POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND THEIR SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

REPORT TO THE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR JAMES M. INHOFE
U.S. SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MAJORITY STAFF

SEPTEMBER 2004

POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND THEIR SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND THEIR SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

QUESTIONABLY NON-PARTISAN

Following the League of Conversation Voters' endorsement of Senator John Kerry for President, *The Hill*, a Capitol Hill publication, published an article featuring the financial connection between the League of Conservation Voters and Heinz family foundations. The article further featured the connections between the League of Conservation Voters and other well-known environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense and their financial links to Heinz family foundations as well.[1] *The Hill* article cited specific contributions such as a $56,000 contribution in 2003 to the Natural Resources Defense Council from a Heinz family foundation and three $200,000 contributions from two Heinz family foundations from 2001 to 2003 to Environmental Defense. The article revealed that Ms. Teresa Heinz Kerry is the chairperson or board member on each Heinz family foundation, and since 2000, the Heinz foundations have given nearly $1 million to the League of Conservation Voters, members of its board, and the groups those board members represent.[2]

Groups such as the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Environmental Defense represent themselves as organizations concerned about the protection of the environment.[3] They are all tax exempt Internal Revenue Service (IRS) registered 501(c)(3) organizations often associated with 501(c)(4), 527 political organizations, or other affiliated organizations.[4] However, as recently as September 27, 2004, the *Washington Post* published an article demonstrating that IRS designated 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 527 organizations are all engaged in political activity this election year with expenditures potentially designed to circumvent the prohibitions in the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, otherwise known as McCain-Feingold. The article quoted a former Federal Election Commission official stating,

"In the wake of the ban on party-raised soft money, evidence is mounting that

---

[1]Sam Dealey, "Conservation group under fire for Kerry endorsement,"*The Hill,* March 11, 2004, p.2.

[2]*Id.*

[3]*See,* http://www.lcvedfund.org, http://www.nrdc.org, and http://www.environmentaldefense.org.

[4]*See,* League of Conservation Voters' Ed Fund, IRS Form 990 filing for year ending 2003; Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., IRS Form 990 filing for year ending 2002; Environmental Defense, Inc., IRS Form 990 filing for year ending 2002.

money is slithering through on other routes as organizations maintain various accounts, tripping over each other, shifting money between 501(c)(3)'s, (c)(4)'s, and 527's.... It's big money, and the pendulum has swung too far in their direction."[5]

This Report for the Chairman provides preliminary examples describing five of the most widely politically active environmental groups with a description of their activity and the foundations that provide the financial support for those groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

League of Conservation Voters

Beginning with the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) provides an appropriate beginning because the LCV board of directors is comprised of various representatives from a number of other environmental groups. Among those sitting on either the LCV board of directors, LCV political advisory committee, or the LCV political committee are leaders in the following organizations:

- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Environmental Defense
- Sierra Club
- Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund
- The Wilderness Society
- Trust for Public Lands
- Defenders of Wildlife
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group
- National Wildlife Federation
- Environmental Working Group[6]

The LCV is an IRS registered 501(c)(4) organization affiliated with the LCV Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization. The LCV is also affiliated with a LCV political action committee, a section 527 organization, and another 501(c)(4) organization, the LCV Accountability Project.[7] The LCV describes its affiliates as the "LCV family of organizations"

---

[5]Thomas B. Edsall and James Grimaldi, "New Routes for Money to Sway Voters, 501(c) Groups Escape Disclosure Rules," *The Washington Post,* Sept. 27, 2004, p.A01.

