

THE POLITICAL MONEY BEHIND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Common Cause Issue Brief
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INTRODUCTION

Trade deals have always been about money, but the massive spending by corporations that support the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) reveals their huge influence in the legislative process. As Congress considered “fast track” measures giving President Obama authority to approve the largest trade deal in history, a review of public records indicates the corporate alliance supporting the proposed TPP spent at least **\$658 million** on federal lobbying in 2014 and political action in the 2014 cycle. This does not count money donated to dark money political nonprofits.

Common Cause analyzed the 2014 political spending of members of the [U.S. Business Coalition for TPP](#), a group of over 150 corporations and trade associations pushing for the TPP, which includes the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), and Trade Promotion Authority (fast track). The coalition spending has also continued after the 2014 elections. The Guardian [previously reported](#) that members of this same coalition spent \$1.14 million on campaign contributions to US Senate campaigns between January and March 2015. The story is similar in the House of Representatives, as a MapLight [report](#) shows that representatives who voted Yes for TPA earlier this month received approximately \$230,000 more in campaign contributions over a two-year period from pro-TPA groups than those who voted No.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall, members of the U.S. Business Coalition for TPP spent at least \$658,798,883 on federal lobbying and campaigns in 2014.
- Coalition members spent about five-times more on federal lobbying (\$553.8 million) than they spent on political campaigns (\$104.9 million). This spending does not include money members of the U.S. Business Coalition for TPP gave to dark money political nonprofits that engage in electoral activity.
- The biggest spender within the U.S. Business Coalition for TPP was the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which spent over \$35.6 million on the 2014 federal elections and \$124 million on federal lobbying in 2014. The U.S. Chamber’s spending on the 2014 election represents 34% of all 2014 election spending from members of the U.S. Business Coalition for TPP.
- The totals here do not include the lobbying of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a state-level lobbying group that brings together state politicians and corporate representatives. ALEC claims that [86](#) members of the U.S. Congress are ALEC alumni, and has recently adopted a [model resolution](#) for state legislators to introduce in support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- Corporations that are members of the U.S Business Coalition for TPP members include:
 - **Fossil fuel companies:** Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, and Halliburton
 - **Technology companies:** Microsoft, Apple, IBM, eBay, Facebook, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, and Xerox
 - **Wall Street banking institutions:** Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs
 - **Pharmaceutical companies:** Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, and Johnson & Johnson
 - **Food and beverage industry corporations:** Kraft Foods, Coca-Cola, and Mars
 - **Entertainment and telecommunications companies:** Walt Disney Company, Time Warner, and Viacom/National Amusements
 - **Automobile and aircraft manufacturers:** General Motors, Honda North America, Toyota North America, and Boeing
 - **Large-scale retailers and consumer-based companies:** Walmart, Target, Nike, Protector & Gamble, General Electric, GAP, and JC Penny

DATA

Company/Trade Association	2014 Election Spending	2014 Lobbying Spending
3M Company	\$459,869.00	\$5,632,018.00
Abbott	\$1,967,079.00	\$2,200,000.00
ACE Group	N/A	\$320,000.00
Advanced Medical Technology Association	N/A	N/A
Aflac International	\$2,093,266.00	\$3,980,000.00
American Apparel & Footwear Association	\$71,824.00	\$780,842.00
American Automotive Policy Council	N/A	\$400,700.00
American Chemistry Council	\$2,801,066.00	\$11,364,703.00
American Council of Life Insurers	\$680,305.00	\$3,124,000.00
American Farm Bureau Federation	N/A	\$2,082,839.00
American Feed Industry	N/A	\$80,000.00
American Insurance Association	\$137,484.00	\$1,360,000.00
American Legislative Exchange Council	N/A	N/A
American Meat Institute	\$176,399.00	\$156,824.00
American Natural Soda Ash Corporation	N/A	N/A
American Soybean Association	\$376,351.00	\$440,000.00
Amway	\$106,200.00	\$440,000.00
APL/Neptune Orient Lines	\$33,250.00	\$387,500.00
Apple	N/A	\$4,110,000.00
Applied Materials	\$124,000.00	\$960,000.00
Archer Daniels Midland Company	\$358,584.00	\$1,650,000.00
Association American Forest & Paper Association	\$457,576.00	\$2,590,000.00
Association of Global Automakers	N/A	\$1,470,000.00
Biotechnology Industry Organization	\$288,262.00	\$8,280,000.00
Boeing	\$3,723,568.00	\$16,800,000.00
BSA – The Software Alliance	\$48,374.00	\$1,520,000.00
Business Roundtable	N/A	\$14,840,000.00
CA Technologies	\$19,285.00	\$620,000.00
Cargill	\$173,625.00	\$1,300,000.00
Caterpillar	\$1,430,418.00	\$6,050,000.00
Chevron	\$940,084.00	\$8,280,000.00
Chubb Corp.	\$366,231.00	\$3,351,472.00
Citigroup Inc	\$1,352,511.00	\$5,380,000.00
Coalition of Services Industries	N/A	\$63,452.00
Computing Technology Industry Association	\$5,000.00	\$1,162,623.00
Conoco Phillips	\$487,228.00	\$3,969,840.00
Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA)	\$613.00	\$191,820.00
Corn Refiners Association	\$7,750.00	\$40,000.00
Cotton Council International/National Cotton Council	\$576,007.00	\$40,000.00
Council of the Americas	N/A	N/A

