations have a right to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence state and federal elections.¹ Some analysts believe this infusion of corporate money will only increase corruption and decrease transparency in politics.²

Established energy sources such as coal, oil, nuclear, and hydropower are backed by powerful corporations and have long been heavily subsidized with taxpayer money. But in the last 30 years, biofuels have joined the lineup. The passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) in 2007 expanded the Renewable Fuels Standard's

1 Liptak, Adam. "Justices, 5-4, Reject Corporate Spending Limit." *The New York Times*. January 21, 2010. http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/22/us/politics/22scotus.html?ref=campaign_finance.

2 Marcus, Ruth. "Court's campaign finance decision a case of shoddy scholarship." *The Washington Post*. January 23, 2010. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/22/AR2010012203897.html>

(RFS) mandate to produce 36 billion gallons of biofuels by 2022, guaranteeing the 100 year old biofuels industry a huge market for its products. The RFS's intention is to help move the nation away from dirty fossil fuels by mandating the use of renewable fuels in gasoline. Unfortunately, the renewable fuels being used to fulfill the mandate are predominantly corn ethanol and other dirty biofuels. Spurred by its success with the RFS, the industry's appetite for more favors increased, as did its political donations. These special interests seek political assistance to maintain heavy support from taxpayers and to weaken regulations that would otherwise force the biofuels industry to become more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Impact of Private Money on Legislation

A prime example of the cozy relationship between legislators and special interests is illustrated by the financial reform debate. A recent *Washington Post* article revealed that several members of the House Financial Services and House Ways and Means Committees may have received improper donations just days before a vote on financial regulation.³ These donations came from the very same Wall Street firms that the legislation would have affected, and prompted a review by the Office of Congressional Ethics.

In the lead up to the votes on this and other legislation intended to reform the financial sector in the U.S., firms with a stake in the industry have spent more than \$100 million on lobbying this year alone.⁴ They have targeted members of Congress active in the effort to craft the legislation, some of whom count themselves as career-long recipients of these special interest contributions. And the industry has broken down its opponents as well; legislators like Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) who had consistently voted for increased regulation and consumer choice was one of the eight members exposed by the *Washington*



³ Leonnig, Carol. "8 House members investigated over fundraiser held near financial reform vote." *The Washington Post*. June 16, 2010. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/16/AR2010061603032_pf.html

⁴ "Cheques and Imbalances: Financial Firms Bet on Republicans to Fight for Their Interests" *The Economist*. June 17, 2010. http://www.economist.com/node/16380025?story_id=16380025

Post for taking donations before a vote.⁵ Regardless of the target, special interests leverage vast amounts of time and money with the sole purpose of convincing lawmakers to produce legislation that benefits industry and waters down any efforts to hinder their risky but profitable activities.⁶

The “Nascent” Biofuels Industry

Despite evidence that “advanced biofuels” are far from market ready, the biofuels industry continues to promote them in order to keep receiving funding. Instead, they use the subsidies to produce mature forms of biofuels, such as corn ethanol, that are harmful to the environment and should be able to stand on their own economically after decades of subsidization. The industry has celebrated more than 30 years of government support since the passage of the Energy Tax Act of 1978, and still benefits from tax subsidies, ranging from \$0.45/gallon for ethanol to \$1.00/gallon for biodiesel.

But the biofuels companies seem to be doing just fine on their own. Last year, biofuels companies produced nearly 11 billion gallons of ethanol with revenues of around \$53 billion dollars.⁷ Despite these profits, the industry has spent more than \$22 million in federal lobbying expenditures and campaign contributions in recent years, pleading for continued public support.⁸

Not coincidentally, the last five years have witnessed several major pieces of legislation favoring the industry, the most visible example being the 2007 EISA. Although the EISA is intended to promote the use of cleaner, ad-

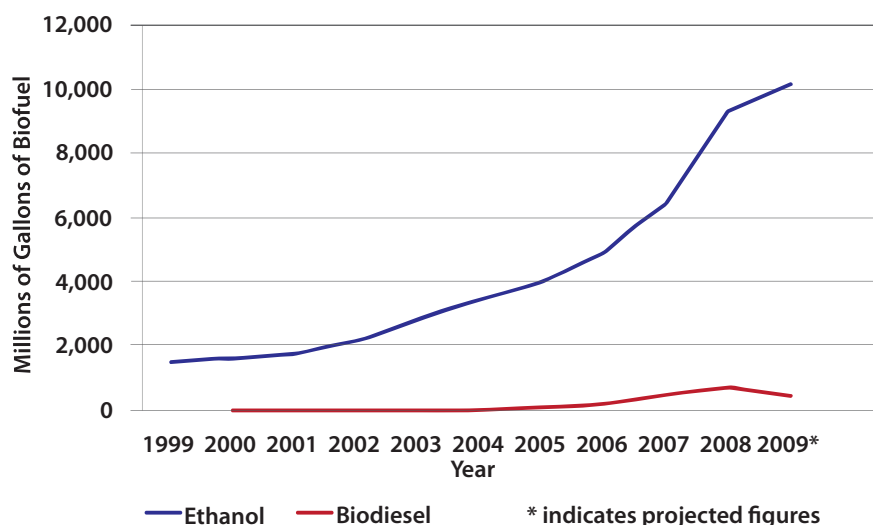
5 Veneziani, Vince. “These 8 Members of Congress Are Under Investigation For Fundraising During the Financial Reform Debate.” *BusinessInsider.com*. June 16, 2010. <http://www.businessinsider.com/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-8-members-of-congress-under-investigation-over-finreg-fundraising-2010-6#rep-jeb-hensarling-r-tex-1>

6 Kroll, Andy. “BP: From Oil Spilling to Financial Reform Killing.” *Mother Jones*. May 10, 2010. <http://motherjones.com/politics/2010/05/bp-oil-spilling-financial-reform-killing>. BP’s lobbying weight was able to gain an exemption for it and other companies in the face of financial reform. Since they are not pure financial companies, they argued successfully that they should not be subject to the same financial derivatives controls.

7 “Climate of Opportunity: 2010 Ethanol Industry Outlook.” *Renewable Fuels Association*. February 2010.

