



## EXXPOSING EXXONMOBIL'S AGENDA: KEEPING YOU ADDICTED TO OIL

Why has the U.S. done so little to address global warming and America's dependence on oil? Answers to that question consistently point to ExxonMobil. Using the playbook of the tobacco industry, ExxonMobil has waged a multi-million dollar disinformation campaign since the 1990s to deceive the public and the media about global warming. ExxonMobil is a rogue company even among its peers. Despite overwhelming evidence and agreement of 2,000 scientists with the world's foremost authority, the U.N. International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), ExxonMobil insists it will "stay the course" of denying the reality and urgency of global warming. Illustrated below are snapshots of ExxonMobil's efforts to keep America addicted to oil.

♣ ExxonMobil has spent \$16 million since 1998 funding over 40 front groups and institutes that seek to undermine the science on global warming and misinform the public.<sup>1</sup>

♣ The Bush administration has thanked ExxonMobil for its "active involvement" in crafting U.S. global warming policy, while noting that ExxonMobil is "among the companies most actively and prominently opposed to binding approaches to cut greenhouse gas emissions."<sup>2</sup>

♣ Internal documents reveal that ExxonMobil was the only oil company to meet with the State Department to discuss the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, the same year the U.S. withdrew from the international treaty.<sup>3</sup>

♣ ExxonMobil is the only oil giant still a member of Arctic Power, the single-issue lobby group trying to open the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. All the other major oil companies pulled out under pressure from the public and shareholders.<sup>4</sup>

♣ ExxonMobil is still fighting the \$4.5 billion court-ordered punitive damages awarded in 1994 to 33,000 commercial fishermen and others injured by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. So far 6,000 plaintiffs have died awaiting compensation.<sup>5</sup>

♣ ExxonMobil hired the White House's Philip Cooney, a former lobbyist for the American Petroleum Institute, one week after it was revealed that he was editing government reports to downplay global warming.<sup>6</sup>

### SO SAYS EXXON...

"At a minimum, there's an enormous amount of uncertainty around this whole question [of global warming]." -CEO Tillerson, 2006.

The U.S. should stop trying to become energy independent, which is both impossible and undesirable. - Sr. VP McGill

The "partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia is vitally important... Saudi Arabia is destined to play an important role in our energy future." - CEO Tillerson, 2006.

Global warming does not present an estimable financial risk to Exxon itself. - CEO Tillerson, 2006.

"I don't have any regrets." - CEO Tillerson in reference to the \$400 million retirement package given to former CEO Lee Raymond in Dec 2005.

♣ In a confidential memo, ExxonMobil requested that the Bush administration remove the respected Dr. Robert Watson as chair of the IPCC. Dr. Watson's second term appointment was then opposed by the White House. The same memo also asked that Harlan Watson (no relation) be added to the U.S. global warming team. Watson is now the State Department's senior climate negotiator.<sup>7</sup>

♣ ExxonMobil is responsible for an estimated five percent of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions causing global warming.<sup>8</sup>

♣ ExxonMobil consistently dismisses shareholders requests to reduce its global warming pollution. In 2005, 28.3% of shareholders, holding 1.5

billion shares or about 20.7% of ExxonMobil's total worth at the time, voted for such a resolution.<sup>9</sup>

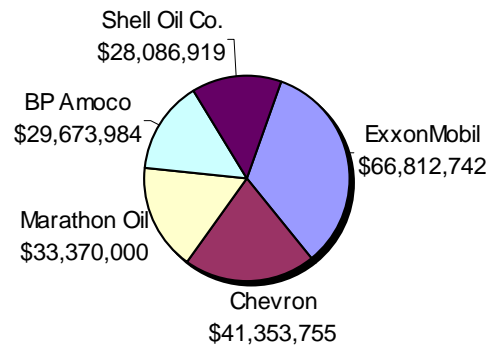
♣ ExxonMobil typically ranks among the top two biggest spenders on political candidates in the oil and gas industry. In the 2000 election cycle, Exxon increased its typical donations by roughly half a million to \$1.4 million, making second only to the Enron Corporation.<sup>10</sup>

♣ ExxonMobil is the industry leader when it comes to spending on in house and contract lobbyists. The company's lobbying expenditures account for roughly ten percent of the industry total.<sup>11</sup>

