

# LOBBY WATCH



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ENERGY TRANSFER

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## Gas Pipeline Giant Inflated Politicians with \$2.7 Million

**Energy Transfer Partners gives 33 cents of every dollar to Gov. Abbott. ETP & its Sunoco unit spent up to \$1.7 Million more on the Texas lobby. Ranchers and Native Americans resist company's pipelines.**

The huge pipeline company sparking land-grab protests in Texas and the Dakotas has given Texas politicians \$2.7 million in recent years, while spending up to \$1.7 million to lobby Texas officials. Before the recent protests, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) was not well known to consumers, even though Energy Transfer [owns Sunoco and Stripes](#),<sup>1</sup> which operate thousands of gas stations.

Resistance to the 1,200 Dakota Access crude oil pipeline that ETP is building between North Dakota and Southern Illinois is generating national news. Police have wielded armored vehicles and dogs to break through protest lines near the Sioux Nation's Standing Rock Reservation. Some Sioux say the project threatens the reservation's water supply.

Meanwhile, ETP has teamed up with Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim Helú to build two pipelines crossing 336 miles of West Texas to

supply natural gas to Mexico's state-owned electricity company.

Concerns about these projects focus on their potential environmental impacts and on ETP's invocation of eminent domain powers to force landowners to sell land along pipeline routes.

"You go to talking about condemning something by eminent domain, you'll get shot in this part of the country," Alpine rancher Mary Luedeke told the [San Antonio Express-News](#). "Mexico can turn blue as far as I'm concerned if they

think they can condemn my land."

Letting private companies use eminent domain to seize private land is a political hot potato that sparked weirdness in 2015. That's when ETP repeatedly said that the Texas Railroad Commission was regulating its West Texas pipelines, even as the agency (whose commissioners collected hundreds of thousands of dollars from ETP) repeatedly denied this [fact](#).



From 2010 through October 2016, ETP’s PAC, ETP’s billionaire CEO Kelcy Warren, and COO Mackie McCrea spent \$2.7 million on Texas state politicians.<sup>2</sup> Thirty three cents of each of these ETP dollars went to Gov. Greg Abbott (\$899,803). That governor [appointed](#) ETP’s Kelcy Warren to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and spouse Amy Warren to the board of [Humanities Texas](#).

Abbott cannot legally transfer ETP’s campaign funds to his own pockets. Soon after Gov. Rick Perry left office, however, ETP appointed him to two of its corporate boards, which paid Perry a total of [\\$365,000](#) in cash and stock in 2015.

Oddly, the No. 2 recipient of ETP-related funds is Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC.<sup>3</sup> Yet ETP is a plaintiff in eminent-domain claims and other lawsuits. “We were cheated on,” ETP’s lawyers [argued](#) in 2014 in a \$1.3 billion lawsuit they filed against another company for pulling out of a pipeline deal. “They kicked us like we were dogs.”



ETP Dakota pipeline protesters have faced dogs, armored vehicles and pepper spray.

Since 2010, ETP’s PAC and two executives have given a total of \$684,677 to eight candidates for the Railroad Commission, which oversees pipelines. This included \$287,615 to the three current commissioners, and another \$10,800 to Commissioner-elect Wayne Christian.

### Sources of ETP’s Political Funds

(Jan. 2010 through Oct. 2016)<sup>1</sup>

Amount	Contributor
\$2,051,034	Kelcy Warren (Chair & CEO)
\$370,936	Energy Transfer Partners PAC
\$312,000	'Mackie' McCrea (COO)
<b>\$2,733,970</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

