



Roadside Assistance:

November 19, 2013

Toomey Firm at Wheel, As AAA Auto Requests Taxpayer Lift from Perry

The [Texas Tribune](#) reported today that the AAA Automobile Club headed by Perry [pal](#) and patron Thomas McKernan is seeking a taxpayer handout from Perry’s Texas Enterprise Fund to expand its Texas operations. That report overlooks one inbred aspect of this incestuous corporate-welfare request. AAA has paid up to \$750,000 over the past seven years to the [Texas Capitol Group](#), headed by Governor Perry’s ex-roommate and former chief of staff.

When Mike Toomey served as Governor Perry’s chief of staff from late 2002 through 2004, he [parked his lobby clients](#) with fellow lobbyists Lara Laneri Keel and Bill Messer. Toomey, Messer and current AAA lobbyist Walter Fisher headline the Texas Capitol Group.

Toomey and AAA CEO Tom McKernan both took leadership roles in Perry’s

disastrous 2012 presidential campaign. Toomey created the Perry super PAC Make Us Great Again, while McKernan was a California [co-chair](#) of Perry’s presidential finance team. The *Tribune* reports that McKernan gave \$123,750 to Perry’s state and federal campaigns.

AAA has petitioned Attorney General Greg Abbott to block public release of its Enterprise Fund documents, which allegedly involve confidential information about its request for a public handout. AAA may expand in Texas even without taxpayer subsidies. The *Tribune* reports that AAA bought two buildings for a regional headquarters in Coppell earlier this year.

A-Team Lobbyists for AAA Auto Club in Austin

Texas Capitol Group Lobbyist	No. of AAA Contracts	Contract Values	Contract Period
Walter Fisher	6	\$250,000-\$450,000	2007-2013
Bill Messer	1	\$100,000-\$150,000	2007
Mike Toomey	1	\$100,000-\$150,000	2007
TOTALS	8	\$450,000-\$750,000	