8 Koplow, Doug. “A Boon to Bad Biofuels: Federal Tax Credits and Mandates Underwrite Environmental Damage at Taxpayer Expense.” April 2009. *Earthtrack.net*. http://www.earthtrack.net/files/uploaded_files/FOE%20VEETC%20Evaluation%20FINAL.pdf

U.S. Biofuel Production



Source: Compiled by Earth Policy Institute with data for 1978-1998 from F.O. Licht, *World Ethanol and Biofuels Report*, vol. 6, no. 4 (23 October 2007), p. 63; 1999-2009 from F.O. Licht, *World Ethanol and Biofuels Report*, vol. 7, no. 18 (26 May 2009), p. 365. http://www.earth-policy.org/datacenter/pdf/book_pb4_ch4-5_biofuels_pdf.pdf

vanced biofuels by gradually reducing gasoline consumption in favor of renewable fuel sources, major players in the biofuels sector have found ways to hijack this and related legislation for the benefit of existing forms of biofuels that are often dirtier than conventional oil.

Together, the 2007 EISA and the Energy Tax Act of 1978 offer huge benefits for the biofuels industry, creating both a guaranteed market for its companies as well as lucrative tax credits for their products. In 2008, the combined value of the RFS and the tax credits amounted to \$9.5 billion.⁹

How the Biofuels Industry Influences Policy

The biofuels industry influences policy through a number of avenues: biofuels companies, feedstock producers, and agribusinesses. Each of these groups and their respective business associations funnel money through one of three approaches examined in this section: lobbying expenditures, lobbyist donations, and political action committee donations.

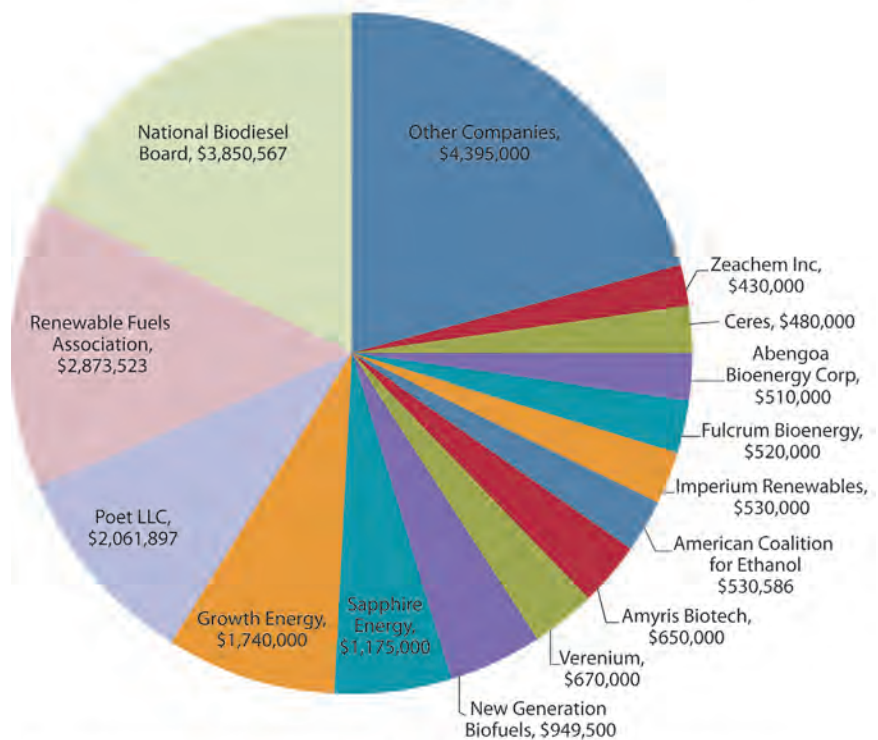
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⁹ Koplow, Doug. "A Boon to Bad Biofuels: Federal Tax Credits and Mandates Underwrite Environmental Damage at Taxpayer Expense." *Earth Track and Friends of the Earth*. April 2009. <http://www.foe.org/sites/default/files/FOE%20VEETC%20Evaluation%20FINAL.pdf>

Biofuel Industry Lobbying Expenditures

This report examines lobbying expenditures for 50 companies and industry groups that specialize in biofuels (see **Appendix A** for complete list of expenditures). In 2007, the year that EISA passed and the RFS was expanded fivefold, biofuels industry groups spent \$4.6 million on lobbying expenditures. In the following year, the biofuels industry spent some \$4.9 million on lobbying. This spending coincided with the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, which included new biofuels provisions that contributed to rising food prices and the subsequent global food crisis. In 2009, when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced greenhouse gas accounting for biofuels and the House climate bill passed, both of which stripped critical global warming and natural ecosystem safeguards, the biofuels industry spent \$7.3 million on lobbying. And so far in 2010, as the biofuels indus-

Lobbying Expenditures by Biofuel Industry Groups & Companies
(2007 through 2010)



Source: "Influence and Lobbying: 2007-08 and 2009-10 election cycles." Center for Responsive Politics. June 2010. <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/index.php>

try stands to lose wasteful and duplicative subsidies such as the *Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC)* that offers a credit of \$0.45 for every gallon of pure ethanol blended into gasoline, the industry has spent \$4.6 million on lobbying.

The Top Five Biofuel Lobbies

While there are a plethora of different companies directly involved in biofuel production, for the most part they are represented by a handful of industry groups who lobby on their behalf. The National Biodiesel Board, the Renewable Fuels Association and Growth Energy, for example, represent more than one third of the lobby power of the biofuels industry.

- **National Biodiesel Board (NBB):** NBB pushes strongly for continued public support of the biodiesel sector, mainly through tax credits. Their website hails passage of ironically named bills such as the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act, which sought to extend biodiesel tax incentives.¹⁰
- **Renewable Fuels Association (RFA):** Founded in 1981, RFA is one of the oldest biofuel specific lobbies. Despite their insistence that biofuels are a clean alternative to petroleum, RFA has long advocated against sustainability standards in biofuels policy and fought for the gutting of global warming standards in the RFS. Additionally, the RFA is known for publishing overblown reports that exaggerate the potential impacts of ending duplicative subsidies for ethanol.
- **POET LLC:** POET is not only a major producer of ethanol – it operates 27 plants in seven states – but also has its own PAC (POET PAC).¹¹ In April, a chief executive of POET was quoted as stating that continued growth for the company and the ethanol industry is dependent on Congress extending tax subsidies.¹²
- **Growth Energy:** Membership in Growth Energy includes dozens of ethanol producers, corn growers associations, and synthetic biology companies. As a testament to their quest for political impact, recently retired Gen. Wesley Clark (and former presidential

¹⁰ Frohlich, Michael. "NBB Hails House Passage of Biodiesel Tax Incentive: Calls Upon Senate to Follow Suit Upon Return." National Biodiesel Board. May 28, 2010. http://www.biodiesel.org/news/pressreleases/20100528_HousePassage.htm

¹¹ "Who is POET?" POET LLC. August 2010. <http://www.poet.com/inspiration/index.asp>

¹² Singh, Tejinder. "If Congress Approves, POET To Create Thousands Of Jobs." GantDaily.com. April 23, 2010. <http://gantdaily.com/2010/04/23/if-congress-approves-poet-to-create-thousands-of-jobs/>

nominee) has been successfully recruited to co-chair Growth Energy's board. Their website seeks to debunk the environmental impacts of biofuel production from indirect land use change, even though Congress has already included this requirement in accounting for emissions in the 2007 EISA.¹³ The site states Growth Energy's support for increasing the amount of ethanol in our tank from 10 percent to 15 percent and still puts VEETC in a positive light despite a recent change in their position on the subsidy.¹⁴ They also continue to push for greater market access of higher ethanol blends at the gas pump by calling for public investment in ethanol distribution infrastructure.