[6]*See,* http://www.lcv.org

[7]League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, IRS Form 990 filing for year ending 2003.

and describes its work as "the political voice of the national environmental movement and the only organization devoted full-time to shaping a pro-environment Congress and White House."[8] Since 1996, a symbol of the political activity of the LCV has been the Dirty Dozen list it publishes each election year. The LCV represents that it has defeated 28 of 49 candidates targeted by its Dirty Dozen campaigns since 1996. Citing two examples from the 2000 election year, the LCV contends on its Web site,

> "How much impact can LCV campaigns make on national policy? In 2000, two of the most dangerous anti-environmentalists in the U.S. Senate -- Spencer Abraham of Michigan and Slade Gorton of Washington -- were defeated by less than 1% following major LCV campaigns. In a Congress closely divided on the environment, these LCV victories can make **all** the difference."[9]

Senators Abraham of Michigan and Slade Gorton of Washington were both Republicans running for reelection in 2000. In fact, in 1996, the LCV spent a total of $1.5 million dollars sending 254,000 direct mail pieces and airing 9,000 television and radio advertisements attempting to defeat its Dirty Dozen list of eleven Republican congressional candidates and one Democrat congressional candidate.

In 1998, the LCV Dirty Dozen list targeted twelve Republican congressional candidates and one Democrat congressional candidate for defeat spending a total of $2.3 million. The LCV spent in many cases over $200,000 per congressional race airing television and radio advertisements and sending direct mail pieces. In the Nevada Senate race, LCV aired a total of 661 individual television airings against the Republican candidate. LCV spent up to $420,000 in the Wisconsin Senate race against the Republican candidate.

In 2000, the LCV spent a total of $4 million again targeting eleven Republican congressional candidates and one Democrat congressional candidate on its Dirty Dozen list. The LCV spent up to $444,000 in the Washington Senate race, $520,000 in the Virginia Senate race, and $705,000 in the Michigan Senate race, all in an effort to defeat Republican candidates. However, the LCV also reported spending $52,000 to attempt to defeat Congressman Traficant of Ohio for re-election, the only Democrat on the LCV Dirty Dozen for 2000. Additionally, in May of 2000, the LCV endorsed Al Gore for President.

In 2002, the LCV again targeted eleven Republican congressional candidates and one Democrat congressional candidate with television and radio advertisements including a television advertisement in the South Dakota Senate race implying that the Republican candidate's environmental positions were bought by campaign contributions. The LCV sent thousands of direct mail pieces including 100,000 pieces mailed in the Georgia Senate race and 75,000 pieces

---

[8] http://www.lcv.org/About/Aboutmain.cfm

[9] *Id.*

sent in the New Hampshire Senate race both against Republican candidates. The LCV also joined other organizations and spent a total of $570,000 against the New Hampshire Republican Senate candidate.[10] However, the strongest effort seems to have been focused on the Colorado Senate contest. The LCV budgeted a total of $700,000 for this race against incumbent Republican Senator Wayne Allard. The LCV hired a campaign staff of twelve against Senator Allard to coordinate phone banks and precinct walks in addition to running television and radio advertisements that LCV claims reached sixty-seven percent of the state. Altogether, the LCV is reported to have spent $1,449,951 in independent expenditures during the 2002 election cycle. Of that total amount, LCV spent $1,313,041 benefitting Democrat candidates while only spending $136,910 for Republican candidates.[11]

Although the LCV has yet to release its completed Dirty Dozen list for the 2004 campaign year at the time of this report, it has released a Dirty Dozen list of eight Congressional candidates, seven Republicans and one Democrat. For the first time it has included the President and Vice President on its Dirty Dozen list. The LCV has endorsed forty-two candidates in Congressional elections in addition to endorsing Senator John Kerry for President. In fact, the LCV's endorsement of Senator Kerry is the earliest endorsement of a Presidential contender in the thirty-four year history of the LCV.[12] Of the forty-two candidates endorsed by the LCV at the time of this report, thirty-one are Democrat candidates, and ten Republican are candidates.[13]

As in previous election cycles, the LCV is active this year airing political advertisements already spending $100,000 to elect a Democrat candidate in a Kentucky congressional special election this year.[14] The LCV is also reported to have already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on Senator John Kerry's Presidential campaign including joining with Environment2004,

---

[10] Maeve Reston, "Shaheen Allies Fault Sununu US Senate Race In N.H. Heats Up," *Boston Globe,* October 17, 2002. p. B3.

