



Political Influence and the Chesapeake Bay

Efforts to clean up the Bay are being attacked by special interests with enormous political influence. The national agricultural and development industry groups that are working to derail a science-based pollution-reduction target (legally known as a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL) spend more than \$15 million a year on lobbying and political contributions, according to records on file with the U.S. House and Senate and Federal Election Commission.¹

Last year alone, the American Farm Bureau, the Fertilizer Institute, the National Pork Producers Council, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Chicken Council, the National Turkey Federation, and the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association paid a total of 119 lobbyists to work the halls of Congress and the federal government, spending a total of \$9,466,617 lobbying on a variety of subjects, according to forms on file with the U.S. House and Senate.²

On top of this, political action committees affiliated with these seven agricultural groups have spent \$11,554,872 on campaign contributions to candidates for federal office and related political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.³

These agricultural organizations are not only urging Congress to stop the pollution limits for the Chesapeake Bay, they also filed a federal lawsuit against EPA on April 4 that seeks to throw out the Bay pollution-reduction target. On June 27, this legal action was joined by the National Association of Home Builders, which is also asking the federal court to throw out the pollution-reduction target.

The National Association of Home Builders poured \$2,410,000 into lobbying the federal government last year, paying 33 lobbyists.⁴ Through its political action committee, called “BUILD PAC,” the home builders have doled out \$10,849,760 for campaign contributions and political activities at the federal level since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.⁵

Here are some numbers detailing the lobbying and political activities of these opponents of a clean Bay:

American Farm Bureau (including state subsidiaries)

- The American Farm Bureau reported \$5,584,814 in lobbying expenses in 2010, slightly more than the \$5,194,042

in 2009, according to lobbying reports on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.⁶

- The American Farm Bureau paid 48 lobbyists in 2010.⁷
- American Farm Bureau lobbyists opposed (among many other bills) the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act and the Clean Water Restoration Act.⁸
- The American Farm Bureau has numerous political action committees (PACs) linked to affiliated state Farm Bureau offices, which have spent a total of \$8,648,678 on campaign contributions and other political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.⁹

Fertilizer Institute

- The Fertilizer Institute reported \$1,485,254 in lobbying expenses in 2010, compared to \$1,351,466 in 2009, according to forms on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.¹⁰
- The Fertilizer Institute employed four lobbyists in 2010.¹¹
- Among other subjects, Fertilizer Institute lobbyists have fought important environmental legislation—including the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009. These lobbyists also supported legislation that would prohibit EPA from issuing any regulations to control greenhouse gas emissions.¹²
- The Fertilizer Institute also has a political action committee, called “Fert PAC,” that has distributed \$444,991 for political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.¹³

National Pork Producers Council

- The National Pork Producers Council reported \$1,126,549 in lobbying expenses in 2010, and \$1,305,811 in 2009, according to forms on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.¹⁴
- The National Pork Producers Council paid 31 lobbyists in 2010.¹⁵

- Among other bills, pork lobbyists fought the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009, and supported legislation that would prohibit the federal or state governments from issuing air pollution control permits for hog livestock businesses.¹⁶
- The National Pork Producers Council also has a political action committee, called “Pork PAC,” which has distributed \$728,966 for political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.¹⁷

National Corn Growers Association

- The National Corn Growers Association spent \$495,000 on lobbying in 2010, slightly more than the \$485,000 it spent in 2009, according to according to forms on file with clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.¹⁸
- The National Corn Growers Association paid 12 lobbyists in 2010.¹⁹
- The National Corn Growers Association opposed, among other bills, the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009 and the Clean Water Restoration Act.²⁰
- The National Corn Growers Association has a political action committee, called “Corn PAC,” that has distributed \$384,959 for political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.²¹

National Chicken Council

- The National Chicken Council spent \$595,000 on lobbying in 2010, almost four times the \$150,000 it spent in 2009, according to forms on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.²²
- The National Chicken Council paid 20 lobbyists in 2010.²³
- The National Chicken Council opposed, among other bills, the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009 and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.²⁴
- The National Chicken Council has a political action committee, the National Broiler Chicken Council PAC that has contributed \$841,336 for political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.²⁵