- ***Sapphire Energy:*** Founded in 2007, Sapphire Energy is known best for promoting the use of genetically engineered algae for biofuels, despite the fact that there has been no testing of the safety of these organisms for public health or the environment. Sapphire currently has engineered thousands of strands of genetically modified algae and will likely use these organisms in open pond production facilities (expanding across several hundred acres) that have been financed with public money through the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

Corporate Contributions through Employees

Employees and lobbyists for biofuel companies and industry associations play an important role in the creation of biofuel policy. This influence is not only apparent in their lobbying of Congress, but also in the personal donations they make to PACs that fund the election campaigns of lawmakers. The issue with these donations is that the employees are not giving to campaigns within their districts or states, but instead to lawmakers that create legislation favorable to the industry they represent or work for. This type of donation presumably gives the lobbyist greater political access and may result in more favorable legislation.

Following are just a few examples of biofuel companies and organizations paired with the total amount that their employees have donated to lawmakers over the last two election cycles. While a few of the totals are relatively small, employees at some companies, such as POET, contribute significant amounts of money to Congress.

¹³ "ILUC Myths and Facts." Growth Energy. August 2010. <http://www.growthenergy.org/ethanol-issues-policy/myths-about-ethanol/indirect-land-use-change/>

¹⁴ "Ethanol Issues and Policy." Growth Energy. August 2010. <http://www.growthenergy.org/ethanol-issues-policy/policy-intro/>

Biofuel Company or Organization	Donations from Employees to members of Congress (2008 and 2010 election cycles combined, through June 30, 2010)
POET	\$111,919
VeraSun	\$15,167
Imperium Renewables	\$13,550
National Biodiesel Board	\$12,750
Renewable Fuels Association	\$12,250
Hawkeye Renewables	\$10,000
Green Plains Renewable Energy	\$9,000
Ethanol Management Company	\$8,900
Sapphire	\$8,850
Range Fuels	\$8,400
Abengoa Bioenergy Corp	\$5,250
Growth Energy	\$5,250
Verenium	\$4,250

Political Action Committees

The biofuels industry does not have many PACs that are specific to the industry itself; however, there are a number of agribusiness industry group PACs that benefit from policies promoting biofuels. This is not a comprehensive list, but represents the types of biofuel PACs that donate to congressional elections.

Biofuel Political Action Committee	Donations from Employees to members of Congress (2008 and 2010 election cycles combined, through June 30, 2010)
POET	\$57,900
Growth Energy	\$25,500
Missouri Renewable Fuels Association	\$13,900
National Biodiesel Board	\$12,100
Golden Grains Energy	\$11,600
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	\$7,000
Amaizing Energy	\$3,750
Western Iowa Energy	\$3,500



The bulk of the direct contributions through PACs go to politicians in the House and the Senate who are members of powerful committees that impact biofuels legislation, such as Agriculture, Ways and Means, Finance, and Appropriations.

Biofuel Political Action Committee	Donations from Employees to members of Congress (2008 and 2010 election cycles combined, through June 30, 2010)
Midwest Grain Processors	\$2,000
Lincolnway Energy	\$2,000
Western Dubuque Biodiesel	\$1,500
Green Earth Fuels	\$1,500
Missouri Farmers Biodiesel	\$1,000
Iowa Renewable Energy	\$750
Absolute Energy	\$750
Central Iowa Energy	\$650

Certain lobbies have much more influence than others. For example, POET has donated (either through its PAC or through its high ranking employees) \$175,519 over the last four years to congressional candidates (see Appendix B for details on specific gifts over time), in addition to spending more than \$2 million on lobbying in the same time frame.

Political Money into the Pockets of Politicians

The bulk of the direct contributions through PACs go to politicians in the House and the Senate who are members of powerful committees that impact biofuels legislation, such as Agriculture, Ways and Means, Finance, and Appropriations. Politicians on these committees can then advance the passage of legislation favorable to biofuels companies.

The Senate

The top five recipients of biofuels PAC and industry employee dollars in the Senate are on committees that are critically important to the biofuels industry – the Finance Committee, Appropriations Committee (the Senate’s purse strings), Agriculture Committee, and the Environment and Public Works Committee. Through these committees, senators can have a major impact on the direction of U.S. biofuels policy. The following tables lay out the top 10 recipients of biofuels PAC dollars by committee. See **Appendix C** for details on total contributions received.

Senate Agriculture Committee

The Agriculture Committee handles legislation involving nearly every aspect of agriculture in the U.S. It explicitly directs policy on renewable energy production, agricultural economics, and innovation in the use of agricultural commodities.¹⁵

Senator (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Agriculture Committee Membership Status
Sen. John Thune (R-SD)	\$ 30,244	Member
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	\$ 25,400	Member
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	\$ 16,700	Former Chair, Member
Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)	\$ 8,300	Member

Senate Finance Committee

The Finance Committee's jurisdiction includes taxation and some revenue measures, as well as tariff and import quotas.¹⁶ With the VEETC and present tariff on imports of ethanol set to expire – unless reauthorized at the end of this year – this committee has a major impact on federal biofuels policy.

Senator (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Finance Committee Membership Status
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	\$ 25,400	Member
Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)	\$ 8,300	Chair

Senate Appropriations Committee

The Appropriations Committee effectively holds the keys to the vault for the federal government. Accordingly,

¹⁵ "Subcommittees of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee." United States Senate. August 2010. <http://agriculture.senate.gov/sub.htm>

¹⁶ "Jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Finance." United States Senate. August 2010. <http://finance.senate.gov/about/jurisdiction/>

In the last few years failed appropriations riders have included bad biofuels provisions that would have eliminated critical global warming and forest protections in biofuels policy.

it can influence legislation by setting the level of funding for federal agencies and the activities in which they seek to engage, such as monitoring and regulating emissions from biofuels production. It is also the gatekeeper for earmarks for specific biofuels projects. In the last few years failed appropriations riders have included bad biofuels provisions that would have eliminated critical global warming and forest protections in biofuels policy.

