

News from TPJ

Texans for Public Justice * 609 W. 18th Street, Suite E, * Austin, TX 78701 * www.tpj.org

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Contact: TPJ
(512) 472-9770

Complaint Says Waste King Simmons Used Illegal PAC to Fund Lawmakers

- One Billionaire A Legal PAC Does Not Make.
- New PAC Moves \$65,000 from Simmons to 18 Lawmakers.

Austin, Texas: Texans for Public Justice filed a [formal complaint](#) with the Texas Ethics Commission today alleging that a new political committee illegally contributed \$65,000 to 18 Texas lawmakers in 2011. Dallas billionaire Harold Simmons owns Waste Control Specialists, LLC, which runs a radioactive waste dump in West Texas. Waste Control CEO William Lindquist recently formed the WCS-Texas Solutions PAC, which contributed \$65,000 to 18 Texas lawmakers in late 2011. Those contributions were illicit, TPJ alleges, because Simmons provided *all* of the \$100,100 that WCS PAC reported raising last year. Under Texas law a PAC must have at least 10 donors before it can legally contribute to political campaigns. There is no billionaire exception.

“We can’t stop Simmons from polluting the political landscape with lawful campaign contributions, but even billionaires must be held accountable to democratic law,” said TPJ Director Craig McDonald. “If Simmons’ money passed through an illegal conduit, the 18 lawmakers who accepted it should return it or—better yet—give it to a deserving charity.”

Seeking to expand the volume of dangerous waste flowing into West Texas, Simmons is a huge political contributor. He’s the No. 2 individual donor to Rick Perry’s gubernatorial campaigns and a top donor to Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC, which leads the fight against corporate accountability in Texas. Simmons already has given a stunning \$14 million to GOP super PACs this cycle.¹

Federal regulators fined Simmons \$19,800 in 1990 for exceeding federal contribution limits. If WCS PAC violated state law, the Texas Ethics Commission could fine it up to three times the amount of its illegal contributions. •

WCS PAC Contributed \$65,000 To These Lawmakers in Late 2011

Amount	Lawmaker (Party)	District
\$10,000	Kelly Hancock (R)	H-91
\$10,000	Juan 'Chuy' Hinojosa (D)	S-20
\$10,000	Kelton G. Seliger (R)	S-31
\$5,000	Cindy G. Burkett (R)	H-101
\$5,000	Michael 'Tuffy' Hamilton (R)	H-19
\$2,500	Dennis H. Bonnen (R)	H-25
\$2,500	Byron Curtis Cook (R)	H-8
\$2,500	Myra E. Crownover (R)	H-64
\$2,500	Drew Darby (R)	H-72
\$2,500	Charles L. Geren (R)	H-99
\$2,500	Todd A. Hunter (R)	H-32
\$2,500	Sidney C. Miller (R)	H-59
\$2,500	Richard 'Wayne' Smith (R)	H-128
\$1,000	Daniel Branch (R)	H-108
\$1,000	Jessica Farrar (D)	H-148
\$1,000	John M. Frullo (R)	H-84
\$1,000	Patricia F. Harless (R)	H-126
\$1,000	Marc A. Veasey (D)	H-95

¹“In G.O.P. Race, a New Breed of Superdonor,” *New York Times*, February 22, 2012. “Billionaire Supports Just About Everyone,” *Wall Street Journal*, February 21, 2012.