

America First Policies Institute's "America First Agenda Summit" Is Lined With Speakers Who Cater To Foreign Interests

SUMMARY: On July 26, Donald Trump is scheduled to return to Washington for the first time since the end of his presidency to [headline the America First Agenda Summit](#), an event hosted by the America First Policy Institute. Trump's speech [will close the summit](#), which hosts a variety of high-profile conservative speakers. Though the event is deemed an "America First" summit, several of the event's leading speakers have spent their careers catering to foreign business interests and foreign governments. The event's speakers list includes:

[Former Energy Secretary And Texas Governor Rick Perry](#): Rick Perry has spent much of his career catering to foreign business interests, between pushing for billion dollar deals between his company, Energy Transfer Partners, and Ukraine's state-owned energy company and pushing for investments from a Chinese firm that both the Bush and Obama Administrations deemed a potential cybersecurity threat.

[Former Small Business Administrator Linda McMahon](#): McMahon's family business, WWE, has repeatedly been criticized for promoting "propaganda" for the Saudi Arabian government.

[Former Attorney General of Florida Chair Pam Bondi](#): Bondi has worked for a lobbying firm where she was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to represent foreign interests

[Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry](#): Landry owned a contracting firm that brought in hundreds of foreign workers with potentially fraudulent visas and partnered with a labor broker who was convicted of visa fraud.

[Former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal](#): Jindal faced backlash during his time as Governor over a land deal with a foreign corporation.

[Former Secretary of The Interior David Bernhardt](#): As a long-time lobbyist for the firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Bernhardt has spent his career lobbying for foreign interests.

Rick Perry's Tenures As Energy Secretary, Governor, And Private Businessman Have Been Marked By His Foreign Business Interests

As Energy Secretary, Rick Perry Pushed Billion Dollar Deals Between His Old Company, Energy Transfer Partners, And Ukraine's State-Owned Energy Company...

Immediately Before Becoming Energy Secretary, Rick Perry Served On The Board Of Energy Transfer Partners. [EnergyTransfer.com, Accessed [7/21/22](#)]

As Energy Secretary, Perry Worked To Arrange Energy Deals Between U.S. Companies In Ukraine—including Two Deals That Seemed To Benefit Energy Transfer Partners.

“Alongside this political mission, Perry and his staff at the Energy Department worked to advance energy deals that were potentially worth billions of dollars to Perry’s friends and political donors, a six-month investigation by reporters from TIME, WNYC and ProPublica shows. Two of these deals seemed set to benefit Energy Transfer, the Texas company on whose board Perry served immediately before and after his stint in Washington.” [Time, [9/10/20](#)]

- **The Largest Of These Deals Was Estimated At \$20 Billion.** “The biggest was worth an estimated \$20 billion, according to U.S. and Ukrainian energy executives involved in negotiating them.” [Time, [9/10/20](#)]

As Energy Secretary, Perry Worked With Ukraine In An Apparent Attempt To Secure A Market For Energy Transfer Partners To Sell Liquefied Natural Gas. “To make this project succeed, Energy Transfer needed a major buyer for its gas, ideally a buyer that would commit to a long-term supply deal. By 2019, an opportunity like that had emerged in Ukraine. Perry wasn’t coy about his agenda in Ukraine. When he first visited Kyiv in November 2018, he told a gathering of businessmen about a complex way to get American gas to Europe. It would involve shipping the gas to Poland on giant tankers, then stashing it underground in Ukraine before selling it back, westward, into the European Union.” [Time, [9/10/20](#)]

The Deals Were Between Louisiana Natural Gas Exports, Which Sought To Obtain All Of Its Gas From Energy Transfer Partners. “More recently, Time.com and WNYC-ProPublica on Thursday reported that federal prosecutors had probed Perry’s efforts to broker a \$20 billion contract for a company called Louisiana Natural Gas Exports to deliver U.S. liquefied natural gas to Naftogaz. [...] Louisiana Natural Gas Exports did not own any assets or produce gas at the time it was seeking the contract, and instead sought to obtain the gas from a Houston-based company called Energy Transfer Partners. Perry served on the board of Energy Transfer before joining the Trump administration and returned to that role shortly after stepping down last year.” [Politico, [9/10/20](#)]

- **Louisiana Natural Gas Exports Did Not Own Natural Gas Fields And Had No Assets To Drill Or Export Natural Gas.** “In 1987, a jury in Louisiana found Miller guilty of corruption; his sentence was later overturned, and the government dropped the case against him after the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the relevant statute in an unrelated case. LNGE owns no gas fields, no pipelines, no tankers and no export terminal.” [Time, [9/10/20](#)]

...After Stepping Down As Energy Secretary Perry Returned To Energy Transfer Partners And His Associate Was Appointed To The Board Of Ukraine’s State-Owned Energy Company

Rick Perry Returned To The Board Of Directors Of Energy Transfer Partners After Leaving The Energy Department [EnergyTransfer.com, Accessed [7/21/22](#)]

Rick Perry Reportedly Pushed Ukraine's State-Owned Energy Company, Naftogaz, To Appoint Houston-Based Oil And Gas Executive Robert Bensch To Its Board Of Directors.