Senator (Party-State)	Biofuels Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Appropriations Committee Membership Status
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	\$ 16,700	Member
Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD)	\$ 8,217	Member

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

The Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee plays an important role in the crafting of climate related policies. The 2007 Energy Bill that came out of EPW included the expanded Renewable Fuels Standard, which increased the mandate levels to 36 billion gallons of biofuels to be consumed annually by the year 2022. Climate bills, which also started in EPW, also contained biofuel friendly provisions, though they never made it through the Senate for final passage.

Senator (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Environment & Public Works Committee Membership Status
Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)	\$ 8,300	Chair

The House of Representatives

Of the five greatest recipients of donations from biofuels PACs in the House of Representatives, the vast majority are on committees that are critical to biofuels policy – Agriculture Committee, Appropriations Committee, Finance Committee, Ways and Means Committee, and the Select Global Warming Committee. See **Appendix D** for details on total contributions received.

House Agriculture Committee

Like the Senate committee, the House Agriculture Committee crafts biofuels related legislation on issues such as renewable energy, international trade, and agricultural research and development.¹⁷ The House Agriculture Committee has also played a significant role in climate and energy policy. This was evidenced in the spring of 2009 when Agriculture Committee chairman Colin Peterson held the climate bill hostage by demanding the inclusion of horrible biofuels provisions, claiming that none in his committee would vote for the climate bill unless it included the gutting of natural ecosystem safeguards and the neutering of climate regulations in biofuels policy.

Representative (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Agriculture Committee Membership
Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (R-SD)	\$ 30,174	Member
Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)	\$ 17,250	Member
Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)	\$ 11,800	Chair
Rep. Steven King (R-IA)	\$ 11,000	Member

House Appropriations Committee

Similar to its Senate counterpart, this committee sets the funding levels for nearly all the agencies in the federal government. Importantly for biofuels, its jurisdiction includes such agencies as the Department of Agriculture and the EPA. Like in the Senate, failed appropriations riders in the House have included biofuels provisions in the last few years that would have eliminated critical global warming and forest protections in biofuels policy.

Representative (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Appropriations Committee Membership
Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA)	\$ 15,450	Member

¹⁷ "House Committee on Agriculture: Chairman's Welcome." United States House of Representatives. August 2010. <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/welcome.html>

The industry is often found lobbying against the policies that promote sustainability within biofuels production – and also rewarding lawmakers who take anti-environment positions in biofuels legislation.

House Ways and Means Committee

This committee may have as much influence as any other in Congress since it is responsible for setting, among other revenue raising measures, tax and tariff levels. These areas are quite important for biofuels interest groups as evidenced by their recent efforts to extend tariffs on ethanol imports (essentially taxing certain goods that enter the United States for sale, thereby eliminating competition from foreign producers) and the VEETC subsidy.

Representative (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Ways & Means Committee Membership
Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)	\$ 17,250	Member

House Energy Independence and Global Warming Select Committee

While not a full committee that can introduce bills, the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming plays an important role in shaping congressional thinking and action on climate and energy issues.

Representative (Party-State)	Biofuel Industry Donations (2007-2010)	Energy & Commerce Committee Membership
Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (R-SD)	\$ 30,174	Member

Recent Pro-Biofuels Legislation and Its Champions

Every few months, a piece of environmentally damning legislation on biofuels is introduced, often with the goal of removing environmental safeguards or to expand direct and indirect subsidies for biofuels. Despite the fact that the biofuels industry touts its product as being environmentally friendly, the industry is often found lobbying against the policies that promote sustainability within biofuels production – and also rewarding lawmakers who take anti-environment positions in biofuels legislation. The following two examples demonstrate how biofuel lobbies have rewarded champions of legislation favorable to

the biofuel industry with significant campaign contributions.

The Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit

The Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) doles out billions of dollars to fuel blenders for blending ethanol into gasoline each year. At a cost of \$0.45 for each gallon of ethanol blended into gasoline, these credits are extraordinarily expensive. Not to mention, they are also unnecessary as ethanol production in the U.S. is driven by the Renewable Fuel Standard – not the tax credits. Due to expire at the end of 2010, ethanol lobbyists are fighting hard to extend the credit. Congress has been lobbied to extend these credits by various ethanol industry groups, including the American Coalition for Ethanol, POET, Growth Energy, the Renewable Fuels Association, and Patriot Renewable Fuel. The same groups that have lobbied on these credits have also donated substantial amounts of money to the lawmakers who are now pushing for an extension.

Bills to extend the credit for five years have been introduced in both the Senate and the House, which would result in more than \$30 billion in taxpayer funds to be gifted to the industry. On the House side, the drive to extend these credits has been taken on by Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND), who introduced a bill to reauthorize the credits on March 25, 2010. Two days before introducing the bill on the House side, POET PAC donated \$2,500 total to co-sponsors of the bill, Reps. Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Colin Peterson (D-MN). A day after, another co-sponsor, Rep. Deborah Halvorson (D-IL), received \$1,000 from POET PAC. A month later, Rep. Pomeroy received a total of \$6,750 from various ethanol interests, including senior level staff at The Renewable Fuels Association, POET, Abengoa Bioenergy Corp, and KAAPA Ethanol, as well as from the Golden Grain Energy PAC.

On the Senate side, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) has championed the extension of VEETC. A month before he introduced a bill to extend these credits, Sen. Grassley received \$6,000 from POET PAC. A week before he introduced the bill he received \$2,000 from two different senior level staff at POET. And, less than a month after Sen. Grassley introduced the bill, he received \$2,000 from Growth Energy PAC.

The Definition of Renewable Biomass in the Renewable Fuel Standard

The definition of renewable biomass in the Renewable Fuel Standard is crucial to the protection of natural ecosystems and forests, as it includes important sustainability standards.

But the definition has been under assault since it was codified in the EISA, which passed in December 2007. The current definition protects forests and other natural ecosystems from the immense market pressure to convert these ecosystems for expanded biofuel production. This pressure is a direct result of the Renewable Fuel Standard's 36 billion gallon mandate for biofuels.

A mere two months after the EISA was enacted, Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD) introduced a bill in February 2008, H.R. 5236, removing the critical safeguards originally included in the biomass definition. A few months later, Rep. Herseth-Sandlin received campaign contributions worth a total of \$7,250 from a number of senior staff at POET. It wasn't surprising when she introduced the same legislation the following year late in February 2009 (H.R. 1190). In 2009, Rep. Herseth-Sandlin received a total of \$5,424 from senior staff at POET, the Renewable Fuels Association and American Coalition for Ethanol. The Renewable Fuels Association also lobbied on this legislation in both 2009 and 2010.

