

## **Senator Steve Daines Stands With Greedy Big Oil CEOs Over Public Lands While American Taxpayers Pay The Price**

**SUMMARY:** Senator Steve Daines is leading the effort to undo popular rulemaking from the Biden Administration that would modernize the rates big oil companies pay to develop oil and gas on public lands and force them to post bonds that would cover cleanup costs for messes left behind when they're done drilling.

Senator Daines's opposition to a rule that would finally compensate taxpayers at a fair rate for the development of public minerals may be explained by Daine's record of funding his campaigns with money from the oil industry. In total, Daines has taken **\$1.2 million** from oil corporations.

Among the money Daines has taken from the oil industry is several thousand dollars from a PAC connected to Scott Sheffield, the big oil CEO who was recently caught trying to collude with OPEC to drive up oil prices, costing motorists more while increasing profits for wealthy big oil CEOs.

### **Steve Daines Is Siding With His Big Oil Donors– Including One Who Was Recently Caught Colluding With OPEC To Drive Prices Up On US Taxpayers.**

*Steve Daines Is Leading The Effort To Overturn The Biden Administration's Rule To Help Taxpayers Get A Fair Value On Public Lands Oil Production And Force Big Oil Companies To Clean Up The Messes They Leave On Public Lands*

**Steve Daines Is Leading A Group Of Politicians In Introducing A Measure To Overturn President Bidens's Onshore Oil And Gas Leasing Rule.** "U.S. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.) led a group of his Republican colleagues in introducing a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) recent Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process. This new rule would significantly raise royalties, rates, minimum bids, costs and bonding requirements for oil and gas producers on federal lands making it virtually impossible for small energy producers to continue to operate." [Steve Daines Press Release, [05/15/24](#)]

**Senator Steve Daines's Press Release Announcing His Measure To Overturn The Rule Included Statements From A Variety Of Big Oil Lobby Groups.** Steve Daines's release included statements from the American Petroleum Institute, The Western Energy Alliance, and The Independent Petroleum Association of America. [Steve Daines Press Release, [05/15/24](#)]

*Steve Daines Has Taken \$1.2 Million From The Oil Industry, Including Thousands From A PAC Tied To Scott Sheffield, The Big Oil Exec Who Just Got Caught Colluding With OPEC To Drive Up Prices.*

**Steve Daines Has Taken \$1,261,722 In Campaign Contributions From The Oil And Gas Industry.** [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [05/16/25](#)]

**Steve Daines Has Taken \$4,500 In Campaign Contributions From The Williams Companies.**

- The Williams Company PAC Gave Steve Daines \$1,000 On March 13, 2024. [FEC, [03/13/24](#)]
- The Williams Company PAC Gave Steve Daines \$2,500 On September 16, 2020. [FEC, [09/16/20](#)]
- The Williams Company PAC Gave Steve Daines \$1,000 On March 19, 2020. [FEC, [03/19/20](#)]

**The Williams Companies Is A Natural Gas Corporation Whose Board Includes Scott Sheffield, The Former CEO Of Pioneer Natural Resources.** [The Williams Companies, accessed [05/16/24](#)]

*Scott Sheffield Was Barred From Joining ExxonMobil's Board After The Federal Trade Commission Found He Had A "Plan" To "Get OPEC To Cut Production," Passing Higher Prices On To American Consumers.*

**The FTC Found That Scott Sheffield, Pioneer's Founder, Past CEO, And Board Member "Colluded With OPEC" To Raise Crude Oil Prices.** "The FTC said Thursday that Scott Sheffield, who founded Pioneer in 1997, colluded with OPEC and OPEC+ to potentially raise crude oil prices. Sheffield retired from the company in 2016, but he returned as president and CEO in 2019, served as CEO from 2021 to 2023, and continues to serve on the board. Since Jan. 1, he has served as special adviser to the company's chief executive." [Associated Press, [05/02/24](#)]

**FTC Found In Scott Sheffield's Text Messages That He Had A "Plan" To "Get OPEC To Cut Production."** "Sheffield, for example, exchanged hundreds of text messages with OPEC representatives and officials discussing crude oil market dynamics, pricing and output. In discussing his efforts to coordinate with Texas producers under a production cut mandated by the Railroad Commission of Texas, Sheffield said, 'If Texas leads the way, maybe we can get OPEC to cut production. Maybe Saudi and Russia will follow. That was our plan,' he said, adding: 'I was using the tactics of OPEC+ to get a bigger OPEC+ done.'" [Federal Trade Commission, [05/02/24](#)]

- **FTC Found That Sheffield Joining Exxon's Board Would "Harm Competition" And That Increased Prices Would Be "Passed On To Americans."** "As part of its proposed acquisition of Pioneer, Exxon agreed to 'take all necessary actions to cause Scott D. Sheffield ... to be appointed to the board of directors' of Exxon ('Appointment Clause') after the Proposed Acquisition closes. By giving Mr. Sheffield a larger platform from which to pursue his anticompetitive schemes – as well as decision-making input and access to competitively sensitive information of Exxon – the Proposed Acquisition violates Section 7 of the Clayton Act because it would meaningfully increase the likelihood of 2 coordination, and thereby harm competition, in the market for development, production, and sale of crude oil. Increases in crude oil prices are passed

on to Americans through higher gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and jet fuel prices.” [FTC Complaint, accessed [05/06/24](#)]