[11] Audrey Hudson, "Greens Give Heaviest to Democrats; Less Than 10 Percent Went to Republicans in 2001-02," *The Washington Times,* July 3, 2003, p.A04.

[12] Miguel Llanos, "Democrats Seeking Presidency Reflect Varieties of Green," *MSNBC.com,* http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3890462/print/1/displaymode/1098. (visited January 26, 2004.

[13] *See,* http://www.lcv.org/Campaigns/CampaignsList.cfm for all campaign related information.

[14] Darren Samuelson, "Dems Contend KY Win Offers Boost Heading Toward November," *Environment and Energy Daily,* February 20, 2004.

a 527 political organization, purchasing air time in Florida and Washington, D.C.[15] At the time of this report, Environment2004 last reported to have raised over $600,000 in the 2004 election cycle. The LCV's 527 organization last reported to have raised over $3.3 million in the 2004 election cycle.[16]

However not all candidates appreciate LCV's help. The senior senator from South Dakota is reported to have specifically written LCV characterizing outside organization advertisements, like those aired by LCV, as "often too negative, too personal, and lack any real substance." He further requested that the LCV not air advertisements in the South Dakota Senate contest this year.[17]

Natural Resources Defense Council

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization affiliated with the NRDC Action Fund, a 501(c)(4) organization.[18] The NRDC is also affiliated with the Environmental Accountability Fund, a section 527 political organization.[19] The NRDC's mission statement is to "safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals and the natural systems on which all life depends;" additionally, the NRDC describes itself as "the nation's most effective environmental action organization."[20]

Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, the NRDC has compiled a "Bush Record" on its Web site characterizing the Bush Administration as, "in catering to industries that put America's health and natural heritage at risk, threatens to do more damage to our environmental protections than any other in U.S. history."[21]

---

[15]*See, Fox Special Report with Brit Hume* (FOX television broadcast transcript, August 10, 2004. Paul Flemming, "Ecology Ads Rip President," *The News-Press* (Fort Meyers, FL), May 18, 2004, p. 1B.

[16]*See,* Environment2004 and League of Conservation Voters 527, Internal Revenue Service Form 8872 for filing periods in 2003-04.

[17]Quoted from, Mark Wegner, "DSCC Starts Ads Hitting Coburn; Daschle to LCV: Stay Out," *CongressDailyAM* (http://nationaljournal.com/pubs/congressdaily) September 10, 2004, p.9.

[18]*See,* NRDC Internal Revenue Service Form 990 filings for year ending 2003.

[19]*See,* Tania Soussan, "Bashing Bush," *Albuquerque Journal* (New Mexico), July 15, 2004, p.1

[20]*See,* http://www.nrdc.org

[21]*See,* http://www.nrdc.org/bushrecord

The NRDC has a long history of political activity. As early as 1982, NRDC spent a record $2.5 million with other environmental organizations on congressional and gubernatorial races to "oust Reagan supporters."[22] The NRDC is also involved in this year's Presidential race joining with LCV and the Sierra Club to work against President Bush in the state of New Mexico which has been characterized as a "battleground state" this year. The *Albuquerque Journal* reports that NRDC has already aired television and radio advertisements against the Bush Administration's environmental record joining the LCV and Sierra Club working to hire their own campaign staffs against the Bush candidacy.[23] The NRDC's Environmental Accountability Fund, a 527 political organization, is sponsoring political advertisements against President Bush throughout New Mexico and other "battle ground states" including Florida, Arizona, and Nevada.[24] Overall, at the time of this report, this 527 organization has raised nearly $1 million in the 2004 election cycle.[25]

The NRDC 501(c)(3) organization, however, is also nationally politically involved joining earlier this year with Moveon.org, another section 527 political organization,[26] purchasing advertisements in the *New York Times* accusing the Bush Administration of weakening regulations on drinking water and air quality while soliciting contributions for the NRDC 501(c)(3) affiliate.

