

From: Coriell, Scott [Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:03 AM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: FW: Big oil spending at least \$114m per year to obstruct climate policy

FYI.

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From: **Dylan Tanner, InfluenceMap** <dylan.tanner@influencemap.org>
Date: Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 9:21 AM
Subject: Big oil spending at least \$114m per year to obstruct climate policy

Released today: new report by InfluenceMap on the obstructive spending of Big Oil.

Our new report on the obstructive spending of Big Oil was featured in an [article in Bloomberg](#) today at 12:00pm GMT: "Trying to Put a Price on Big Oil's 'Climate Obstruction' Efforts", with inputs from ExxonMobil and WSPA with a Yale University academic commenting on the methodology.

Press Release

April 7th 2016 - for immediate release

Exxon, Shell, oil trade bodies spending \$114m to obstruct climate policy

Despite the recent Paris agreement on global warming, the fossil fuel industry is still systematically trying to stall progress, and using shareholder funds to do so

Research suggests [ExxonMobil](#) spent \$27m and [Shell](#) \$22m to obstruct climate legislation in 2015, with the American Petroleum

Institute and two smaller trade associations spending a further \$74m[1] on behalf of the entire industry.

[The report](#) from London based non-profit [InfluenceMap](#) forensically analysed the amounts being spent by a representative sample of the most powerful entities in the global oil and gas industry, looking at a range of activities influencing policy makers and manipulating the public discourse on climate change, including spending on PR, social media and advertising.

Bill McKibben, Founder and Senior Advisor [350.org](#): "It's remarkably useful to see exactly how much Exxon and its brethren are still spending to bend the climate debate. There's a shamelessness here that hopefully will be harder to maintain in the full light of day."

The [American Petroleum Institute](#) is one of the most well funded and consistently climate-obstructive lobbying forces in the United States, with a total budget in excess of \$200m. The study estimates, through a forensic analysis of its IRS filings and careful study of its lobbying, PR, media and advertising activities, that \$65m of this is geared towards opposing ambitious climate policy. Its CEO Jack Gerard received annual compensation of just over \$14m in 2013[2], probably one of the world's highest paid lobbyists. In the run up to COP21 last year, he dismissed the Paris process as a "narrow political ideology"[3].

Peter Shumlin, Governor of the US State of Vermont: "We now know that Exxon knew about climate change impacts for decades, and kept the public in the dark while they lobbied to

prevent meaningful action. This report shows that while the world came together in Paris to embrace climate action in 2015, Exxon was doubling down with Big Tobacco tactics and obstruction. We cannot change this corporation by engaging with it, we must instead bring change from the outside by using economic pressure and divesting from Exxon."

A recent news release by Walden Asset Management[4] noted that so far in 2016 alone, fifteen shareholder resolutions have been filed by US investors with fossil fuel companies concerning engagement with policy, likely largely motivated by climate policy lobbying. Zevin Asset Management was among the investors filing these resolutions.

Sonia Kowal, President, Director of Socially Responsible

Investing, Zevin Asset Management: "As long-term investors in public equities, we are supporting and pressing for greater disclosure of how companies may be influencing critical areas of public policy and their use of corporate resources for this purpose both directly and through their trade associations. We are concerned that these influencing activities may not be aligned *with the long term health of our portfolio as a whole.*"

[1] The report found obstructive spending for three trade associations: the [API](#) (\$65m) the [WSPA](#) (\$6m) and the [APPEA](#) (\$3m). A portion of this trade association funding (\$9m) was attributed to Shell and ExxonMobil, which is included in their totals also.

[2] [API IRS Form 990, 2013](#)

[3] [API press release, April 2015](#)

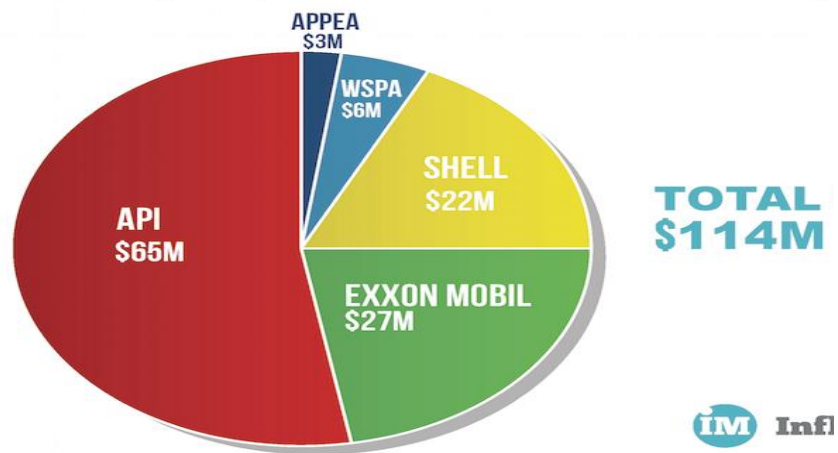
[4] Walden Asset Management [press release, January 2016](#)

- ENDS -

Download the report [here](#).

Media information, including testimonials, is [here](#).

How much big oil spends on obstructive climate lobby



*ExxonMobil and Shell contribute \$9m between them to the three trade associations and this figure has been taken away from the grand total spend.

Suggested Tweets:

How much is #bigoil spending to bend the #climate debate? New @InfluenceMap report examines industry: <http://bit.ly/2366k8K>

#Bigoil shelling out \$114m to obstruct climate policy, new report breaks down how: <http://bit.ly/2366k8K>

Despite #ParisAgreement, Exxon spent \$27m and Shell \$22m in 2015 to obstruct #climate policy according to new report

<http://bit.ly/2366k8K>

How much does #bigoil spend on obstructive #climate lobbying? \$114 per year according to new report by @InfluenceMap

<http://bit.ly/2366k8K>

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[InfluenceMap](#) is a neutral and independent UK-based non-profit whose remit is to map, analyze and score the extent to which corporations are influencing environmental policy. Our data is in use by CDP, ShareAction, the UN PRI and a range of investors concerned with corporate performance environmental, social and governance issues.



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