



*For Immediate Release*

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## **BIG OIL IS DELIVERING FOR REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS, POURING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DONATIONS INTO THE GROUPS SUPPORTING REPUBLICAN RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.**

According to OpenSecrets, Big Oil companies have given the top [Republican SuperPACs](#) more than \$7 million this cycle. At the same time, some big oil companies have raised prices and laid off American workers.

**Trump Tax Cut Unlocks Millions for a Republican Election Blitz.** “Billionaires and corporations that reaped millions of dollars in tax cuts are pumping some of that windfall into the Congressional Leadership Fund, a “super PAC” closely aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan that is flooding the airwaves and front porches of swing congressional districts with increasingly sharp attacks on the Democratic candidates vying to wrest control of the House. ... The fund’s donors include ... **Valero Services, a Texas oil refining company that reported a \$1.9 billion benefit from tax cuts in the first quarter, and which has given \$1.5 million.** ... The heavy donors to the fund who stand to reap large benefits from the law’s business and personal tax breaks include the **oil giants Chevron and ConocoPhillips**, the investing mogul Charles Schwab, and Robert C. McNair, the owner of the Houston Texans of the National Football League.” [New York Times, [8/18/18](#)]

**Big money is flowing into the 2018 fight for the U.S. Senate.** “The only major corporate donation to the [Senate Leadership Fund] came from Conoco Phillips, which gave \$1 million.” [Washington Post, [7/20/18](#)]

**THAT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE. BIG OIL HAS ANNOUNCED MORE THAN \$30 BILLION IN STOCK BUYBACKS SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE #GOPTAXSCAM. THESE BUYBACKS OVERWHELMINGLY BENEFIT WEALTHY SHAREHOLDERS AND TOP EXECUTIVES.**

Corporation	Share Buyback Announced in 2018 (Millions)	Date
<a href="#">Conoco Phillips</a>	\$9,000	12-Jul
<a href="#">Marathon Petroleum</a>	\$5,000	30-Apr
<a href="#">Phillips 66</a>	\$3,300	14-Feb
<a href="#">Devon Energy</a>	\$3,000	18-Jun
<a href="#">Valero</a>	\$2,500	23-Jan
<a href="#">QEP Resources</a>	\$1,250	28-Feb
<a href="#">NRG</a>	\$1,000	1-Mar
<a href="#">Hess Corporation</a>	\$1,000	8-Mar
<a href="#">Devon Energy</a>	\$1,000	7-Mar
<a href="#">Anadarko Petroleum</a>	\$1,000	16-Jul
<a href="#">Noble Energy</a>	\$750	15-Feb
<a href="#">Cabot Oil &amp; Gas</a>	\$745	27-Jul
<a href="#">Cabot Oil &amp; Gas</a>	\$720	23-Feb
<a href="#">Peabody</a>	\$600	25-Apr
<a href="#">Anadarko Petroleum</a>	\$500	7-Feb
<a href="#">ConocoPhillips</a>	\$500	1-Feb
<a href="#">Delek US</a>	\$150	27-Feb
<b>TOTAL Corporate Buybacks Authorized in 2018 by Oil Companies</b>	<b>\$32.015 Billion</b>	

**DESPITE THE WINDFALL FROM THE #GOPTAXSCAM, BIG OIL IS LAYING OFF HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN WORKERS.**

**Houston Chronicle: ConocoPhillips prepares for more Houston job cuts.** “Houston oil producer ConocoPhillips said it's preparing for "modest" job cuts in Houston and throughout the United States during September to help keep costs down.” ... “ConocoPhillips has shrunk from a global workforce of 19,000 people four years ago to just more than 11,000 employees now. A few thousand jobs were eliminated during the recent oil bust, but many others transferred to other companies through asset sales. Locally, ConocoPhillips employs just more than 2,200 people in the Houston area, which is down from about 3,600 workers in 2014.” [Houston Chronicle, [8/10/18](#)]

**Reuters: Devon Energy will Lay Off 9 Percent of Staff to Boost Returns.** “Devon Energy Corp said on Tuesday it would lay off 300 workers, roughly 9 percent of staff, part of a plan to streamline operations and boost the shale oil producer’s sagging returns and stock price. The cuts will affect all areas of the company’s operations, not just its Oklahoma City headquarters. Staff will be let go ‘in the weeks ahead,’ Devon said in a statement. Devon, like many of its shale peers, has come under pressure from Wall Street in recent months to focus less on production and more on ways to boost

shareholder returns. The company's stock had, as of Tuesday's close, lost more than 20 percent of its value in the past year despite a jump in oil prices." [Reuters, [4/10/18](#)]

**Houston Chronicle: Hess Corp. to Cut 300 Jobs.** "The oil and gas company Hess Corp. said it will lay off about 300 employees or 13 percent of its workforce this year as it labors to sell assets, slim down operations and post its first quarterly profit since 2014." [Houston Chronicle, [1/16/18](#)]

**CNBC: Chesapeake Energy Lays Off 13% Of Workforce, About 400 Employees.** "Chesapeake Energy has announced it will lay off hundreds of employees as the debt-burdened natural gas driller continues to overhaul its business. In a letter to employees, Chesapeake said it will let go about 13 percent of its workforce, which stood at 3,247 people as of September. A company spokesperson confirmed the Oklahoma City-based company would trim back about 400 positions. The layoffs will occur primarily at Chesapeake's Oklahoma City campus." [CNBC, [1/30/18](#)]