National Turkey Federation

- The National Turkey Federation spent \$140,000 on lobbying in 2010, less than half the \$320,000 it spent in 2009, according to forms on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.²⁶
- The National Turkey Federation paid three lobbyists in 2010.²⁷
- The National Turkey Federation opposed, among other bills, the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009 and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.²⁸
- The National Turkey Federation has a political action committee, called “TUR PAC,” that has distributed \$505,942 for political activities since 2005.²⁹

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

- The U.S. Poultry & Egg Association spent \$40,000 lobbying in 2010, and the same amount in 2009, according to according to forms on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.³⁰
- The U.S. Poultry & Egg Association paid one lobbyist in 2010.³¹
- Among other subjects, the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association lobbied EPA on its Chesapeake Bay strategy and the federal agency’s rules for Confined Animal Feeding Operations or “CAFOs.”³²

National Association of Homebuilders

- The National Association of Homebuilders spent \$2,410,000 lobbying at the federal level in 2010, and \$4,935,000 in 2009, according to forms on file with the clerks of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.³³
- The National Association of Homebuilders paid 33 lobbyists in 2010.³⁴
- The National Association of Homebuilders opposed, among other legislation, the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009, the Clean Water Protection Act, and the Clean Water Restoration Act.³⁵
- The National Association of Homebuilders has a political action committee, called “Build PAC,” that has distributed \$10,849,760 for federal campaign contributions and other political activities since 2005, according to the Federal Election Commission.³⁶ 🐦

Footnotes

- ¹ Federal lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000021832&year=2009. Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available online at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>. The political contributions are from affiliated Political Action Committees.
- ² Federal lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000021832&year=2009
- ³ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available online at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>
- ⁴ Federal lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000021832&year=2009
- ⁵ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available online at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>
- ⁶ Federal lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000021832&year=2009
Note: lobbying expenditure totals and numbers of lobbyists hired include both staff lobbyists and hired outside lobbyists.
- ⁷ Ibid
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Federal Election Commission records, which can be viewed online at <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>. The \$8,648,678 figure is a total of expenditures during the 2005-2006, 2007-2008, and 2009-2010 years by PACs affiliated with the Farm Bureau. The PACs accounted for here are The Political Action Committee of the Alabama Farmers Federation; AGPAC, the PAC of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation; California Farm Bureau Fund to Protect the Family Farm (Farm PAC); FEDPAC, the Florida Farm Bureau Federation PAC; FB PAC, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Political Action Committee; the Indiana Farm Bureau's "Elect PAC;" the Elect Farm Bureau Friends Fund of the Kansas Farm Bureau Voters Organization; the Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee; the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Political Action Committee; the Missouri Farm Bureau PACs; the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Political Action Committee; the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation AGPAC; Ohio Farm Bureau's "Agriculture for Good Government" PAC; the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation Federal PAC; the Texas Farm Bureau Friends of Agriculture Fund (AGFUND); the Washington State Farm Bureau PAC; and the West Virginia Farm PAC.
- ¹⁰ Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: <http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=271117A3-F9FC-40E2-A586-4AFE16BEA26F>
<http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=75114DC6-1AC7-4C4A-9BB3-6CB8C4972BC7>
<http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=367E7E23-5583-4157-B089-C0C4EFD34F00>
<http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=2048F603-65D4-429D-B990-B46AF86E3C64>
- ¹¹ Ibid. Note: lobbying expenditure totals and numbers of lobbyists hired include both staff lobbyists and hired outside lobbyists.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available online at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>
- ¹⁴ Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000000676&year=2010
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available online at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>
- ¹⁸ Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000027833&year=2009
- ¹⁹ Ibid
- ²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available online at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>

²² Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000000568&year=2010

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>

²⁶ Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/firm_reports.php?id=D000027897&year=2010

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign

contributions, available at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>

³⁰ Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000058089&year=2010

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Lobbying reports on file with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate and available online at: http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/client_reports.php?id=D000058089&year=2010 Note: lobbying expenditure totals and numbers of lobbyists hired include both staff lobbyists and hired outside lobbyists.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Federal Election Commission online database of campaign contributions, available at: <http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>

