



Speaker Has Spoken:

October 9, 2013

Vested Interests Flood the \$1 Million Water-Bond PAC

Natural Resources, Construction Industries Supply 91% of Money

A PAC urging Texans to approve a \$2 billion bond package for water infrastructure projects reported raising \$952,202 in the past month. The voraciously thirsty natural resources sector supplied half the money, with another 42 percent coming from construction interests eager to bid on the massive new projects.

House Speaker Joe Straus threw his weight behind the new Water Texas PAC, which reported receiving \$18,800 worth of consulting services from the speaker's campaign. The new PAC's treasurer is Allan Ritter, the Straus-appointed Natural Resources Committee Chair.

Water Texas is promoting Proposition 6, which appears on state ballots on November 5. It authorizes using \$2 billion from the state rainy-day fund for water projects. A month before the election the PAC reported having \$488,030 in the bank.

The PAC's No. 1 contributor is the Associated General Contractors of Texas trade group, which supplied 39 cents of every PAC dollar. Corporations can directly spend money to

Water-Bond Money by Interest

Amount	Interest Group
\$471,158	Energy/Nat'l Resources/Waste
\$396,500	Construction
\$21,500	Miscellaneous Business
\$20,800	Other
\$12,500	Finance
\$10,000	Insurance
\$8,000	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$6,344	Agriculture
\$5,100	Real Estate
\$300	Unknown
\$952,202	TOTAL

influence Texas constitutional amendment initiatives. Dow Chemical Co., which operates the Western Hemisphere's largest petrochemical plant in Freeport, sent Water Texas \$250,000.

With its Luminant and Oncor affiliates, Energy Future Holdings Corp. gave a total of \$110,158. Valero and LyondellBasell gave the PAC another \$25,000 apiece in petrochemical cash.

Water Texas PAC Contributors (Through September, 26 2013)

Amount	Contributor	Location	Interest
\$375,000	Associated General Contractors of TX	Austin	Construction
\$250,000	Dow Chemical Co.	Midland, MI	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$100,158	Energy Future Holdings/Luminant	Dallas	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$25,000	LyondellBasell	Houston	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$25,000	Valero Energy Corp. PAC	San Antonio	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$20,000	Koch Industries, Inc.	Wichita, KS	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$18,800	Texans for Joe Straus	San Antonio	Other
\$10,000	Allstate Insurance Co.	Northbrook, IL	Insurance
\$10,000	Cheniere Energy Shared Services, Inc.	Houston	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$10,000	Contran Corp.	Dallas	Finance
\$10,000	FTS International Services, LLC	Cisco	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$10,000	Landry's Management, LP	Houston	Miscellaneous Business
\$10,000	Oncor Electric Delivery Co., LLC	Dallas	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$10,000	Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.	Austin	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$10,000	Wholesale Beer Distributors of TX	Austin	Miscellaneous Business
\$5,000	Am. Council of Engineering Co's of TX	Austin	Construction
\$5,000	Blackridge Consulting LLP	Austin	Lawyers/Lobbyists
\$5,000	Entergy Texas, Inc.	Austin	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$5,000	Perry Homes, LLC	Houston	Construction
\$5,000	Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.	Beaumont	Construction
\$5,000	Southwest Public Service Co.	Amarillo	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$5,000	TX & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn.	Fort Worth	Agriculture
\$5,000	Wortech Land Surveyors, Inc.	Beaumont	Real Estate
\$3,000	Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever ...	Austin	Lawyers/Lobbyists
\$2,500	Carroll & Blackman, Inc.	Beaumont	Construction
\$2,500	Independent Bankers Assn. of TX	Austin	Finance
\$2,000	Holt Texas, LTD	San Antonio	Construction
\$1,500	Licensed Beverage Distributors PAC	Austin	Miscellaneous Business
\$1,344	Texas Farm Bureau	Waco	Agriculture
\$1,000	Half Associates, Inc.	Richardson	Construction
\$1,000	Jim Pitts Campaign	Waxahachie	Other
\$1,000	Pacheco Koch PAC	Dallas	Construction
\$1,000	Texas Pipeline Assn. PAC	Austin	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$1,000	Trenton Ashby Campaign	Lufkin	Other
\$300	L. James Lester	Conroe	Unknown
\$100	Jerry D. Box	Austin	Real Estate
\$952,202	TOTAL		

Tea Party activists have lobbied to make the state's \$9 billion rainy-day fund untouchable. To counter these critics, the business-backed Texas Taxpayers and Research Association just released a report projecting that oil and gas

revenues will double state rainy-day funds by 2017. Koch Industries, whose owners bankroll the Tea Party, gave Water Texas PAC \$20,000. The Koch brothers rarely endorse \$2 billion tax expenditures—unless they serve Koch. •