**Houston Chronicle: Oil companies to reap windfall in tax cuts, but shareholders get the lion's share.** "Chevron reported a tax benefit of \$2 billion, but said it hasn't changed its plans to spend some \$8 billion this year and \$25 billion over the next three years. The company is not planning 'to make major changes to any compensation or benefits programs at this point.' Chevron spokesman Sean Comey said. Chevron raised its quarterly dividend from \$1.08 a share to \$1.12 a share, its largest increase in several years." [Houston Chronicle, [3/2/16](#)]

**MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT TRUMP'S POLICIES ARE RAISING PRICES AT THE PUMP. WHILE CORPORATE EXECUTIVES AND REPUBLICANS ARE CASHING IN ON THE #GOPTAXSCAM, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND.**

**John Kilduff, Founding Partner, Again Capital:** "I think what has raised prices 10 bucks a barrel is more the administration's policy about getting [Iran's] exports completely cut off to the rest of the world, which they seem intent on." [CNBC, [7/5/18](#)]

**Richard Nephew, Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy and Former State Department Employee:** "The only way this gets resolved is higher prices. That's simple math." [Washington Examiner, [7/7/18](#)]

**Guy Caruso, Head of the Energy Information Administration under President George W. Bush:** "'Bigger issues on price are the sanctions on Iran,' Caruso said. Taking 1 million barrels per day of Iranian crude oil off the market, which is what is likely to happen under Trump's sanctions regime, could have bigger effects on consumers' wallets, perhaps '5 or 10 cents on the gallon.'" [Washington Examiner, [7/24/18](#)]

**Ben Cook, Portfolio Manager at BP Capital Fund Advisors:** “You can't tweet about high oil prices and then apply sanctions on Iran and not expect prices to go higher,” said Ben Cook, portfolio manager at BP Capital Fund Advisors. “The oil has to come from somewhere.” [CNN Money, [6/28/18](#)]

**Bob McNally, President, Rapidan Energy Group:** “The Trump administration's stated desire to zero out Iranian exports creates a problem in terms of high pump prices for American consumers that Saudi Arabia cannot fix,” said McNally.” [CNN Money, [6/28/18](#)]

**Daan Struyven, Goldman Sachs Senior Economist:** “On the activity side, we estimate that higher oil prices are currently weighing on the quarterly annualized pace of GDP growth by 0.1pp, with a negative 0.25pp contribution from lower real consumption outweighing a positive 0.15pp contribution from higher energy capital spending. The estimated drag on consumption is significant because it should roughly cancel out the 2018 consumption boost from tax cuts and is particularly large on the lower end of the income distribution.” [Q&A on Oil Prices and the US Economy, 5/15/18]

**Michael Feroli, J.P. Morgan Economist:** “Looking ahead, the consumer now faces the added burden of higher gasoline prices.” [Reuters, [5/15/18](#)]

**Tom Kloza, Oil Price Information Service Global Head of Energy Analysis:** “The average family out there can expect to pay about \$200 more than they paid last driving season and about \$250 more than the 2016 driving season.” [NPR, [5/9/18](#)]

**Devin Gladden, AAA Spokesperson:** “If sanctions are reinstated, the U.S. could see potential impact on gas prices this summer, leading to the national average ranging between \$2.80 and \$3.00. Any immediate impact will be to crude oil prices, which will then trickle over to retail later this summer.” [Newsweek, [5/8/18](#)]

**Dan Eberhart, Canary LLC CEO:** “Withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal will support higher oil prices.” [CNN Money, [5/9/18](#)]

**Greg Sharenow, PIMCO Executive Vice President:** “The consumers are going to shoulder the bill.” ... “The U.S. economy will face headwinds from prices that will come as a natural result of this.” [Time, [5/8/18](#)]

**Gregory Daco, Oxford Economics Chief Economist:** “In an environment of increased global supply tightness, this will put further upward pressure on prices.” [LA Times, [5/8/18](#)]

**Gregory Daco, Oxford Economics Chief Economist:** “For the U.S. economy, a prolonged rise in oil prices could reverse part of the benefits from the fiscal stimulus,” ... “this could offset half of the fiscal boost in 2018.” [CBS News, [5/9/18](#)]

**John Kilduff, Again Capital Founding Partner:** “If Trump announces full sanctions on Iran, oil could jump \$5 to \$10, immediately, said John Kilduff of Again Capital. ‘Gasoline prices would spike right along with it,’ he said. ‘You’re talking \$4 gas.’” [CNBC, [5/8/18](#)]

**Patrick DeHaan, GasBuddy Head of Petroleum Analysis:** “The potential exists the national average could go over \$3 a gallon.” [CBS News, [5/9/18](#)]

**Patrick DeHaan, GasBuddy Head of Petroleum Analysis:** “Continuing the deal would be a surprise and could bring lower gas prices, while prices may move higher if the deal is killed,’ Patrick DeHann, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, told Yahoo Finance. ‘Language will be key – will tensions with Iran be escalated? The strength of the announcement in terms of tonality is what I believe will dictate how oil and gas prices react.’ In terms of numbers, DeHann estimates cooling tensions could lower prices by 10 cents a gallon and **escalating ones could push prices up by 25 cents a gallon overall.**” [Yahoo Finance, [5/8/18](#)]

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