

Speaker Has Spoken:

October 9, 2013

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

Natural Resources, Construction Industries Supply 91% of Money

PAC urging Texans to approve a \$2 billion bond package for water infrastructure projects reported raising \$952,202 in the past month. The voarciously 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)

AmountContributorLocationInterest\$375,000Associated General Contractors of TXAustinConstruction\$250,000Dow Chemical Co.Midland, MIEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$100,158Energy Future Holdings/LuminantDallasEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$25,000LyondellBasellHoustonEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$25,000Valero Energy Corp. PACSan AntonioEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$20,000Koch Industries, Inc.Wichita, KSEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$18,800Texans for Joe StrausSan AntonioOther\$10,000Allstate Insurance Co.Northbrook, ILInsurance\$10,000Contran Corp.DallasFinance\$10,000Contran Corp.DallasFinance\$10,000FTS International Services, LLCCiscoEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$10,000Landry's Management, LPHoustonMiscellaneous Business\$10,000Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.AustinEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$10,000Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.AustinEnergy/Nat'l Resources\$10,000Wholesale Beer Distributors of TXAustinConstruction\$5,000Am. Council of Engineering Co's of TXAustinLawyers/Lobbyists\$5,000Blackridge Consulting LLPAustinLawyers/Lobbyists\$5,000Entergy Texas, Inc.HoustonConstruction\$5,000Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.BeaumontConstruction\$5,000Southwestern Cattle Raisers A		Texas PAC Continuators (1		
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\$5,000 Perry Homes, LLC Beaumont 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 Halff 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	\$5,000	Blackridge Consulting LLP	Austin	Lawyers/Lobbyists
\$5,000 Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. \$5,000 Southwest Public Service Co. \$5,000 TX & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn. \$5,000 Wortech Land Surveyors, Inc. \$3,000 Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever \$2,500 Carroll & Blackman, Inc. \$2,500 Independent Bankers Assn. of TX \$2,000 Holt Texas, LTD \$3,000 Licensed Beverage Distributors PAC \$1,500 Licensed Beverage Distributors PAC \$1,000 Halff Associates, Inc. \$1,000 Jim Pitts Campaign \$1,000 Texas Pipeline Assn. PAC \$1,000 Trenton Ashby Campaign \$1,000 Jirry D. Box \$1,000 Jirry D. Box Austin Construction Cons	\$5,000	Entergy Texas, Inc.	Austin	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$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 Halff 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	\$5,000	Perry Homes, LLC	Houston	Construction
\$5,000 TX & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn. Fort Worth \$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 Halff 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	\$5,000	Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.	Beaumont	Construction
\$5,000 Wortech Land Surveyors, Inc. \$3,000 Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever Austin Lawyers/Lobbyists \$2,500 Carroll & Blackman, Inc. \$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 Halff Associates, Inc. \$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	\$5,000	Southwest Public Service Co.	Amarillo	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$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 Halff 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	\$5,000	TX & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn.	Fort Worth	Agriculture
\$2,500 Carroll & Blackman, Inc. \$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 Halff 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	\$5,000	Wortech Land Surveyors, Inc.	Beaumont	Real Estate
\$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 Halff 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	\$3,000	Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever	Austin	Lawyers/Lobbyists
\$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 Halff 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	\$2,500	Carroll & Blackman, Inc.	Beaumont	Construction
\$1,500 Licensed Beverage Distributors PAC Austin Miscellaneous Business \$1,344 Texas Farm Bureau Waco Agriculture \$1,000 Halff 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	\$2,500	Independent Bankers Assn. of TX	Austin	Finance
\$1,344 Texas Farm Bureau Waco Agriculture \$1,000 Halff 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	\$2,000	Holt Texas, LTD	San Antonio	Construction
\$1,000 Halff Associates, Inc. \$1,000 Jim Pitts Campaign \$1,000 Pacheco Koch PAC \$1,000 Texas Pipeline Assn. PAC \$1,000 Trenton Ashby Campaign Lufkin \$1,000 Trenton Ashby Campaign Lufkin Other \$300 L. James Lester \$100 Jerry D. Box Austin Richardson Construction Construction Energy/Nat'l Resources Lufkin Other Conroe Unknown Real Estate	\$1,500	Licensed Beverage Distributors PAC	Austin	Miscellaneous Business
\$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	\$1,344	Texas Farm Bureau	Waco	Agriculture
\$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	\$1,000	Halff Associates, Inc.	Richardson	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	\$1,000	Jim Pitts Campaign	Waxahachie	Other
\$1,000 Trenton Ashby Campaign Lufkin Other \$300 L. James Lester Conroe Unknown \$100 Jerry D. Box Austin Real Estate	\$1,000	Pacheco Koch PAC	Dallas	Construction
\$300 L. James Lester Conroe Unknown \$100 Jerry D. Box Austin Real Estate	\$1,000	Texas Pipeline Assn. PAC	Austin	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$100 Jerry D. Box Austin Real Estate	\$1,000	Trenton Ashby Campaign	Lufkin	Other
<u> </u>	\$300	L. James Lester	Conroe	Unknown
\$952,202 TOTAL	\$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.•