

SPECIAL INTERESTS HAVE INVESTED HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Congress is currently considering the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement Act (COPE) – the first major piece of telecommunications legislation since the 1996 Telecom Act. Over the past decade, industry players have spent more than half a billion dollars (\$508 million) forging relationships with lawmakers through political donations and lobbying.

- Since the passage of the 1996 Telecom Act, just eight of the country's largest and most powerful media and telecommunications companies, their corporate parents and three of their trade groups, have spent more than \$500 million on political contributions and lobbying in Washington, according to a Common Cause analysis of federal records.
- Verizon Communications, SBC Communications Inc. (now AT&T), AOL Time Warner, General Electric Co./NBC, News Corp./Fox, Viacom Inc./CBS, Comcast Corp, Walt Disney Co./ABC, and the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable & Telecommunications Association and the United States Telecom Association together gave nearly \$48 million in federal political donations since 1997. Of that total, \$18.9 million went to Democrats and \$29.1 million went to Republicans.
- These eight companies and three trade associations also spent more than \$460 million on lobbying in Washington since 1998, when lobbying expenditures were first required to be disclosed.

Soft and PAC Money Donations From Select Telecommunications and Media Interests to the National Parties and Federal Candidates, 1997-2006

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Total</u>
AT&T/ SBC Communications	\$3,996,722	\$5,795,535	\$9,792,257
Verizon Communications	\$3,059,619	\$6,576,716	\$9,636,335
Time Warner/ AOL	\$2,961,365	\$2,820,277	\$5,781,642
General Electric Co	\$2,071,930	\$3,391,665	\$5,463,595
Walt Disney Co	\$2,364,058	\$1,710,713	\$4,074,771
Natl Cable and Telecom Assn	\$1,356,069	\$2,157,723	\$3,513,792
Natl Assn of Broadcasters	\$956,764	\$2,055,727	\$3,012,491
News Corp	\$495,157	\$1,740,357	\$2,235,514
Comcast Corp	\$734,600	\$990,325	\$1,724,925
Viacom Intl Inc	\$579,463	\$997,132	\$1,576,595
US Telecom Assn	\$344,714	\$841,009	\$1,185,723
	\$18,920,461	\$29,077,179	\$47,997,640

Source: Federal Elections Commission and the Center For Responsive Politics. Donations after 01/01/05 from latest available data on the Center For Responsive Politics website on 3/29/06.

Note: Soft money donations to national political parties include donations through 2002, when they were banned by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. Totals include donations from executives and/or affiliates.

Federal Lobbying Expenditures by Select Telecommunications and Media Interests, 1998-2005

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Electric/NBC	\$7,280,000	\$7,934,024	\$16,020,000	\$15,430,000	\$13,020,000	\$17,200,000	\$17,240,000	\$15,820,000	\$109,944,024
Verizon/Bell Atlantic	\$21,260,000	\$4,880,000	\$6,360,000	\$6,660,000	\$6,460,000	\$7,060,000	\$6,300,000	\$2,580,000	\$61,560,000
SBC	\$5,280,000	\$9,440,000	\$7,208,000	\$7,003,395	\$6,341,334	\$5,204,064	\$8,008,316	\$6,418,638	\$54,903,747
Natl Assn of Broadcasters	\$5,200,000	\$4,900,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,940,000	\$7,120,000	\$7,440,000	\$7,120,000	\$3,900,000	\$46,820,000
Natl Cable and Telecom Assn	\$4,800,000	\$3,160,000	\$5,920,000	\$6,040,000	\$4,220,000	\$5,040,000	\$7,350,000	\$7,080,000	\$43,610,000
US Telecom Assn	\$1,320,000	\$1,720,000	\$1,740,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,160,000	\$7,720,000	\$14,780,000	\$11,440,000	\$42,880,000
AOL/Time Warner	\$4,020,000	\$4,360,000	\$4,820,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,100,000	\$4,100,000	\$4,020,000	\$4,020,000	\$31,940,000
Disney/ABC	\$1,538,800	\$3,300,000	\$3,860,000	\$4,600,000	\$3,820,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,580,000	\$4,360,000	\$29,018,800
News America/FOX	\$1,460,000	\$1,180,000	\$1,740,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,560,000	\$2,840,000	\$2,680,000	\$1,400,000	\$16,160,000
Comcast	\$440,000	\$480,000	\$620,000	\$810,000	\$2,480,000	\$2,400,000	\$3,240,000	\$3,951,000	\$14,421,000
Viacom/CBS	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$9,050,000
Total	\$53,598,800	\$42,354,024	\$54,488,000	\$55,283,395	\$52,281,334	\$64,214,064	\$75,718,316	\$62,369,638	\$460,307,571

In italics: Complete data for the second half of 2005 not yet available on the Senate Office of Public Records website as of 4/12/2006.