On the Senate side, Sen. John Thune (R-SD) has become a major proponent of stripping ecosystem safeguards in biofuels policy. On March 18, 2009, he introduced S. 636, a bill that would essentially remove all meaningful safeguards from the biomass definition. On March 13, Sen. Thune received \$2,400 from POET PAC. Then, a week later on March 21, Sen. Thune received a total of \$7,800 from seven different senior employees of POET. Additionally, the Renewable Fuels Association lobbied on this legislation in both 2009 and 2010.

These are just two examples where biofuel friendly and anti-environmental legislation has been introduced within the same time period when large campaign donations were made to champions of the legislation. While we are unable to say whether a quid pro quo is at play, these examples highlight the ways in which lobbies, PACs, and industry groups work in order to influence legislation.

Proceeding with Caution

In 2010 two members of Congress are facing ethics trials related to shady financial transactions. A former governor is also on trial, accused of trying to sell a vacant senate seat. Additionally, the Supreme Court has ruled that multi-billion dollar corporations have the same rights as individuals to donate unlimited campaign contributions, effectively allowing them to buy votes. A political system with these maladies makes it impossible to hold lawmakers accountable and harms our democracy.

Transitioning to an era of decreased dependence on fossil fuels will help create a more healthy economic future in the U.S. In 2010 we've watched as billions of gallons of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico – taking a huge toll on the local economy and costing the U.S. government more than \$87 million in clean up costs. We cannot afford to continue with business as usual. Biofuels may hold promise in assisting this transition, but they also come with a high economic cost as a result of the large size of the subsidies, the financial burden of a degraded ecosystem and the impact that competing for land with food production has on food prices. The biofuels industry has asked for and received billions of dollars in taxpayer money that encourages the production of dirty, first-generation biofuels like corn ethanol and soybean-based biodiesel. By continuing to subsidize biofuels we are further entrenching dirty technologies rather than fostering innovation.

This economic waste goes hand in hand with the environmental degradation that will result from continued and increased reliance on dirty biofuels. Runoff from industrial agriculture in the Mississippi River watershed has already created a large dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, where nothing can live or grow in a once thriving region. Intensified cultivation of fertilized commodity crops for biofuels will compound this problem. Increasing land use for biofuel production will put virgin habitats, especially those found abroad, under the plow. Cutting down forests to make way for crops will exacerbate global warming as there are fewer trees to capture carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Finally, biofuels will divert crops for fuel from crops for food, increasing competition for staple food sources, inflating food prices and creating hardship for people around the world.



Billions of dollars have already needlessly gone to the biofuels industry in the form of tax credits that have persisted for the better part of the last decade. Millions of dollars have been spent by the industry to convince politicians to continue distributing such benefits. Hundreds of thousands of dollars can be traced to politicians who have introduced legislation to not only extend these benefits, but also to lower the environmental hurdles the industry faces. Elected officials cannot be allowed to compromise the long term stability of the nation for the sake of serving those who help keep them in office. Clearly, the public's interest is not being served by the current paradigm; hopefully reports such as this one will mobilize people and public officials with integrity to reverse these trends.

Appendix A: Lobbying Expenditures for Biofuels Organizations and Industry Groups

Organization	2007	2008	2009	2010
Abengoa Bioenergy Corp	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 70,000
Advanced Biofuels Association			\$ 230,000	\$ 110,000
Advanced Biofuels Coalition	\$ 95,000	\$ 160,000		
Algal Biomass Org				\$ 10,000
Algenol Biofuels		\$ 210,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 50,000
American Coalition for Ethanol	\$ 80,000	\$ 115,915	\$ 214,409	\$ 120,262
Amyris Biotech	\$ 140,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 100,000
Auburn Biodiesel Corp			\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Aurora Biofuels			\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000
BioDiesel of Las Vegas				\$ 40,000
Bluefire Ethanol			\$ 50,000	\$ 90,000
Cellulosic Biofuel Working Group	\$ 120,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	
Ceres	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 40,000
Clean Fuels Development Coalition		\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
Cobalt Technologies	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000
DDCE Cellulosic Ethanol			\$ 70,000	\$ 20,000
E3 BioFuels	\$ 250,000			
First United Ethanol	\$ 160,000	\$ 30,000		
Flambeau River Biorefinery	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000
Fulcrum Bioenergy		\$ 60,000	\$ 360,000	\$ 100,000
Garden State Ethanol		\$ 10,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 40,000
Gevo Inc			\$ 90,000	\$ 60,000
Greenful Technologies	\$ 20,000			
Growth Energy			\$ 930,000	\$ 810,000
Imperium Renewables	\$ 320,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000
KL Energy			\$ 55,000	\$ 30,000
Mascoma Corp	\$ 100,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 45,000
Memphis Biofuels			\$ 10,000	
National Biodiesel Board	\$ 1,235,376	\$ 1,148,806	\$ 943,128	\$ 523,257
National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition	\$ 50,000			
New Generation Biofuels	\$ 260,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 239,500	\$ 60,000
Patriot Renewable Fuel			\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000
Pinnacle Biofuels Inc.			\$ 20,000	
Poet LLC	\$ 321,897	\$ 520,000	\$ 690,000	\$ 530,000
Qteros		\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000
Range Fuels		\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000
Renewable Biofuels			\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000

Cont. Appendix A: Lobbying Expenditures for Biofuels Organizations and Industry Groups

Organization	2007	2008	2009	2010
Renewable Fuels Association	\$ 723,800	\$ 563,609	\$ 750,203	\$ 835,911
Sapphire Energy		\$ 190,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 285,000
SG Biofuels		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	
Solazyme	\$ 20,000		\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000
Solix Biofuels			\$ 20,000	
Southern Ethanol Council			\$ 55,000	
SunEthanol		\$ 50,000		
Terrabon		\$ 40,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 20,000
Verenium	\$ 80,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 170,000
Virent Energy Systems	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Xethanol Corp		\$ 90,000		
Zeachem Inc	\$ 80,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 100,000
TOTAL	\$ 4,556,073	\$ 4,908,330	\$ 7,257,240	\$ 4,644,430

Source: "Influence and Lobbying: 2007-08 and 2009-10 election cycles." Center for Responsive Politics. June 2010. <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/index.php>

Appendix B: POET's Political Action Committee and Employee Donations for Last Two Election Cycles

