



Ken Lay – An Especially Powerful Interest

As Chairman/CEO of Enron, the now-bankrupt former energy giant, Ken Lay made some powerful friends. These connections and his vast personal and corporate wealth enabled him to influence policies and elections all over the United States, often at the expense of the American people.

Facts

-- Since 1994, Lay contributed more than \$1 million to candidates and political committees. That's \$100,000 a year – roughly *three times* the average U.S. household income after taxes.

-- In 1994, Ken Lay didn't like his congressman, Craig Washington, because he opposed NAFTA. So, Lay recruited Sheila Jackson Lee to run against Washington in the Democratic primary, and along with his Enron buddies pumped \$24,000 into Lee's campaign. She trumped Washington, and Ken Lay had his own personal hand-picked NAFTA supporter in congress.

-- Lay didn't stop at the boundaries of his own district. At least 73% of his contributions from 1989 to 2002 went to candidates outside his district. These contributions worked. In all but one case in the 2000 elections, the candidate backed by Enron interests and their shady accounting firm Arthur Anderson was able to outspend their opponent and win the race.

-- In the 2000 election, George W. Bush received more than \$100,000 in campaign contributions that his longtime friend "Kenny-boy" Lay helped raise, enabling Bush to easily outspend John McCain in the Republican primary. In fact, Lay's company Enron and its employees gave Bush more than half a million dollars over his fairly brief political career, qualifying them as Bush's #1 career patron when he became President.