"The names that Perry floated for potential new board members included Robert Bensch, a Houston oil executive currently with Pelicourt LLC, as well as Michael Bleyzer, head of a private equity firm based in Houston, the source familiar with the board discussions said. Bensch, who advised DOE on technical matters involving Ukrainian energy, had not "formally" been offered a role on the board, said a person familiar with the matter who requested anonymity to discuss personnel issues." [Politico, [10/05/19](#)]

September 2020: Robert Bensch Was Set Join The Board Of Naftogaz. "The Ukraine state-owned natural gas company caught up in President Donald Trump's impeachment investigation has appointed a U.S. businessman pushed by former Energy Secretary Rick Perry to its board, two people with direct knowledge of the decision told POLITICO on Thursday. Houston-based oil and gas executive Robert Bensch is set join the board of Naftogaz, pending final paperwork, the two people said, adding that his appointment has drawn opposition from some other board members." [Politico, [9/10/20](#)]

Perry Acted As A Go Between For Trump And Ukrainian Officials As Trump Demanded They Investigate His Political Rivals

Donald Trump's Administration Reportedly Pressured Ukraine Into Investigating Joe Biden And His Son, Hunter. "As the House impeachment inquiry goes public, Energy Secretary Rick Perry has found himself squarely in the midst of the Ukraine scandal engulfing the Donald Trump presidency. The former Texas governor's name surfaces repeatedly in the hundreds of pages of testimony from State Department and administration officials released this week, showing his close proximity to a White House effort to pressure Ukraine into digging up dirt on Vice President Joe Biden and his son." [Dallas Morning News, [11/08/19](#)]

Perry Joined A Phone Call With Ukrainian Officials That Reportedly Conveyed Trump's Desire For Zelensky To Cooperate With The U.S. On "Investigations To Get To The Bottom Of Things." "Perry, Sondland, Volker and Taylor join a phone call with Zelensky. Taylor testified that before Zelensky joined the call, Sondland said that 'he wanted to make sure no one was transcribing or monitoring' the call. According to Taylor's testimony, Volker told participants before Zelensky came on the line that he planned to be 'explicit' with Zelensky during an upcoming meeting in Toronto about how to get a White House meeting with Trump. Taylor testified it was unclear what Volker meant by this, but Volker said on the call that 'rule of law, transparency' and 'cooperation on investigations to get to the bottom of things,' were things Trump wanted conveyed to Zelensky." [Dallas Morning News, [11/08/19](#)]

Perry Sat On A Call Between White House Staff And Ukrainian Officials Where His Fellow Staffers Allegedly Demanded That Ukrainians Deliver "Specific Investigations" In Order To Gain A Meeting With Trump. "Perry, Sondland and Volker join national security adviser John Bolton for a White House meeting with Oleksandr Danyliuk, head of Ukraine's national

security and defense council. There is much dispute about this meeting. Sondland demanded that Ukraine deliver “specific investigations” in order to secure an invitation to meet with Trump at the White House, according to testimony from Vindman and Fiona Hill, the N.S.C. adviser on Russia.” [Dallas Morning News, [11/08/19](#)]

As Governor Of Texas, Perry Pushed For Investments From A Chinese Firm That Both The Bush And Obama Administrations Deemed A Potential Cybersecurity Threat

As Governor Of Texas, Perry Pushed For Chinese Telecom Company Huawei To Open A Factory In Texas. “After a months-long courtship that included a trip to China, where he dined with the company’s chief executive, Perry announced that telecommunications firm Huawei Technologies would base its U.S. operations in Plano.” [Washington Post, [8/14/11](#)]

Both The Obama And Bush Administrations Had Deemed Huawei A Potential Cybersecurity Threat And The Federal Government Blocked Three Deals From 2008 To 2011 Between Huawei And U.S. Companies Over That Risk. “While Perry focused on Huawei’s ability to create jobs in a sluggish economy, national security experts in both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations had concluded that the global telecom giant poses a potential cyber-security risk to the U.S. military and businesses. Three times since 2008, a U.S. government security panel has blocked Huawei from acquiring or partnering with U.S. companies because of concerns that secrets could be leaked to China’s government or military.” [Washington Post, [8/14/11](#)]