Company	Donation Source	Member of Congress' First Name	Member of Congress' Last Name	Amount	Date
POET	PAC	Max	Baucus	\$1,000	5/19/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Evan	Bayh	\$1,000	5/14/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Michael	Bennet	\$1,000	4/28/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Roy	Blunt	\$1,000	9/25/2008
POET	PAC	John	Boehner	\$500	11/12/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	John	Boehner	\$1,500	4/22/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	John	Boehner	\$1,000	4/22/2010
POET	PAC	Leonard	Boswell	\$1,000	4/14/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Leonard	Boswell	\$1,000	6/10/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Leonard	Boswell	\$1,000	12/28/2009
POET	PAC	Charles	Boustany	\$1,000	3/22/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Bruce	Braley	\$1,000	6/24/2009
POET	Daniel Loveland	Sherrod	Brown	\$500	6/1/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	David	Camp	\$500	6/29/2009
POET	PAC	Steve	Chabot	\$1,000	3/19/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Saxby	Chambliss	\$1,000	10/5/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	Saxby	Chambliss	\$1,000	9/29/2008

Cont. Appendix B: POET's Political Action Committee and Employee Donations for Last Two Election Cycles

Company	Donation Source	Member of Congress' First Name	Member of Congress' Last Name	Amount	Date
POET	Jeff Broin	Saxby	Chambliss	\$1,000	12/2/2008
POET	PAC	Daniel	Coats	\$2,500	4/12/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Daniel	Coats	\$1,000	4/16/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Kent	Conrad	\$1,000	6/30/2010
POET	Gary Pectorious	Dick	Durbin	\$500	6/22/2007
POET	Jerry Janzig	Rick	Durbin	\$500	6/22/2007
POET	PAC	Brad	Ellsworth	\$500	6/14/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Brad	Ellsworth	\$1,000	6/30/2008
POET	PAC	Al	Franken	\$1,000	9/18/2009
POET	PAC	Chuck	Grassley	\$2,500	1/22/2010
POET	PAC	Chuck	Grassley	\$2,500	3/19/2010
POET	PAC	Chuck	Grassley	\$3,500	3/19/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	Chuck	Grassley	\$1,000	4/13/2010
POET	Jeff Lutt	Chuck	Grassley	\$1,000	4/13/2010
POET	PAC	Debbie	Halvorson	\$1,000	12/4/2009
POET	PAC	Debbie	Halvorson	\$1,000	3/26/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	Thomas	Harkin	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Daniel Loveland	Thomas	Harkin	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Gregory Breukelman	Thomas	Harkin	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Jeff Lutt	Thomas	Harkin	\$2,150	10/22/2008
POET	Lawrence Ward	Thomas	Harkin	\$2,150	10/22/2008
POET	Mark Stowers	Thomas	Harkin	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Thomas	Harkin	\$2,150	10/22/2008
POET	PAC	Dean	Heller	\$1,000	5/19/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$1,700	5/29/2008
POET	Daniel Loveland	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Daniel Loveland	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	6/2/2010
POET	Gregory Breukelman	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Gregory Breukelman	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$1,000	8/22/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$1,300	5/29/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$1,675	9/1/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$275	6/2/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$725	6/2/2010
POET	Jeff Lutt	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Jeff Lutt	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$1,000	9/1/2009
POET	Jeff Lutt	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	6/2/2010

Cont. Appendix B: POET's Political Action Committee and Employee Donations for Last Two Election Cycles

Company	Donation Source	Member of Congress' First Name	Member of Congress' Last Name	Amount	Date
POET	Lawrence Ward	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Lawrence Ward	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Mark Stowers	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Mark Stowers	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	8/11/2008
POET	Mark Stowers	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Mark Stowers	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$1,000	4/30/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Stephanie	Herseth Sandlin	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	PAC	Stephanie	herseth-Sandlin	\$2,400	8/2/2009
POET	PAC	Stephanie	herseth-Sandlin	\$2,600	6/1/2010
POET	PAC	Stephanie	herseth-Sandlin	\$5,000	6/1/2010
POET	PAC	Baron	Hill	\$2,000	10/29/2009
POET	PAC	Baron	Hill	\$1,000	6/17/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Baron Paul	Hill	\$500	6/2/2010
POET	PAC	John	Hoeven	\$2,000	2/16/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Holden	\$500	7/7/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Holden	\$500	6/19/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Steny	Hoyer	\$1,000	9/25/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Johnson	\$1,000	7/23/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Johnson	\$200	12/11/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Johnson	\$1,500	5/30/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Johnson	\$600	8/25/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Johnson	\$800	12/11/2007
POET	Denny Devos	Tim	Johnson	\$2,000	1/7/2008
POET	Tom Talbot	James	Jordan	\$1,000	7/27/2009
POET	PAC	Steve	king	\$1,000	10/30/2009
POET	PAC	Mark	Kirk	\$1,000	3/23/2010
POET	PAC	Frank	Kratrovil	\$1,000	11/20/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Thomas	Latham	\$1,000	6/30/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Thomas	Latham	\$1,000	9/15/2008
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Tom	Latham	\$1,500	6/30/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Robert Edward	Latta	\$1,000	6/29/2009
POET	PAC	Blaine	Luetkemeyer	\$2,000	3/19/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	W Blaine	Luetkemeyer	\$500	6/18/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Claire	McCaskill	\$1,000	10/29/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Ben	Nelson	\$1,000	6/19/2010
POET	David Bearden	Kristi Lunn	Noem	\$1,000	3/3/2010

Cont. Appendix B: POET's Political Action Committee and Employee Donations for Last Two Election Cycles

Company	Donation Source	Member of Congress' First Name	Member of Congress' Last Name	Amount	Date
POET	David Bearden	Kristi Lunn	Noem	\$250	5/5/2010
POET	David Bearden	Kristi Lunn	Noem	\$250	6/30/2010
POET	Lawrence Ward	Kristi Lynn	Noem	\$250	6/30/2010
POET	PAC	Devin	Nunes	\$1,000	2/2/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Mike	Pence	\$1,000	6/29/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Mike	Pence	\$2,000	5/12/2010
POET	PAC	Collin	Peterson	\$1,500	3/23/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Collin	Peterson	\$1,000	7/30/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Collin	Peterson	\$1,000	6/28/2010
POET	PAC	Collin	Petrson	\$1,000	2/3/2010
POET	PAC	Earl	Pomeroy	\$1,000	12/3/2009
POET	PAC	Earl	Pomeroy	\$1,000	6/17/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	Earl	Pomeroy	\$1,000	4/26/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Earl	Pomeroy	\$1,000	6/17/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Earl	Pomeroy	\$500	4/26/2010
POET	Jeff Lutt	Earl	Pomeroy	\$1,000	4/26/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Earl	Pomeroy	\$1,000	4/26/2010
POET	Angie Whiteman	Michael Richard	Pompeo	\$500	6/30/2010
POET	Arlene (arlo) Casper	Michael Richard	Pompeo	\$2,400	6/18/2010
POET	Jason Searl	Michael Richard	Pompeo	\$1,000	6/12/2010
POET	Sarah Devries	Michael Richard	Pompeo	\$1,000	2/26/2010
POET	Mika Gross	Michael Richard	Pompeo	\$1,000	6/23/2010
POET	Robert Casper	Michael Richard	Pompeo	\$2,400	6/18/2010
POET	PAC	Rob	Portman	\$2,500	3/26/2010
POET	PAC	Peter	Roskam	\$2,000	4/19/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Ken	Salazar	\$1,000	7/18/2008
POET	PAC	Aaron	Schock	\$1,000	12/18/2009
POET	PAC	John	Shimkus	\$1,000	4/19/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsberg	John	Shimkus	\$1,000	6/4/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	Adrian	Smith	\$500	6/30/2010
POET	PAC	Olympia	Snowe	\$1,000	5/14/2010
POET	PAC	Zachary	Space	\$1,000	6/14/2010
POET	PAC	John	Thune	\$2,400	3/19/2009
POET	PAC	John	Thune	\$500	2/9/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	John	Thune	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	David Bearden	John	Thune	\$300	2/11/2009