Sierra Club

The Sierra Club describes itself as "America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization." With a reported membership of 700,000, the Sierra Club is represented by a 501(c)(4) organization, a section 527 political organization, and the 501(c)(3) Sierra Club Foundation.[27] In a September 27, 2004 article on the interconnectedness of IRS designated 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 527 organizations this election year, the *Washington Post* featured the Sierra Club as the prime example of this web writing the following:

---

[22]Ronald A. Taylor, "Why Reagan Is On Griddle Over Environment," *U.S. News and World Report,* August 30, 1982, p.57.

[23] Tania Soussan, "Bush Has Activists Seeing Green," *Albuquerque Journal*, May 6, 2004, p. A1.

[24]"Ads in Spanish Attach the President on the Environment," *The Miami Herald,* August 23, 2004, Section B, p.3.

[25]*See,* Environmental Accountability Fund, Internal Revenue Service Form 8872 for filing periods 2003-04.

[26]*See,* http://www.moveon.org

[27]*See,* http://www.sierraclub.org and http://www.sierraclubvotes.org

"Perhaps no one better illustrates the host of interlocking roles than Carl Pope, one of the most influential operatives on the Democratic side in the 2004 election. As executive director of the Sierra Club, a major 501c (4) environmental lobby, Pope also controls the Sierra Club Voter Education Fund, a 527. The Voter Education Fund 527 has raised $3.4 million this election cycle, with $2.4 million of that amount coming from the Sierra Club. A third group, the Sierra Club PAC, has since 1980 given $3.9 million to Democratic candidates and $173,602 to GOP candidates.

These activities just touch the surface of Pope's political involvement. In 2002-03, Pope helped found two major 527 groups: America Votes, which has raised $1.9 million to coordinate the election activities of 32 liberal groups, and America Coming Together (ACT), which has a goal of raising more than $100 million to mobilize voters to cast ballots against Bush. Finally, Pope is treasurer of a new 501c (3) foundation, America's Families United, which reportedly has $15 million to distribute to voter mobilization groups.

'I am in this as deeply as I am,' Pope said, 'because I think this country is in real peril.'"[28]

The Sierra Club is consistently critical of the Bush Administration and it compiles a "Sierra Club RAW newsletter" featuring "The Uncooked Facts of the Bush Assault on the Environment" with regular criticisms of the Bush Administration environmental record and sometimes expanding its criticisms to other officials as well. For instance in its June 23, 2004 edition, the Sierra Club accused Senator Inhofe of attempting to raise "levels of mercury pollution" claiming the following: "But wait - there's more. The Bush administration's weak air proposals were not weak enough, it seems, for Senator James Inhofe, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Inhofe tried to raise the 'acceptable' levels of mercury pollution...."

Like NRDC's "Bush Record," the Sierra Club has its own "W Watch" where it features articles critical of the Bush Administration on environmental issues to judicial nominations.[29] Sierra Club affiliated organizations such as Earthjustice, which began as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, is also highly critical of the Bush Administration and is regularly engaged in legal actions against the federal government. In fact, in its most recent IRS filings, Earthjustice describes eighty-six legal actions on a variety of environmental related issues.[30] Earthjustice also publishes its own political information. It issued its "Paybacks" report shortly before the 2002

---

[28]Edsall and Grimaldi, *supra.*

[29]*See,* http://www.sierraclub.org/wwatch for complete listing of articles.

