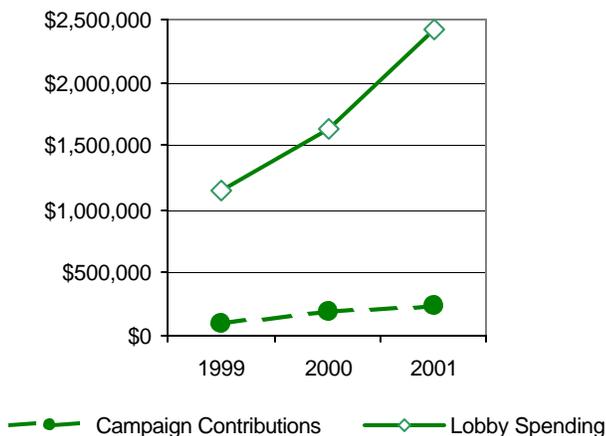


WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE & LOBBY REFORM?

**CONNECT THE DOTS:
THE POWER INDUSTRY
EXERTS ITS INFLUENCE**

In the last three years, political spending by the power industry in New York State has more than doubled. At the same time, a national debate about the threat of an energy crisis has made power a leading legislative issue in New York.

**Power Industry Spending in NYS:
Campaign Contributions and Lobbying**



INDUSTRY SPENDING ON THE RISE

From 1999 to the end of 2001, power companies spent a total of more than **five million dollars lobbying** New York State government, and **half a million dollars more on campaign contributions**.

TOP RECIPIENTS OF POWER'S CAMPAIGN CASH

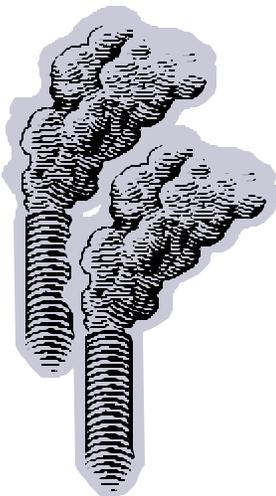
#1	Gov. Pataki.....	\$68,955
#2	Sen. Wright (Energy Chair).....	\$23,117
#3	Speaker Silver.....	\$12,930
#4	Sen. Bruno.....	\$9,000
#5	Assem. Tonko (Energy Chair).....	\$7,500

Spending patterns show that power companies direct their dollars at the Governor and legislative leaders, knowing that most of the power in Albany is in the hands of a few key people.

WHILE POWER COMPANIES BUY INFLUENCE AND ACCESS, NEW YORKERS WAIT FOR CLEAN AIR

New York has some of the most polluted air in the nation. Power plants built decades ago release dangerous pollutants that contribute to global warming, acid rain, smog, toxic rivers and lakes, and serious respiratory problems, including asthma. Newer power plants across the state prove that modern technology makes it possible to generate power without poisoning the air. But lawmakers in Albany have yet to set stringent emissions standards once and for all.

Since 1999, no less than half a dozen bills have been proposed to reduce power plant emissions, but none of them have made it out of the Legislature. Two major bills (A5577 and A5203) passed the Assembly only to die in Senate committees.



BECAUSE IT AFFECTS THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU

CONNECT THE DOTS: THE POWER INDUSTRY

WHY DO POWER COMPANIES SPEND HEAVILY IN NYS?

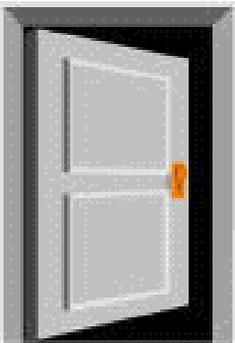
THE POWER OF THE DOLLAR

Since 1999, New York legislators have proposed a number of bills regarding power plant siting and emissions. Nearly all of these bills never made it out of committee for a vote, and those that did usually passed one house only to die in the other. However, there were a few notable exceptions: bills pushed by the power industry lobby fared quite well.

Of all the bills proposed to deal with power plant emissions and siting in 1999-2001, it was those favorable to the power industry that made it into law.

- ☑ **PASSED:** In 1999, A9039/S6143 changed the approval process for siting new power plants, without reducing emissions at existing plants, without allowing communities to meaningfully participate, and without requiring proper environmental review.
- ☑ **PASSED:** In 2001, A8952/S5443 provided for an expedited siting process, shortcutting the procedure for community and environmental review (although in order to qualify the siting proposal must reduce emissions at the facility in question).

What about other proposals to reduce emissions, to pressure power companies to close down their oldest and dirtiest plants, and to expand and improve the process of siting new plants? There were many, but none made it to the Governor's desk.



INSIDER ACCESS IS THE KEY: ALBANY'S REVOLVING DOOR

New York's lax ethics rules allow former top government staff and others with close ties to lawmakers to work as lobbyists for private industry, using their connections to attain a level of influence far greater than that of regular citizens. You could hardly find a better example than John O'Mara. The **former chairman of New York's Public Service Commission**, which oversees power plant siting and other energy issues for the state, Mr. O'Mara **now lobbies on behalf of energy giant Niagara Mohawk**. Gov. Pataki had appointed Mr. O'Mara to the PSC after he served on the Governor's campaign and transition teams. And even as he lobbies lawmakers, Mr. O'Mara still serves as the Governor's lead negotiator with Indian tribes and also chairs his advisory council on federal judgeships. No wonder he's been called "the ultimate insider."

Another prime example is Gavin Donohue, a lifelong Pataki friend and the Governor's former Assistant Secretary. The Governor appointed him to the **Department of Environmental Conservation** after he served as Gov. Pataki's Assistant Secretary. After a stint as Acting Commissioner, he left to **head the major lobby for the power industry**, the Independent Power Producers of New York (IPPNY). The previous executive director of IPPNY, Carol Murphy, left to head the government affairs division at New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), the non-profit organization that oversees the wholesale power market in New York State.

This fact sheet is part of a series called CONNECT THE DOTS, which aims to show how money in politics impacts on issues New Yorkers care about. For more information about Common Cause/NY's CONNECT THE DOTS coalition, call 1-800-300-8707.
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