Event Speaker Linda McMahon’s Family Business, WWE, Has Repeatedly Been Criticized For Promoting “Propaganda” For The Saudi Arabian Government

Linda McMahon Served As An Executive At The WWE, A Wrestling Company Owned By Her Family, And Held \$84 Million In WWE Stock Personally

Linda McMahon And Her Husband, Vince, Cofounded The \$1.5 Billion Dollar Wrestling Company WWE. “On Wednesday, Trump announced that he has selected former World Wrestling Entertainment C.E.O. Linda McMahon to head his Small Business Administration. McMahon is the wife of billionaire WWE promoter, Vincent McMahon, whose net worth FORBES estimates at \$1.16 billion. The couple cofounded WWE, which now has a market capitalization of \$1.5 billion, more than three decades ago.” [Forbes, [12/07/16](#)]

Linda McMahon Served As The C.E.O. Of WWE From 1997 To 2009. “She served as C.E.O. from 1997 until 2009, when she stepped down to pursue public office. Her unsuccessful U.S. Senate runs as a Republican in Connecticut in 2010 and 2012 cost the couple an estimated \$100 million.” [Forbes, [12/07/16](#)]

Linda McMahon Personally Held \$84 Million In WWE Stock As Of 2016. “According to WWE's most recent annual report, Linda McMahon personally owns \$84 million in WWE stock.” [Forbes, [12/07/16](#)]

As Of June 2022, Linda McMahon's Daughter, Stephanie, Serves As WWE's Current Interim C.E.O. And Chairwoman. “WWE issued a press release Friday morning announcing that Vince McMahon has stepped down as C.E.O. and Chairman of WWE while the company's Special Committee of the Board investigates alleged misconduct by McMahon and head of talent relations John Laurinaitis. Stephanie McMahon, who had taken a leave of absence that started in May, has been named C.E.O. and Chairwoman of WWE until the investigation has concluded.” [Westle View, [6/17/22](#)]

WWE Has Repeatedly Been Criticized For Hosting Shows That Promote The Saudi Government's Political Agenda

WWE Has Been Holding Matches In Saudi Arabia Since 2014. “WWE pro-wrestlers have punched, wrestled and body slammed their way to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for three days of matches in the capital, Riyadh. The line-up of 35 U.S. wrestles features WWE superstars John Cena and champion Randy Orton, state run-Saudi Press Agency reported.” [Alarabiya News, [4/17/14](#)]

The Nation, Headline: “Why Is WWE Creating Propaganda For Saudi Arabia?” [The Nation, [11/1/18](#)]

Amnesty International Criticized The WWE For “Sportswashing” Saudi Arabian Human Rights Abuse, Particularly The Detention And Torture Of Women's Rights Activists. “However, leading non-profit human rights organization Amnesty International says Thursday's fight is an attempt to “sportswash” Saudi Arabia's checkered human rights record, which includes the reported detention and torture of women's rights activists. “Sportswashing,” as defined by a recent Guardian article, refers to authoritarian regimes using major sporting events to manipulate how they are perceived by international communities and deflect from their human rights records.” [Newsweek, [10/31/19](#)]

- **Saudi Arabia's Explicit Courting Of Western Sports Leagues Has Raised Questions “About The Government's Relatively Sudden Interest In Sports And Whether It Could Be Construed As A Soft Power Tactic To Help Distract From The Kingdom's Ongoing Human Rights Abuses.”** “Saudi Arabia's strategic interest in sports and entertainment events dates back to November 2016 when crown prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the kingdom's General Sports Authority – the government body responsible for the development of sports in the kingdom – to set up a Sports Development Fund that bolstered sports activity in the country. [...] While Saudi Arabia's pivot towards a more liberal society is a welcome change for the conservative kingdom, it also raises important questions about the government's relatively sudden

interest in sports and whether it could be construed as a soft power tactic to help distract from the kingdom's ongoing human rights abuses and the Saudi-led coalition against Yemen – a war that killed thousands of Yemeni civilians and has left 14m people at risk of starvation.” [The Guardian, [9/202/19](#)]

In 2018, WWE Hosted A Match In Saudi Arabia That Pushed Anti-Iranian Sentiment And Celebrated “Saudi Arabia’s Progression For Cultural Diversity.” “Shawn waved an Iranian flag while Rome introduced the brothers as being “from Iran”—even though Ariya’s WWE.com profile correctly lists his hometown as Minneapolis. As soon as the brothers appeared on the entrance stage, there was audible tension in the crowd, which quickly boiled over into deafening boos. [...] After the Daivaris hit the ring, they trash talked the Saudi wrestlers about Iran being superior—with what was, in all honesty, pretty standard and benign verbiage—only to get bested by the local heroes in a quick confrontation. [...] began color commentator Corey Graves, ‘as we celebrate Saudi Arabia’s progression for cultural diversity and the Vision 2030 plan.’” [The Daily Beast, [5/03/18](#)]