[30]*See,* Earthjustice, Internal Revenue Service Form 990 filing for year ending 2003.

elections that made such explicit claims as, "the Bush Administration is weakening environmental laws in particular to help those industries that paid to put it in office."[31]

Like other environmental groups, the Sierra Club has a history of involvement in political campaigns. In the 2000 Presidential contest, the Sierra Club spent several hundred thousand dollars in advertisements attacking Candidate George W. Bush's campaign throughout the country including what is reported as the largest expenditure of a third party on Spanish language advertisements.[32] In the 2002 election cycle, the Sierra Club is reported to have spent $265,772 in independent expenditures all for Democratic candidates and making no independent expenditures for Republican candidates.[33] Additionally, in the 2002 Senate races, the Sierra Club endorsed nineteen Democrat incumbents and challengers and endorsed no Republican candidates. In the 2002 races for the U.S. House of Representative, the Sierra Club endorsed one hundred sixty-five Democrat incumbents and challengers and endorsed ten Republican candidates.[34]

Like previous election years, the Sierra Club is heavily involved in the 2004 political cycle. The Sierra Club began spending early in the 2004 Presidential contest and is reported to have spent at least $350,000 as early as late 2003 in advertisements against President Bush throughout the country including in New Hampshire, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida, Nevada, and Nebraska.[35] The Sierra Club has made a series of endorsements in this year's political contests, and like LCV, the Sierra Club has endorsed Senator John Kerry for President. In Senate races, the Sierra Club has endorsed sixteen Democrat Senate incumbents and challengers and no Republican candidates. In races for the U.S. House of Representatives, the Sierra Club has endorsed one hundred fourteen Democrat incumbents and challengers and

---

[31]*See,* http://www.earthjustice.org/policy/admin/display.html?ID=22.

[32]Stephen Dinan, "Hispanic Outreach Seen Key to Presidency; Study cites 'Fateful' Decision by Gore," *The Washington Times,* February 10, 2003, p. A04. Other references published by Peter Yost, "E-mail Rips Gore on Environment," *Associated Press* article, (published May 30, 2000).

[33]Hudson, *supra.*

[34]*See,* http://www.sierraclub.org/politics/ for information on Sierra Club political endorsements.

[35]Craig Gilbert, "Dean Gallops Ahead in TV Ad Race; Presidential Hopeful Ran More and In More States Than Others, Report Says," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel,* December 4, 2003, p.01A. Other references published by Liz Sidoti, "Interest Group Ads Can't Name Candidates," *Associated Press Online* article, (published December 11, 2003).

has endorsed seven Republican candidates.[36] At the time of this report, the Sierra Club's 527 political organization claims to have raised over $6.8 million for the 2004 election cycle alone.[37]

Greenpeace

Greenpeace USA describes itself as "the leading independent campaigning organization that uses non-violent direct action and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and to promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future." It claims 250,000 members in the United States and 2.5 million members around the world.[38] Greenpeace USA is represented by Greenpeace, Inc., a section 501(c)(4) organization and the Greenpeace Fund Inc., a section 501(c)(3) organization.[39]

Greenpeace USA and its affiliate organizations through Greenpeace International have received attention for many years more through demonstrations than through political endorsements. Press reports that have described some of Greenpeace USA's demonstrations have included activists repelling down skyscrapers, occupying abandoned oil rigs, intervening in whale hunts with inflatable rafts, and illegally boarding ships while at sea, among other demonstrations that often result in arrests and criminal convictions for Greenpeace activists.[40] In fact, on Earth Day 2001, Greenpeace USA founder John Passacantado was arrested with the founder of the Rainforest Action Network for locking themselves to a gate during a protest blockading the entrance to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Although, Greenpeace may be better known for its demonstrations, its political views may be clear as it has characterized President Bush as the "toxic Texan," and hung a banner from a water tower near the President's ranch in Texas that read the same. Greenpeace has devoted much of its Web site toward criticism of the Bush Administration equating the Administration's

---

[36]*See,* http://www.sierraclub.org/politics/ for information on Sierra Club political endorsements.

[37]*See,* Sierra Club Voter Ed Fund, Internal Revenue Service Form 8872 for filing periods 2003-04.

[38]*See,* http://www.greenpeaceusa.org/

[39]*See,* Greenpeace Inc., and Greenpeace Fund, Internal Revenue Service Form 990 filings for year ending 2003.

