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# New Report: Are Corporations Paying Congress to Rip off Taxpayers Again?

Will one billion dollars in lobbying and campaign cash influence the debate over tax repatriation? That's the question a new Public Campaign and USAction report asks. The report examines efforts by many of the nation's largest corporations to secure another "tax holiday" that would allow them to return hundreds of billions of dollars in profits from off-shore tax havens to the U.S. at a sharply lower tax rate.

"Fool Me Twice? Corporations Pay Congress To Rip Off Taxpayers *Again*," shows that 20 of the nation's largest corporations have spent more than \$1 billion on federal elections and lobbying since 2005, the year after Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law the last failed "tax holiday." Members of the deficit reduction "supercommittee" have received \$6.4 million in campaign contributions from the companies studied.

Other key facts:

- After the tax holiday passed in 2004, there was no significant investment in jobs at home. For every dollar repatriated, 92 cents flowed into the pockets of CEOs and shareholders through compensation packages and stock repurchases.

- The \$79 billion loss in tax revenue if a new tax holiday is passed could pay for 284,000 public safety workers, 290,000 teachers, 221,000 highway maintenance workers and one million health care workers. That's nearly two million jobs.
- The 20 companies analyzed in this report have spent \$1 billion on lobbying and campaign contributions since 2005. The bulk of this spending (\$901 million) has gone toward lobbying – that's \$365,638 each day, including weekends. Top spenders include General Electric (\$164 million) and Verizon (\$104 million).
- Through their PACs and executives, these companies have made \$110 million in federal campaign contributions since 2005. Top contributors at the corporate level include General Electric and Honeywell (giving \$13 million each).
- The 20 companies examined have directed \$6.4 million in campaign contributions to members of the supercommittee since 1989. Top recipients include Sen. Max Baucus, Rep. Jim Clyburn and Rep. Dave Camp.

“This tax holiday didn't work as advertised in 2004 and there's no reason to believe this time will be any different,” said David Donnelly, national campaigns director for Public Campaign. “The real question is whether the billion dollars these companies spent influencing Washington will get them up to a 14,600 percent return on investment.”

“The findings of USAction and Public Campaign paint a picture that is not dissimilar from what is heard emanating from the Occupy protests around the country,” said Alan Charney, USAction director of strategy and policy. “Namely, that the top one percent and the largest corporations have captured the political system to such an extent that the needs of everyday Americans have far too little resonance in Washington, D.C.”

"Congress should close the loophole that encourages companies to ship profits overseas in the first place, and invest that money into putting Americans to work, educating our kids, repairing our infrastructure and making our homes and offices energy efficient. it's time to put America back to work," said Phyllis Salowe - Kaye, Executive Director of New Jersey Citizen Action and Board Member of USAction that co-released the report.

The full report is available online at <http://njcitizenaction.org/foolmetwice.pdf>

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***Public Campaign*** is a national nonpartisan organization that fights to raise the voices of everyday people in our democracy through changing our campaign finance laws and through holding elected officials accountable. Learn more at [www.publiccampaign.org](http://www.publiccampaign.org).

**USAction** is a federation of 22 state affiliates that organize for a more just America. With our state partners, we build broad coalitions to win progressive campaigns that enrich people's lives. Learn more at <http://usaction.org>.

**New Jersey Citizen Action** is the State's largest, independent citizen watchdog coalition representing 100 affiliated and allied organizations and 60,000 family members. New Jersey Citizen Action works to improve the lives of all residents through organizing campaigns that promote economic and social justice. New Jersey Citizen Action is the NJ Affiliate of USAction that builds power by uniting people locally and nationally, on-the-ground and online, to win a more just and progressive America. Learn more at <http://njcitizenaction.org>.