While Linda McMahon Served As The Head Of The Small Business Administration, WWE Held A Show In Saudi Arabia A Month After The Country Assassinated American Journalist Jamal Khashoggi

Exactly One Month After The Saudi Arabian Government Assassinated American Journalist Jamal Khashoggi, The WWE Planned To Hold Its Second Match In The Country. “In the aftermath of the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi inside Saudi Arabia’s consulate in Istanbul, the reaction in the business community was swift: Several American businesses received pressure to stop doing business with the kingdom, and many pulled out of the country [...] This Friday, exactly one month after Khashoggi was killed, WWE will produce their second show in a partnership with the Saudis, WWE Crown Jewel in Riyadh. The first show, April’s Greatest Royal Rumble in Jeddah, is basically Exhibit A for the backlash against WWE.” [The Nation, [11/1/18](#)]

A Bipartisan Group Of Senators, Including Sen. Lindsey Graham (R – S.C.), Urged The WWE To Either Reconsider Its Relationship With Saudi Arabia In The Wake Of Khashoggi’s Assassination... “The news comes less than a month before WWE’s scheduled Crown Jewel show in Riyadh, and now multiple senators are urging WWE to reconsider its arrangement with the kingdom. I.J.R. received input from four senators, all of whom expressed varying levels of objection. [...] Republican Lindsay Graham of South Carolina and Delaware Democrat Chris Coons also urged WWE to examine its work with the oppressive regime.” [Sports Illustrated, [10/12/18](#)]

- **Sen. Bob Mendez (D – N.J.) Specifically Cited Linda McMahon’s Cabinet Position As An Issue With Holding The Event, Saying It Raised A “Grey Area” Of Endorsement By The U.S. Government.** “Private enterprise is private enterprise, different than a governmental entity,’ Menendez told IJR. ‘but because [Linda McMahon] is part of the president’s cabinet, it falls into the grey area where the administration really

should give it some thought and maybe even prevail upon them not doing it.” [Sports Illustrated, [10/12/18](#)]

... In The End, The WWE Decided To Go Through With The Saudi Arabian Event As A “Business Decision.” “WWE had faced criticism for continuing with their plans for the show in the wake of the global outcry regarding the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. [...] ‘But, at the end of the day, it is a business decision and, like a lot of other American companies, we decided that we’re going to move forward with the event and deliver Crown Jewel for all of our fans in Saudi Arabia and around the world.’” [Sky Sports, [1/11/18](#)]

The WWE’s Events In Saudi Arabia Have Reportedly Endangered And Discriminated Against Its Workers

The WWE Could Not Include Any Female Wresters In Their Saudi Arabian Shows From 2014 To 2019 Due To The Country’s Gender-Based Laws. “But the build-up to the spectacular show has been blighted in some quarters by criticism of WWE to allow the show to go ahead without the presence of any of its female talent. The company has been famed in recent years for the vast development of its women’s division – with the likes of Charlotte Flair and former U.F.C. Champion Ronda Rousey making headlines around the world for their performances. The event is to some, then, a stark contradiction to what WWE terms its ‘Women’s Evolution’ – not mention the company’s vast work in engaging with LGBT groups around the world.” [The Independent, [4/26/18](#)]

A Class Action Lawsuit Filed In 2020 Alleged That Saudi Arabia Was “Effectively Holding A Number Of WWE Wrestlers Hostage” In Retaliation For The WWE’s Decision To Delay Broadcasts Until Debts The Saudis Owed Were Paid. “WWE held the Crown Jewel live event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. After the event ended, shocking news reports surfaced claiming that the Saudi government was effectively holding a number of WWE wrestlers ‘hostage’ in retaliation for McMahon’s decision to delay a live broadcast of Crown Jewel until the Saudis made tens of millions of dollars in past due payments. Estimates for the amount outstanding ranged from \$60 million to as much as \$500 million. Several wrestlers detailed their experience during the ordeal on social media platforms.” [Forbes, [4/28/20](#)]

Former Attorney General of Florida And AFPI Chair Pam Bondi Worked For A Lobbying Firm Where She Was Paid Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars To Represent Foreign Interests

As A Lobbyist For Ballard Partners, Pam Bondi Was Paid \$115,000 A Month To Lobby On Behalf Of The Qatari Embassy And \$300,000 To Lobby On Behalf Of The Kuwaiti Company K.G.L. Investment

Bondi Worked at Lobbying Firm Ballard Partners In 2019. “Since then, Bondi has worked as a lobbyist for Ballard Partners, a Washington firm that has touted its influence inside the Trump

administration. Her U.S. clients have included General Motors, the commissioner of Major League Baseball and a Christian anti-human-trafficking advocacy group.” [Associated Press, [11/09/2019](#)]