♣ Internal documents reveal that ExxonMobil was integral in the planning of a \$6 million public relations campaign by the American Petroleum Institute in 1998 explicitly designed to instill doubt in the minds of the public and policy makers around the science of global warming.<sup>12</sup>

♣ Exxon and Mobil were both prominent members of the Global Climate Coalition, an industry group aimed at blocking regulation of global warming. BP was the first to declare that global warming was a real threat and break from the group in 1997. Shell, Texaco, Ford and GM soon followed. ExxonMobil remained until the GCC disbanded in 2002.<sup>13</sup>

### Top Five Industry Spenders on Lobbying in millions of dollars, 1998-2005



Source: Center for Public Integrity

#### ExxposeExxon demands that ExxonMobil:

1. Stop opposing mandatory reductions of global warming pollution and stop funding front groups that confuse the science on global warming and delay crucial action.
2. Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency to save consumers money at the pump and help secure our energy future.
3. Pull out of Arctic Power, the single issue lobby group dedicated to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
4. Pay all of the punitive damages awarded to fishermen, Alaskan natives, and others injured by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

BOX: Jeffrey Ball, "Prototype of Texas Oilman," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 8, 2006; Page B1.

Reuters, "Exxon: America will always rely on foreign oil," Feb 7, 2006.

Speech by ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Washington, DC, May, 1 2006.

<http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/Newsroom>.

Elizabeth Souder, "Exxon Investors Voice Frustrations," *Dallas Morning News*, June 1, 2006.

Ibid.

<sup>1</sup> Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air: How ExxonMobil Uses Big Tobacco's Tactics to Manufacture Uncertainty on Climate Change, Union of Concerned Scientists, January 2007. Prior research by Greenpeace USA calculated \$19 million given to 70 organizations. Both are correct, depending on the criteria used. See also, Greenpeace Research Department, "Exxon contributions to Global Warming Backlash Front Groups" Exxon Secrets 2006 from [www.exxonsecrets.org](http://www.exxonsecrets.org), or see fact sheet at <http://www.exxposeexxon.com/facts/ExxonSecrets2006-1.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> John Vidal, "Revealed: how oil giant influenced Bush," *The Guardian* (UK), June 8, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> Greenpeace, Documents received from State Department pursuant to FOIA request, accessed June 30, 2006

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/kyoto-now/read-our-foia-documents>.

<sup>4</sup> Arctic Power, accessed July 5, 2005, <http://www.anwr.org/>.

<sup>5</sup> Exxon's legal footdragging on Valdez is well documented. For information see, <http://www.crsalmon.org/blockade.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Andrew Revkin, "Former Bush Aide Who Edited Reports Is Hired by Exxon," *The New York Times*, June 15, 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Memo from ExxonMobil lobbyist Randy Randol to John Howard, White House CEO, February 6, 2001, obtained by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Available at <http://www.nrdc.org/media/docs/020403.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Exxon's Climate Footprint: The Contribution of Exxonmobil to Climate Change Since 1882, Friends of the Earth International, January 2004, [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/exxons\\_climate\\_footprint.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/exxons_climate_footprint.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Vicki Wolf, "Unprecedented support for climate change resolution at ExxonMobil's 123rd Annual Meeting," Citizens League for Environmental Action Now, May 2005, <http://www.cleanhouston.org/business/features/xom05.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> Center for Responsive Politics, accessed August 20, 2006, <http://www.opensecrets.org>. Numbers based on ExxonMobil's PAC, soft money donations and employee contributions of \$200 or more as reported to the Federal Election Commission.

<sup>11</sup> Center for Public Integrity, Top five spenders from 1998 – 2004, accessed August 20, 2006,

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/lobby/profile.aspx?act=industries&in=74>. Data for 2005 obtained through U.S. Senate Office of Public Records, Lobby Filing Disclosure Program, accessed August 20, 2006, <http://sopr.senate.gov/>.

<sup>12</sup> Greenpeace, "Denial and Deception: A Chronicle of ExxonMobil's Efforts to Corrupt the Debate on Global Warming," May 2002.

[http://www.exxposeexxon.com/facts/reports\\_research.html](http://www.exxposeexxon.com/facts/reports_research.html).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.