[40]Beth Daley, "Strange Bedfellows Bush's Environmental Policies Spur A Greenpeace Revival," *The Boston Globe,* September 4, 2001, p.B1. *See also,* "Three Arrested After Logging Road is Blocked," *Los Angeles Times,* June 16, 2004 p.A18, and "U.S. Suit Against Greenpeace Dismissed," *Los Angeles Times,* May 20, 2004, p.A27 documenting criminal charges against the Greenpeace dismissed, however, criminal convictions of individual Greenpeace activists.

environmental and conservation policies to the "Texas chainsaw massacre."[41]

Environmental Defense

Environmental Defense describes itself as "fighting to protect human health, restore the oceans and ecosystems, and curb global warming."[42] Environmental Defense is represented by two organizations: Environmental Defense, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization and the Environmental Defense Action Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(4) organization.[43]

Environmental Defense represents its work in a number of issue campaigns for instance, increased air regulations, increased regulation of ocean industries, strengthening Endangered Species Act and adding additional listings, and reversing global warming. Environmental Defense is involved with various other environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club on many other "campaigns" as well. All "campaigns" are featured on its Web site or its Action!Network Web site.[44]

Environmental Defense is regularly associated with other politically involved environmental organizations as well such as NRDC, Greenpeace, and LCV, among others, and its board of directors not only includes the wife of the Democratic Presidential nominee but also includes former Clinton Administration officials involved in their own environmental organizations regularly critical of the Bush Administration.

FOUNDATIONS

The following are three of the foundations that regularly contribute to the five environmental organizations referenced in this report, among others.

Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) are comprised of seven separate trusts and reports it is an "independent non-profit" serving to "inform the public on key issues and trends, as a highly credible source of independent, non-partisan research and polling information and that its environmental priorities include global warming, protecting ocean life, and wilderness

---

[41] *See,* http://www.texaschainsawmassacre.org

[42] *See,* http://www.environmentaldefense.com

[43] *See,* Environmental Defense, Internal Revenue Service Form 990 filing for year ending 2003.

[44] *See,* http://actionnetwork.org/

protection."[45] In two of those priorities in particular, global warming and wilderness protection, Pew has joined and supported other organizations and campaigns.

In 1998, Pew created the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. The Pew Center reports, "the growing scientific consensus is that this warming is largely the result of emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activities including industrial processes, fossil fuel combustion, and changes in land use, such as deforestation."[46] Pew also sponsors the work of the Clear the Air Campaign with a $3.4 million grant in 1999, $4.3 million grant in 2000, nearly $5 million grant in 2001, and $4.7 million grant in 2003[47] with which it published its *Dirty Air, Dirty Power* report in June 2004 claiming, on the first page of the publication, that coal burning power plants "make people sick and shorten the lives of thousands each year" and further claiming that "President Bush has allowed polluters to re-write clean air rules."[48]

Concerning wilderness protection, Pew endorses the Heritage Forests Campaign also highly critical of the Bush Administration conservation policies, and, joining with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense, the Sierra Club, characterize the President's conservation policies as "Crazy George's National Forest Give-a-way, Every Tree Must Go."[49]

Since 1998, Pew has contributed several million dollars to various environmental organizations. These contributions have included nearly $18 million to Earthjustice, over $3 million to NRDC, and over $3.7 million to Environmental Defense. Pew has also contributed $32.6 million to the Tides Center and Foundation over the same period. The Tides organization has contributed over $1.4 million to the Sierra Club and affiliates, Greenpeace and affiliates, the NRDC, and the Environmental Working Group since 1998.[50]

Turner Foundation

The Turner Foundation describes itself as "a private, independent family foundation committed to preventing damage to the natural systems - water, air, and land - on which all life

---

[45] *See,* http://www.pewtrusts.com

[46] *See,* http://www.pewclimate.org

[47] *See,* http://www.pewtrusts.com

[48] Clean the Air Task Force, *Dirty Air Dirty Power* (June 2004) http://cta.policy.net.