Ballard Partners Was Paid \$115,000 A Month For Bondi And A Partner To Lobby On Behalf Of The Qatari Embassy. “Bondi signed on in July as a consultant to Qatar’s U.S. embassy, providing “support regarding Qatari relations with U.S. government officials, U.S. business entities and nongovernmental audiences, in dealing with matters pertaining to combating human trafficking,” according to Justice Department foreign agent filings. A contract amendment shows that her firm was paid \$115,000 a month for the work she and a second lobbyist performed for the Qatari embassy.” [Associated Press, [11/09/2019](#)]

Bondi Was Paid \$300,000 To Lobby On Behalf Of Controversial Kuwaiti Company K.G.L. Investment KSCC, Which Had Two Of Its Former Executives Imprisoned On Embezzlement Charges. “Bondi also represented the K.G.L. Investment Company KSCC, a Kuwaiti firm also known as KGLI. The firm has paid Ballard \$300,000 this year to lobby the White House, National Security Council, State Department and Congress on immigration policy, human rights and economic sanctions issues. The Kuwaiti company has been embroiled in a spate of legal disputes and court actions, including the imprisonment of two of its former executives in Kuwait on embezzlement charges.” [Associated Press, [11/09/2019](#)]

- **Bondi Lobbied “The White House, National Security Council, State Department And Congress On Immigration Policy, Human Rights And Economic Sanctions Issues” On Behalf Of KGLI.** [Associated Press, [11/09/2019](#)]

Bondi Also Represented Subsidiary Of An Italian Company, I.G.T. Global Solutions. “Bondi’s clients with foreign interests also included I.G.T. Global Solutions, a subsidiary of an Italian conglomerate that manufactures slot machines and specializes in gaming and lottery software and equipment.” [Associated Press, [11/09/2019](#)]

Louisiana Attorney General And Event Speaker Jeff Landry Owned A Contracting Firm That Brought In Hundreds Of Foreign Workers With Potentially Fraudulent Visas And Partnered With A Labor Broker Who Was Convicted Of Visa Fraud

Jeff Landry Reported Owning 100% Of Evergreen Contractors L.L.C., A Firm That Garnered Him As Much As \$255,000 In Income From 2015 To 2018

In A Financial Disclosure For Calendar Year 2019, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry Reported That He Held A 100% Interest In Evergreen Contractors, Based In Broussard, LA. [Jeff Landry Tier 1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement, Louisiana Board of Ethics, [05/14/20](#)]

Landry Created Evergreen Contractors In 2001 And Reported Making As Much As \$255,000 From The Firm From 2015 To 2018. “Evergreen Contractors L.L.C., a company Jeff Landry created in late 2011 during his first year as a U.S. congressman. Landry has listed himself as the firm’s sole owner since 2015. A longtime Landry business associate, Juan Castillo, signs paperwork as president or vice president. Benjamin Landry, Jeff Landry’s brother, has represented the firm in legal filings. In state ethics filings, Jeff Landry — who is paid \$110,000 a year as attorney general — says Evergreen made him a total of somewhere between \$125,000 and \$255,000 over four years, from 2015 to 2018.” [Nola, [02/14/20](#)]

Evergreen Contractors Illegally Operated Without A State License As It Furnished Foreign Workers Under Temporary Work Visas That Appeared To Have “False Assertions And Fudged Records”— Even As Landry “Railed Against Loose Borders And Lax Immigration Policies”

Evergreen Contractors L.L.C. Illegally Operated Without A State License And Potentially Pulled In Millions Of Dollars By Providing Foreign Workers With Temporary Work Visas For Louisiana Job Sites. “A company owned by state Attorney General Jeff Landry had far exceeded Louisiana’s \$50,000 work limit for contractors to operate legally without a state license when he finally applied for one, in June 2018. By then, the Landry-owned Evergreen Contractors L.L.C. had pulled in hundreds of thousands of dollars -- and possibly millions -- furnishing Mexican welders and pipefitters under temporary work visas for job sites in Calcasieu and Cameron parishes, records show.” [Nola.com, [02/29/20](#)]