Company/Trade Association	2014 Election Spending	2014 Lobbying Spending
Crop Life America	\$246,970.00	\$2,370,381.00
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	\$145,041.00	\$5,670,000.00
EBay	\$426,603.00	\$1,564,325.00
Emergency Committee for American Trade	N/A	\$1,247,250.00
Express Association of America	N/A	N/A
Exxon Mobil	\$1,931,230.00	\$12,650,000.00
Facebook	\$484,754.00	\$9,340,000.00
FedEx Express	\$2,849,992.00	\$13,414,536.00
Financial Services Forum	N/A	\$1,645,000.00
Fluor	\$842,462.00	\$1,362,427.00
FMC Corporation	\$131,635.00	\$1,320,000.00
Food Marketing Institute	\$200,000.00	\$327,849.00
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America	\$271.00	\$120,000.00
Gap, Inc.	\$14,500.00	N/A
General Electric	\$259,329.00	\$15,170,000.00
General Motors	\$1,776,674.00	\$8,510,000.00
Glanbia USA	\$5,200.00	\$150,000.00
GlaxoSmithKline	\$1,022,605.00	\$4,370,000.00
Goldman Sachs	\$1,576,156.00	\$3,460,000.00
Grocery Manufacturers Association	\$222,245.00	\$4,620,347.00
Halliburton	\$672,121.00	\$465,000.00
Hanesbrands	N/A	\$560,000.00
Herbalife	\$296,576.00	\$1,905,000.00
Hewlett-Packard	\$941,730.00	\$5,179,818.00
Honda North America	N/A	\$2,046,704.00
IBM	N/A	\$4,950,000.00
Idaho Potato Commission	N/A	N/A
IDS International	N/A	\$20,000.00
Information Technology Industry Council	\$34,500.00	\$1,080,000.00
Intel	\$1,022,047.00	\$4,802,000.00
Interactive Advertising Bureau	\$16,247.00	\$180,000.00
International Dairy Foods Association	\$269,509.00	\$750,000.00
International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)	N/A	N/A
J.C. Penney	\$95,504.00	\$460,000.00
John Deere	\$1,292,716.00	\$1,230,000.00
Johnson & Johnson	\$905,626.00	\$7,667,500.00
Kraft Foods	\$182,052.00	\$1,080,000.00
Levi Strauss & Co.	N/A	\$40,000.00
Lilly Louis Dreyfus Commodities	\$46,254.00	\$65,000.00
Mars	N/A	\$1,830,000.00
McGraw Hill Financial	\$295,896.00	\$1,070,000.00
Metlife	\$1,201,838.00	\$6,340,000.00
Microsoft	\$2,131,252.00	\$8,330,000.00