Cont. Appendix B: POET's Political Action Committee and Employee Donations for Last Two Election Cycles

Company	Donation Source	Member of Congress' First Name	Member of Congress' Last Name	Amount	Date
POET	David Bearden	John	Thune	\$2,000	3/21/2009
POET	David Bearden	John	Thune	\$494	9/21/2009
POET	Gregory Breukelman	John	Thune	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Gregory Breukelman	John	Thune	\$1,000	3/21/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	John	Thune	\$300	12/30/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	John	Thune	\$700	12/30/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	John	Thune	\$500	3/21/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	John	Thune	\$200	4/9/2009
POET	Jeff Lautt	John	Thune	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Jeff Lautt	John	Thune	\$1,000	3/21/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	John	Thune	\$1,000	4/15/2008
POET	Lawrence Ward	John	Thune	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Lawrence Ward	John	Thune	\$400	3/21/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	John	Thune	\$600	3/21/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	John	Thune	\$1,000	6/25/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	John	Thune	\$800	6/25/2010
POET	Mark Stowers	John	Thune	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Mark Stowers	John	Thune	\$1,000	3/21/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	John	Thune	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	John	Thune	\$1,300	3/21/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	John	Thune	\$900	6/23/2009
POET	Darin Cartwright	Todd	Tiahrt	\$1,000	5/27/2010
POET	Jason Searl	Todd	Tiahrt	\$2,400	10/19/2009
POET	Mark Devries	Todd	Tiahrt	\$1,000	5/21/2010
POET	Steven Seabrook	Todd	Tiahrt	\$1,000	5/21/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Patrick	Tiberi	\$500	6/28/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	Frederick stephen	Upton	\$500	8/10/2009
POET	PAC	Tim	Walz	\$1,000	6/24/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Walz	\$1,000	6/30/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Walz	\$1,000	9/25/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	Tim	Walz	\$1,000	9/28/2009
POET	Daniel Loveland	Timothy	Walz	\$500	6/25/2010

Source: "Influence and Lobbying: 2007-08 and 2009-10 election cycles." Center for Responsive Politics. June 2010. <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/index.php>

Appendix C: Top Five Senators who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Senator Max Baucus			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
National Biodiesel Board	PAC	\$2,000	6/21/2007
National Biodiesel Board	PAC	\$2,300	3/11/2008
POET	PAC	\$1,000	5/19/2010
Range Fuels	Mitch Mandich	\$2,000	10/21/2008
Range Fuels	William B Schafer	\$500	10/23/2008
Sapphire Energy	Timothy Senk	\$500	3/9/2009
Total:		\$8,300	

Senator Tim Johnson			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Growth Energy	PAC	\$1,000	6/14/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,000	7/23/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	\$200	12/11/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,500	5/30/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	\$600	8/25/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	\$800	12/11/2007
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$818	11/7/2007
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$1,181	11/7/2007
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$1,118	12/7/2007
Total:			\$8,217

Senator Chuck Grassley			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Absolute Energy	PAC	\$500	12/8/2008
Amaizing Energy	PAC	\$1,000	12/3/2008
Central Iowa Energy	PAC	\$150	12/5/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	8/15/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$1,000	10/10/2008
Growth Energy	PAC	\$2,000	5/13/2010
Imperium Renewables	John Plaza	\$1,000	10/9/2009
Imperium Renewables	John Plaza	\$500	11/23/2009
Iowa Renewable Energy	PAC	\$250	12/4/2008
Iowa Renewable Energy	PAC	\$250	11/13/2009

Cont. Appendix C: Top Five Senators who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Senator Chuck Grassley			
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	PAC	\$1,000	12/8/2008
LincolnWay Energy	PAC	\$1,000	12/5/2008
National Biodiesel Board	Brent Feraci	\$1,000	11/24/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Donald Scott	\$500	11/24/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Joseph Jobe	\$500	11/23/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	11/23/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Neal Shelby	\$500	11/24/2009
POET	PAC	\$2,500	1/22/2010
POET	PAC	\$2,500	3/19/2010
POET	PAC	\$3,500	3/19/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$1,000	4/13/2010
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$1,000	4/13/2010
Western Dubuque Biodiesel	PAC	\$250	12/26/2008
Western Dubuque Biodiesel	PAC	\$1,000	11/30/2009
Western Iowa Energy	PAC	\$500	12/5/2008
Western Iowa Energy	PAC	\$1,000	11/13/2009
Total:		\$25,400	

Senator Thomas Harkin			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Abengoa bioenergy Corp	Christopher Standlee	\$500	5/23/2007
Amaizing Energy	PAC	\$1,000	1/6/2009
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	8/15/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$1,000	10/10/2008
Hawkeye Renewables	Bruce Rastetter	\$500	3/31/2007
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	PAC	\$1,000	10/20/2008
LincolnWay Energy	PAC	\$500	10/17/2008
Midwest Grain Processors	PAC	\$500	11/5/2008
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Gregory Breukelman	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$2,150	10/22/2008
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$2,150	10/22/2008
POET	Mark Stowers	\$500	10/22/2008

Cont. Appendix C: Top Five Senators who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels

Senator Thomas Harkin			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$2,150	10/22/2008
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$1,000	3/31/2007
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$500	5/29/2007
Western Iowa Energy	PAC	\$500	10/23/2008
Renewable Fuels Assn	Matt Hartwik	\$750	11/06/2009
Total:		\$16,700	