- **As Of Late February 2020, It Was Unclear If State Or Federal Officials Were Investigating Evergreen Contractors, Despite “What Appear[ed]” To Be “Clear-Cut Violation[s] Of Law.”** “But despite what appears to be a clear-cut violation of law, it remains unclear whether state or federal authorities are investigating the matter. The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors can fine and punish firms for failing to obtain proper licenses, and it sanctions hundreds of firms each year. But Brad Hassert, the board’s director of compliance, declined to say whether Landry’s firm is under investigation, citing a board policy.” [Nola.com, [02/29/20](#)]
- **The Violation Was A Misdemeanor Under Louisiana Law, Punishable By Up To \$500 A Day Or Three Months In Jail.** “Operating without such a license when required is also a crime; state law regards it as a misdemeanor punishable by up to \$500 a day or three months in jail. Landry, the state’s top law enforcement officer, has not offered any explanation for why Evergreen didn’t have the required license.” [Nola.com, [02/29/20](#)]

Visa Documents Filed By Evergreen And Two Of Landry’s Other Firms Appeared To Have “False Assertions And Fudged Records.” “In addition to Evergreen’s lack of licenses, several submissions by that firm and two others owned by Landry and his brother to federal officials for

approval of those visas appear to include false assertions and fudged records, a recent investigation by the Times-Picayune and The Advocate found.” [Nola.com, [02/29/20](#)]

Landry Had “Railed Against Loose Borders And Lax Immigration Policies During His Four Years As The State’s” Attorney General. “Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, who has railed against loose borders and lax immigration policies during his four years as the state’s top lawman, went into business in 2017 with a Houston labor broker named Marco Pesquera, who had become rich by helping his clients defraud the immigration system to import more than 1,000 Mexican laborers to the Gulf South.” [Nola, [02/14/20](#)]

Evergreen Contractors Was Paid Millions For A “Massive” Liquid Natural Gas Project For Which It Brought In Hundreds Of Foreign Workers After It Partnered With A Labor Broker Who Later Faced A Three-Year Federal Sentence For Visa Fraud—Landry Did Not Dispute A Claim That He Hired No American Workers For This Project

Landry And His Brother Requested Federal Permission To “Bring In Hundreds Of Mexican Welders And Pipefitters To Work On Industrial Projects In Texas And Louisiana,” Including A “Massive” Liquid Natural Gas Project , After They Partnered With A Labor Broker Who Was Later Sentenced To Three Years In Federal Prison For Visa Fraud. “Landry and his brother, Benjamin, sought federal permission to bring in hundreds of Mexican welders and pipefitters to work on industrial projects in Texas and Louisiana — including the massive Cameron L.N.G. project in Hackberry — after partnering with Marco Pesquera, a Houston labor broker who’s now serving a three-year stint in federal prison for visa fraud.” [Nola, [03/07/20](#)]

Evergreen Contractors Was Paid “Millions Of Dollars” For Its Work On The Liquid Natural Gas Project—And Landry Did Not Dispute A Claim That No American Workers Were Hired For The Project, As Of March 7, 2020. “A company wholly owned by Jeff Landry, Evergreen Contractors L.L.C., was ultimately paid millions of dollars for work on the Cameron L.N.G. project. Pesquera said no American workers were hired on the project, a contention Landry and his spokespeople have carefully avoided addressing.” [Nola, [03/07/20](#)]

Two Other Firms—One Owned By Landry And Another By His Brother—Were Also Tied To The Scandal.

Two Other Firms, One Of Which Was Owned By Landry And Another By His Brother, Were Also Involved In The Scandal. “Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, who has railed against loose borders and lax immigration policies during his four years as the state’s top lawman, went into business in 2017 with a Houston labor broker named Marco Pesquera, who had become rich by helping his clients defraud the immigration system to import more than 1,000 Mexican laborers to the Gulf South. They set out to make millions by winning federal approval to bring in hundreds of skilled Mexican construction workers to help build a massive

liquefied natural gas terminal in Cameron Parish. The effort involved three firms with ties to the attorney general: two firms owned by Jeff Landry, and one owned by his brother, Benjamin Landry, and a business associate, documents and emails show.” [Nola, [02/14/20](#)]

- **Jeff Landry Has Listed Himself As The Sole Owner Of Prime Response L.L.C.** “Prime Response L.L.C., registered by Benjamin Landry in 2015. Jeff Landry listed himself as the sole owner in his state ethics filings from 2015 to 2017. The company is missing from his most recent disclosures, which cover 2018, but Secretary of State's Office records do not show any changes in status.” [Nola, [02/14/20](#)]
- **Jeff Landry’s Brother Benjamin Owns A Stake In And Has Signed Legal Filings On Behalf Of Southern Innovative Services L.L.C.** “Southern Innovative Services L.L.C., created in 2005 by Benjamin Landry and Luke Delahoussaye, who are frequent business partners. Delahoussaye lists himself as the company’s vice president. Benjamin Landry owns a stake and has signed legal filings on the firm’s behalf.” [Nola, [02/14/20](#)]

Former Louisiana Governor And AFPI Chair Bobby Jindal Faced Backlash During His Time As Governor Over A Land Deal With A Foreign Corporation