Company/Trade Association	2014 Election Spending	2014 Lobbying Spending
Mondelez International	\$87,000.00	\$860,000.00
Monsanto	\$985,111.00	\$4,120,000.00
Morgan Stanley	\$841,087.00	\$4,820,000.00
Motion Picture Association of America	\$75,033.00	\$1,340,000.00
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association	\$45,252.00	\$183,524.00
National Association of Manufacturers	\$2,959.00	\$3,900,000.00
National Cattlemen's Beef Association	\$886,600.00	\$353,281.00
National Center for APEC	N/A	N/A
National Confectioners Association	\$131,550.00	\$237,900.00
National Corn Growers Association	\$368,145.00	\$600,000.00
National Council of Wheat Growers	N/A	N/A
National Electrical Manufacturers Association	\$12,500.00	\$2,321,828.00
National Fisheries Institute	\$96,814.00	\$881,000.00
National Foreign Trade Council	N/A	\$407,000.00
National Milk Producers Federation	\$85,890.00	\$397,940.00
National Oilseed Processors Association	N/A	\$375,000.00
National Pork Producers Council	\$453,492.00	\$872,648.00
National Potato Council	\$114,635.00	\$240,000.00
National Retail Federation	\$359,224.00	\$3,250,000.00
National Turkey Federation	\$257,600.00	\$140,000.00
Nike	\$129,883.00	\$1,140,000.00
Northwest Horticultural Council	N/A	N/A
Novartis	\$657,561.00	\$6,540,000.00
Oracle	\$598,904.00	\$1,520,000.00
Outdoor Industry Association	\$36,926.00	\$360,000.00
Pet Food Institute	N/A	N/A
Pfizer	\$2,626,633.00	\$9,493,000.00
Philip Morris International	\$2,127,584.00	\$5,020,000.00
PhRMA	\$249,511.00	\$16,640,000.00
Plastics Industry Trade Association	N/A	N/A
PPG Industries	\$229,750.00	\$340,000.00
Procter & Gamble	\$365,300.00	\$5,409,275.00
Qualcomm Incorporated	\$434,206.00	\$5,610,000.00
Retail Industry Leaders Association	\$257,159.00	\$3,360,000.00
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association	\$840,108.00	\$7,430,000.00
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International	\$23,000.00	\$315,500.00
Software & Information Industry Association	N/A	\$1,240,000.00
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association	\$35,470.00	\$360,000.00
Sudbury International Sweeteners	N/A	N/A
Target Inc.	\$484,264.00	\$1,970,000.00
TechAmerica	N/A	N/A
Telecommunications Industry Association	\$1,067.00	\$280,000.00
The Coca Cola Company Inc	\$920,749.00	\$9,320,000.00

Company/Trade Association	2014 Election Spending	2014 Lobbying Spending
The Dow Chemical Company	\$1,056,552.00	\$14,430,000.00
The Entertainment Software Association	\$63,500.00	\$5,231,138.00
The National Chicken Council	\$328,361.00	\$640,000.00
The Walt Disney Company	\$374,750.00	\$3,510,000.00
Time Warner Inc.	\$415,048.00	\$3,341,000.00
Toyota North America	\$331,509.00	\$3,683,000.00
TUMI	N/A	N/A
U.S. Apple Association	\$29,250.00	\$30,000.00
U.S. Chamber of Commerce	\$35,695,168.00	\$124,080,000.00
U.S. Grains Council	N/A	N/A
U.S. New Zealand Council	N/A	N/A
U.S. Wheat Associates	N/A	N/A
United States Council for International Business	N/A	N/A
United Technologies Corporation	\$2,030,250.00	\$15,738,000.00
UPS	\$4,275,058.00	\$7,593,995.00
USA-ITA	N/A	N/A
US-ASEAN Business Council	N/A	N/A
Users Association	N/A	N/A
Viacom/National Amusements	\$935,521	\$8,030,000.00
Visa	\$252,211.00	\$4,290,000.00
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	\$3,376,057.00	\$7,000,000.00
Washington Council on International Trade	N/A	N/A
World Trade Center San Diego	N/A	N/A
Xerox	\$140,832.00	\$1,195,000.00
Zimmer	\$66,901.00	\$583,405.00
TOTAL	\$104,993,679.00	\$553,805,204.00
TOTAL FOR ELECTORAL & LOBYING SPENDING	\$658,798,883.00	

SOURCE: Using data from the Center for Responsive Politics (opensecrets.org), Common Cause analyzed members of the U.S. Business Coalition for TPP's federal PAC and independent expenditure spending during the 2014 election cycle, along with the coalition members' federal lobbying spending.



Common Cause is one of the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan citizen advocacy organizations, founded in 1970 by John Gardner. With offices in Washington, DC and 35 states, and 400,000 members and activists across the country, Common Cause is dedicated to restoring open, honest and accountable government that works for all Americans, not special interests.