Senator John Thune			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
National Biodiesel Board	Brent Feraci	\$500	6/8/2010
POET	PAC	\$2,400	3/19/2009
POET	PAC	\$500	2/9/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	David Bearden	\$300	2/11/2009
POET	David Bearden	\$2,000	3/21/2009
POET	David Bearden	\$494	9/21/2009
POET	Gregory Breukelman	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Gregory Breukelman	\$1,000	3/21/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	\$300	12/30/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	\$700	12/30/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	\$500	3/21/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	\$200	4/9/2009
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$1,000	3/21/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$1,000	4/15/2008
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$400	3/21/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$600	3/21/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$1,000	6/25/2009
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$800	6/25/2010
POET	Mark Stowers	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Mark Stowers	\$1,000	3/21/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$1,000	12/30/2007
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$1,300	3/21/2009

Cont. Appendix C: Top Five Senators who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Senator John Thune			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$900	6/23/2009
VeraSun	Bryan Meier	\$1,000	11/28/2007
VeraSun	Danny Herron	\$1,000	11/29/2007
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$2,300	11/29/2007
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$2,300	11/29/2007
VeraSun	Paul Caudill	\$250	11/29/2007
VeraSun	William Honnef	\$500	12/11/2007
Total:		\$30,244	

Source: "Influence and Lobbying: 2007-08 and 2009-10 election cycles." Center for Responsive Politics. June 2010. <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/index.php>

Appendix D: Top Five Representatives who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
American Coalition for Ethanol	Brian Jennings	\$249	9/9/2009
American Coalition for Ethanol	Brian Jennings	\$500	5/18/2010
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	12/21/2009
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$1,700	5/29/2008
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$500	6/2/2010
POET	Gregory Breukelman	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Gregory Breukelman	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,000	8/22/2007
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,300	5/29/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,675	9/1/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	\$275	6/2/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	\$725	6/2/2010
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$1,000	9/1/2009
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$500	6/2/2010
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Lawrence Ward	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Mark Stowers	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Mark Stowers	\$500	8/11/2008

Cont. Appendix D: Top Five Representatives who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
POET	Mark Stowers	\$500	9/1/2009
POET	Mark Stowers	\$1,000	4/30/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$850	5/29/2008
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$500	9/1/2009
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$500	11/2/2009
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$1,000	2/27/2007
Growth Energy	PAC	\$500	5/31/2010
POET	PAC	\$2,400	8/2/2009
POET	PAC	\$2,600	6/1/2010
POET	PAC	\$5,000	6/1/2010
Total:		\$30,174	

Representative Steve King			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Amaizing Energy	PAC	\$500	12/1/2009
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	8/15/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	10/10/2008
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	PAC	\$1,000	10/20/2008
POET	PAC	\$1,000	10/30/2009
Western Iowa Energy	PAC	\$500	10/23/2008
Green Plains Renewable Energy	Wayne Hoovestol	\$4,600	8/15/2008
Green Plains Renewable Energy	Wayne Hoovestol	\$2,400	10/9/2009
Total:		\$11,000	

Representative Thomas Latham			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Absolute Energy	PAC	\$250	10/27/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$1,000	2/28/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	8/15/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	10/10/2008
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$500	11/7/2007
Growth Energy	PAC	\$1,000	4/28/2010

Cont. Appendix D: Top Five Representatives who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Representative Thomas Latham			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Hawkeye Renewables	Bruce Rastetter	\$500	5/3/2007
Hawkeye Renewables	Bruce Rastetter	\$900	12/5/2007
Hawkeye Renewables	Bruce Rastetter	\$1,000	5/9/2009
Hawkeye Renewables	Bruce Rastetter	\$3,800	9/29/2009
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	PAC	\$1,000	10/20/2008
LincolnWay Energy	PAC	\$500	10/17/2008
Midwest Grain Processors	PAC	\$500	10/22/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,000	6/30/2008
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,000	9/15/2008
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$1,500	6/30/2010
Total:		\$15,450	

Representative Collin Peterson			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Growth Energy	PAC	\$1,000	6/8/2010
POET	PAC	\$1,500	3/23/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$1,000	7/30/2009
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$1,000	6/28/2010
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$1,000	12/16/2007
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$1,000	6/29/2009
VeraSun	Don Endres	\$1,000	6/19/2008
VeraSun	Jonathon Lehman	\$1,000	12/28/2007
POET	PAC	\$1,000	2/3/2010
National Biodiesel Board	PAC	\$1,500	3/18/2007
National Biodiesel Board	PAC	\$800	12/7/2007
Total:		\$11,800	

Representative Earl Pomeroy			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
Abengoa bioenergy Corp	Christopher Standlee	\$500	5/5/2010
Golden Grain Energy	PAC	\$750	4/27/2010
Green Earth Fuels	PAC	\$500	6/15/2009
Growth Energy	PAC	\$1,000	6/8/2010

Cont. Appendix D: Top Five Representatives who have received the Most Donations from Biofuels Industry Political Action Committees (PACs) and Senior Level Staff

Representative Earl Pomeroy			
Company	Donation Source	Amount	Date
KAAPA Ethanol/ Farmer	Paul Kenney	\$500	5/5/2010
Midwest Grain Processors	PAC	\$500	4/23/2010
National Biodiesel Board	PAC	\$1,000	6/18/2010
National Biodiesel Board	Darryl Brinkmann	\$500	6/26/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Edward Hegland	\$500	6/24/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Joseph Jobe	\$500	6/26/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	10/23/2007
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	8/8/2008
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	6/17/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	6/30/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	11/9/2009
National Biodiesel Board	Larry Schafer	\$500	6/18/2010
POET	PAC	\$1,000	12/3/2009
POET	PAC	\$1,000	6/17/2010
POET	Daniel Loveland	\$1,000	4/26/2010
POET	Jeff Broin	\$1,000	6/17/2009
POET	Jeff Broin	\$500	4/26/2010
POET	Jeff Lautt	\$1,000	4/26/2010
POET	Rob T Skjonsbarg	\$1,000	4/26/2010
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$500	3/31/2007
Renewable Fuels Assn	Robert Dinneen	\$1,000	5/5/2010
Total:		\$17,250	

Source: "Influence and Lobbying: 2007-08 and 2009-10 election cycles." Center for Responsive Politics. June 2010. <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/index.php>

Current U.S. biofuels policy benefits the industrial farm lobby while failing to meet the needs of the American people. Some of the world's largest corporations receive duplicative and unnecessary subsidies, which include a consumption mandate, several tax credits, and a protective tariff. Meanwhile American consumers continue paying at the pump for fuels that destroy native ecosystems, increase air and water pollution, and contribute to rising domestic and international food prices. Yet Congress continues to lavish the industry with tens of billions of dollars in giveaways.

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