In 2012, Bobby Jindal Signed An Agreement To Grant A South African Petrochemical Company \$115 Million To Purchase Land And Facilities In Louisiana—Prompting Calls For An Attorney General Investigation

As Governor Of Louisiana, Bobby Jindal Signed An Agreement To Grant Sasol, A South Africa Petrochemical Company, A \$115 Million Grant To Purchase Land And Facilities In Louisiana. “The agreement, signed by Gov. Bobby Jindal in December 2012, included a \$115 million cash grant to Sasol to purchase land and facility infrastructure for its multibillion dollar plant expansion in Westlake. [...] Harden said the state’s \$115 million grant funded Sasol’s Voluntary Property Purchase Program. Sasol, a petrochemical company based in Johannesburg, South Africa, ran its property purchase program from August to December 2013.” [American Press, [12/23/14](#)]

A Law Firm Representing Local Residents, The NAACP, And Environmental Groups Called For An Attorney General Investigation As They Alleged Jindal Circumvented The State Constitution, Which Banned Expropriated Land Sales To Foreign Companies.

“Harden, whose firm is representing Mossville residents, said the agreement “circumvented” the state’s constitution by not identifying Sasol as a foreign corporation. She added that Louisiana’s constitution prohibits the sale of expropriated land to foreign companies. [...] Harden was joined by Wilma Subra, of The Subra Co.; Alfred Doucette, vice president of the Louisiana State NAACP District E; attorneys Joel Waltzer and Clay Garside of the law firm of Waltzer, Wiygul

and Garside; Dorothy Felix, president of Mossville Environmental Action Now; and retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore of the GreenARMY.” [American Press, [12/23/14](#)]

- **The Advocates Argued That Jindal Failed To Properly Classify Sasol As A Foreign Corporation To Facilitate The Land Deal.** “Harden, whose firm is representing Mossville residents, said the agreement “circumvented” the state’s constitution by not identifying Sasol as a foreign corporation. She added that Louisiana’s constitution prohibits the sale of expropriated land to foreign companies. [...] Harden was joined by Wilma Subra, of The Subra Co.; Alfred Doucette, vice president of the Louisiana State NAACP District E; attorneys Joel Waltzer and Clay Garside of the law firm of Waltzer, Wiygul and Garside; Dorothy Felix, president of Mossville Environmental Action Now; and retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore of the GreenARMY.” [American Press, [12/23/14](#)]

Former Secretary Of The Interior And Event Speaker David Bernhardt Has Spent His Career Lobbying For Foreign Interests

David Bernhardt Lobbied For Multiple Foreign Entities

After Serving As Secretary Of The Interior Under Donald Trump, Bernhardt Rejoined His Longtime Lobbying Firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck.. “David Bernhardt, the former Interior Secretary, is rejoining lobbying and law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, as senior counsel.” [The Hill, [5/3/21](#)]

- **Bernhardt Also Joined Mike Pence’s Group “Advancing American Freedom” After Leaving The Interior.** “Both Bernhardt and Wheeler are also among the Trump administration officials who have recently joined former Vice President Mike Pence’s conservative political group.” [The Hill, [5/3/21](#)]

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Reported The Highest Earnings Of Any Lobbying Firm So Far In 2022, With Over \$30 Million In Income In Just Over Half A Year. “Law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck said Wednesday it brought in more than \$15.2 million in lobbying revenue during the second quarter of this year, maintaining its earnings lead over top rival Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.” [Reuters, [7/20/22](#)]

While At The Interior, Bernhardt Was Described As A “Walking Conflict Of Interest” And Carried A Card Tracking His Numerous Conflicts

While Interior Deputy Secretary, David Bernhardt Carried A Card Tracking His Conflicts Of Interest Of 22 Former Lobbying Clients. “To keep track of his conflicts he carries a list the size of a credit card of 22 former clients still covered by his ethics recusal, including oil industry heavyweights like Halliburton Energy Services. Still, Bernhardt’s affiliation with his former firm has cropped up multiple times since he’s assumed office.” [Washington Post, [11/19/18](#)]

Bernhardt Has Been Described As A “Walking Conflict Of Interest.” “‘Bernhardt is a walking conflict of interest,’ said Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), a critic of DOI’s approach to California water issues. ‘The recusal was a sham, and the fact that they created this plan to spring into action on behalf of all their special interests after his one-year recusal expired doesn’t surprise anyone.’” [Washington Post, [11/19/18](#)]

Prior To Joining The Trump Administration, Bernhardt Lobbied On Behalf Of A Multinational Entity With Deep Ties To Russian Oligarchs