[49] *See,* http://www.ourforests.org

[50] *See,* Internal Revenue Service From 990 and 990PF filings for years ending 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 for Tides Center and Tides Foundation.

depends." It was founded in 1990 by Ted Turner who is Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees. The Turner Foundation makes grants "in the areas of the environment and population." The Foundation is especially involved in the issues of global warming and overpopulation, and supports the work of its "special projects" which include the Partnership Project which is comprised of twenty national environmental groups. The Turner Foundation's other special projects include the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, the NARAL Foundation, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.[51]

Since 1998, the Turner Foundation has contributed over $6.4 million to the Partnership Project that is comprised of the League of Conversation Voters, Sierra Club, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Greenpeace among others.[52] Individually, the Turner Foundation has contributed more than $20 million to the LCV since 1998, over $2.6 million to the NRDC, over $1 million to the Sierra Club, nearly $2 million to the National Wildlife Federation, and nearly $2 million to Environmental Defense, Earthjustice, Greenpeace, and the Environmental Working Group.[53]

Heinz Foundations

The Heinz foundations are comprised of several different foundations, some established for specific purposes. Of the Heinz family affiliated foundations, the largest contributors to environmental organizations are the Howard Heinz Endowment, Vira I. Heinz Endowment, and Heinz Family Foundation.

Ms. Teresa Heinz Kerry is either chairperson of the board of trustees or member of the board of trustees on each foundation. Ms. Heinz Kerry is the head of the $1.2 billion Heinz Foundation endowment.[54] Since 1998, these foundations have contributed nearly $3 million to Environmental Defense, the Sierra Club, the LCV, and the NRDC.[55] Each foundation is also a large contributor to the Tides Center and Tides Foundation and affiliates contributing over $6

---

[51] *See,* http://www.turnerfoundation.org/about/index.asp

[52] *See,* http://www.saveourenvironment.org/action/ for full project membership.

[53] *See.* Turner Foundation, Internal Revenue Service From 990PF filings for years ending 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, and 1998.

[54] As referenced in several *Associated Press* articles.

[55] *See,* Internal Revenue Service Form 990PF filings for years ending 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 of the Heinz Family Foundation, Howard Heinz Endowment, and Vira I. Heinz Endowment.

million since 1998.[56] The Tides organization has in turn also contributed over $1.4 million to the Sierra Club and affiliates, Greenpeace and affiliates, the NRDC, and the Environmental Working Group over that same period.[57]

CONCLUSION

This report does not represent the totality of environmental groups engaged in political activity in this election year or prior election years. It does not even represent all the actions taken by the environmental groups that are highlighted in this report each election year. However, this report provides examples of some of the actions taken by these groups and clearly questions any claims these groups make concerning being "non-partisan." These groups have clearly established a record of partisanship and clearly demonstrated each election cycle that they simply have an agenda to work together against Republican candidates and work to elect Democrat candidates. Additionally, these groups are, in large part, annually financed by foundations consistently supporting those groups' partisan efforts and in some cases directly involved in partisan criticisms of the Bush Administration. Moreover, these groups' activities demonstrate the concern expressed in the *Washington Post* article regarding political money this election year - money "slithering through on other routes as organizations maintain various accounts, tripping over each other, shifting money between 501(c)(3)'s, (c)(4)'s, and 527's."

Today's environmental groups are simply political machines reporting millions in contributions and expenditures each year for the purpose of raising more money to pursue their agenda. Especially in this election year, the American voter should see these groups and their many affiliate organizations as they are - the newest insidious conspiracy of political action committees and perhaps the newest multi-million dollar manipulation of federal election laws.

---

[56] *Id.*

[57] *See,* Internal Revenue Service From 990 and 990PF filings for years ending 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 for Tides Center and Tides Foundation.