

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corporate Special Interests Dominate Congressman Kevin McCarthy's Campaign Contributions

Paso Robles, CA – John Uebersax, an independent write-in candidate opposing incumbent Kevin McCarthy in California's 22nd Congressional District, issued this statement today from his campaign headquarters.

The campaign contributions of Kevin McCarthy (U.S. Congressman in the 22nd District, which includes most of Bakersfield) paint a stark picture of a politician deeply beholden to special interests.

Politicians collect campaign donations -- we all know that. But people would be shocked to learn the full details of this corrupt system. Contributions by Political Action Committees (PACs) have taken over Washington. Regulations are minimal and loopholes abound. Today, when working citizens are reeling from economic worries and not watching closely, it's a free-for-all where big money gets its way.

Campaign contribution data are publicly available on the Federal Election Commission (FEC) website and the Center for Responsive Politics website, OpenSecrets.org.

The data there show that so far during the 2009-2010 fundraising cycle McCarthy has raised almost \$2 million in contributions to his campaign committee and more than another \$1 million to his leadership PAC. A leadership PAC is a separate pot of money politicians use to help other politicians (and not to be confused with the special interest PACs which fill the pot.)

Looking just at contributions to McCarthy's campaign committee, the top sources, according to the Center for Responsive Politics website, include Goldman Sachs, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Bank of America, Abbott Laboratories, AFLAC Inc, and the Altria Group.

Goldman Sachs is the most powerful (and by some accounts, the most insidious) financial and investment corporation in the country. Blue Cross/Blue Shield and AFLAC Inc are insurance companies. Abbott Laboratories is a pharmaceutical and medical supply company. The Altria Group is the parent company of Philip Morris -- one of the world's largest tobacco corporations.

Not only do corporations have completely different (and, all too often, opposite) agendas from working Americans, these are not even local corporations. Corporations don't make donations without expecting favors in return. If some important legislation pits the interests of one of these groups against those of Bakersfield citizens, with whom would McCarthy naturally side?

Today Congress works for corporations -- there's no mistaking that. The posturing and fighting between Democrats and Republicans is a shadow play to distract us, a

shell game. Behind the scenes the corporations, which finance both parties, are in charge.

What are corporate campaign contributions besides legal bribes? People need to wake up to this. The first step is to get informed. Visit the FEC or Center for Responsive Politics websites to see where elected officials are getting their money from.

Next we need major campaign finance reform. We'd should probably eliminate PAC contributions altogether. A simple and effective solution would be to limit how much candidates can spend campaigning in the first place. Even better would be to limit Congressmen to one or two terms.

Voters should know that they have an option this election. I haven't received any corporate campaign donations and never will. I'd be happy to serve one term in Congress, do the people's work, and come home. That's how it's supposed to work in a citizen democracy.

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