Bernhardt Was A Registered Lobbyist For Access Industries, A Company With Links To Russian Oligarchs. “Two senior Trump administration officials were once registered as lobbyists for an investment company controlled by a Soviet-born industrialist who made billions doing business with newly sanctioned Russian oligarchs. [...] David Bernhardt is the No. 2 official in Trump’s Department of the Interior.” [Vice, [4/13/18](#)]

Access Industries Is A Privately Held Multinational Industrial Group Controlled By Billionaire Leonard Blavatnik With Large Stakes In Russian Entities. “For over a decade, Blavatnik’s New York-based Access Industries has owned a big stake in U.C. Rusal, along with two of Russia’s most recognizable oligarchs: Oleg Deripaska and Viktor Vekselberg, a billionaire whom The New York Times has called “close to the Kremlin.”” [Vice, [4/13/18](#)]

Bernhardt Was Registered To Lobby For Access Industries In Order To Change The Taxation System Of Foreign Corporations. “Taxation of individually owned controlled foreign corporations under a territorial or modified territorial system” [ProPublica, Accessed [7/22/22](#)]

Bernhardt Has Lobbied For Multiple Canadian Corporations

Bernhardt Was A Registered Lobbyist For Hudbay, A Canadian Mining Company.

CLIENT

**Hudbay Minerals (fra Rosemont
Copper Company)**[MORE RECORDS](#)

IS REPRESENTED BY

LOBBYING FIRM

**BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER
SCHRECK, LLP**[MORE RECORDS](#)

Mine plan of operations, permitting, and hard rock mining policy

Duration: February 15, 2011 to present

General Issues: [Natural Resources](#)

Spending: about \$2,940,000 ([But it's complicated. Here's why.](#))

Agencies lobbied since 2011: U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, Executive Office of the President (EOP), White House Office, Army - Dept of (Corps of Engineers), Defense - Dept of (DOD), Interior - Dept of (DOI), Agriculture - Dept of (USDA), U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natl Economic Council (NEC), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Army - Dept of (Corps of Engineers), Agriculture - Dept of (USDA)

Related Foreign Entities: Augusta Resource Corporation (Denver, USA); contribution to lobbying: \$0; ownership 100%

Lobbyists

Lobbyists named here were listed on a filing related to this lobbying engagement. They may not be working on it now. Occasionally, a single lobbyist whose name is spelled two different ways on filings may be represented twice here.

Lobbyist	Covered positions?
Ryan Smith	Legislative Counsel - Senator Jon Kyl Legislative Counsel - Senator John Kyl
William McGrath	Staff Dir., House Oversight and Gov Reform Subcomm on Interior, Energy and Environment
Luke Johnson	SenPolicyAdv Sen Robert Bennett; Dep Dir of Policy&Programs BLM; Chf of Staff BLM; Chf of Cong/Leg Affrs Bur of Reclamation; LegAst Sen Robert Bennett; LegStaff Hs Nat Res Comm; LegAst Rep James Hansen; LegCorr Sen Robert Bennett; Intern Rep James Hansen
David Bernhardt	Commissioner for the U.S.-Int'l. Boundary Comm Solicitor of the Department of the Interior Deputy Solicitor, The Department of the Interior Dep. Chief of Staff & Counselor to Sec. of Interior Dir. Congressional & Legis Affrs & Couns. to Sec Special Asst. to Secretary of the Interior Legislative Director - Rep. Scott McInnis Legislative Asst.-Rep. Scott McInnis Commissioner for U.S.-Int'l. Boundary Comm Dir.-Congressional & Legis. Affrs & Couns.to Sec.

[ProPublica, Accessed [7/22/22](#)]

Bernhardt Was A Registered Lobbyist For Canadian National Railway Pursuant To “Merger Issues.”

Registrant Name: Brownstein Hyatt & Farber, P.C.

Client Name: Canadian National Railway Company

LOBBYING ACTIVITY. Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code RRR (one per page)

16. Specific Lobbying issues
Railroad merger issues

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted
Administration
House of Representatives
Senate ☐ Check if None

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area

Name	Covered Official Position (if applicable)	New
<u>Bernhardt, David L.</u>		<u>No</u>

[Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, Accessed [7/22/22](#)]

Bernhardt Was A Registered Lobbyist For The Investment Banking Subsidiary Of The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Registrant Name: Brownstein Hyatt & Farber, P.C.

Client Name: CIBC World Markets

LOBBYING ACTIVITY. Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code FIN (one per page)

16. Specific Lobbying issues

Issues relating to proposed revisions to SEC Rule 144 (A)

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted ☐ Check if None
House of Representatives
Securities & Exchange Commission
Senate

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area

Name	Covered Official Position (If applicable)	New
Bernhardt, David L.		No

[Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, Accessed [7/22/22](#)]

###