### Energy Transfer’s Top Politicians (Jan 2010 through Oct 2016)<sup>1</sup>

Total	Recipient (% of total)
\$899,803	Greg Abbott (33%)
\$250,000	Texans for Lawsuit Reform (9%)
\$192,500	*Barry Smitherman (7%)
\$160,000	Glenn Hegar (6%)
\$152,500	Dan Patrick (6%)
\$127,500	Dan Branch (5%)
\$117,615	*Ryan Sitton (4%)
\$98,762	*Malachi Boyuls (4%)
\$90,000	*David Porter (3%)
\$80,000	*Christi Craddick (3%)
\$53,000	Ken Paxton (2%)
\$52,102	Jerry E. Patterson (2%)
\$50,000	*Elizabeth Ames Jones (2%)
\$45,000	*Victor Carrillo (2%)
\$39,014	Rick Perry (1%)
\$32,500	Joe Straus (1%)
\$29,500	David Dewhurst (1%)
\$20,000	Donna Campbell (1%)
\$20,000	TX Pipeline Assn. (1%)
\$10,800	*Walter 'Wayne' Christian
\$10,000	George P. Bush
\$10,000	TX Repub. Represent. Camp. Com.
\$8,500	Troy Fraser
\$7,500	John Carona
\$5,874	Myra Crownover
\$5,000	Juan 'Chuy' Hinojosa
\$5,000	TX Oil & Gas Assn.
\$5,000	Charlie Uresti
\$4,500	Susan Combs
\$4,000	Byron Cook
\$4,000	James Keffer
\$3,500	Kevin Eltife
\$3,500	Tommy Williams
\$3,000	Dennis Bonnen
\$3,000	Brandon Creighton
\$3,000	Craig Estes
\$3,000	Charles Geren
\$3,000	Joan Huffman
\$3,000	Todd Hunter
\$3,000	Robert Lee Nichols
\$3,000	Dade Phelan
\$3,000	Richard 'Wayne' Smith
\$3,000	Senfronia Thompson
\$3,000	John Whitmire

This table shows 96% of all Energy Transfer contributions. \*Politician who has run for Texas Railroad Commission.

Other top ETP recipients include Rep. Myrna Crowover (\$5,874) and Sen. Chuy Hinojosa (\$5,000), who both have former chiefs of staff now lobbying for Energy Transfer Partners or its Sunoco subsidiary.<sup>4</sup> In the past five years ETP and Sunoco have spent between \$915,000 and \$1.7 million on 36 lobby contracts (exact dollar values are not known because lobbyists report their income in ranges). This lobby effort peaked this year, when nine lobbyists have reported that ETP and Sunoco are paying them up to \$460,000 to lobby state officials.

## Energy Transfer & Sunoco Texas Lobby Contracts

Year	Min. Value	Max. Value	No. of Contracts
2012	\$160,000	\$275,000	4
2013	\$160,000	\$275,000	7
2014	\$185,000	\$335,000	7
2015	\$185,000	\$385,000	9
2016	\$225,000	\$460,000	9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$915,000</b>	<b>\$1,730,000</b>	<b>36</b>

## 2016 Energy Transfer & Sunoco Lobbyists

Lobbyist	Min. Value	Max. Value	Client
<a href="#">Phil Gamble</a>	\$25,000	\$50,000	Energy Transfer Partners
<a href="#">Ron Lewis</a>	\$50,000	\$100,000	Energy Transfer Partners
Ron Lewis	\$0	\$0	Sunoco Logistics Partners
<a href="#">James E. Mann</a>	\$25,000	\$50,000	Energy Transfer Partners
<a href="#">Rene A. Ramirez</a>	\$25,000	\$50,000	Sunoco, LP
<a href="#">Celina Romero</a>	\$0	\$10,000	Energy Transfer Partners
<a href="#">K. Grant Ruckel</a>	\$25,000	\$50,000	Energy Transfer Partners
K. Grant Ruckel	\$50,000	\$100,000	Sunoco Logistics Partners
K. Grant Ruckel	\$25,000	\$50,000	Sunoco, LP
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>	

Love ETP and its pipelines? Fill up at Sunoco and Stripes. Hate them? Find another station. •

VIVA TERLINGUA!

**CARLOS SLIM**  
Net Worth: \$71.8 Billion

**KELCY WARREN**  
Net Worth: \$4.4 Billion

Multibillionaires always want MORE...  
These two want to make the scenic  
**TEXAS BIG BEND REGION**  
their own personal eminent domain  
and **THEY WILL** unless **WE STOP** the  
**TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE**

#energytransferpartners #transpecospipeline #ecocide

Trans-Pecos propaganda.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Energy Transfer acquired Sunoco, Inc. in 2012 and Stripes parent Susser Holdings in 2014. Energy Transfer and Sunoco Logistics Partners [merged](#) in 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Most of the \$2,733,970 in ETP-related contributions analyzed here comes from contribution reports that candidates and PACs filed with the Texas Ethics Commission. Candidates who *faced opponents* on the November ballot have reported donations through October 29, 2016. Candidates who were *not opposed* in November have reported just donations through June 2016. ETP's monthly PAC expenditure disclosures, however, divulge another \$10,750 in ETP PAC contributions that the recipient candidates have yet to disclose (their reports are due in January 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Kelcy Warren gave Texans for Lawsuit Reform \$250,000 in late 2010 and gave Gov. Abbott \$816,303.

<sup>4</sup> K. Grant Ruckel and Rene A. Ramirez, respectively.