

## **Longtime Oil Industry “Favorite” Steve Scalise Takes Campaign Contributions From The Big Oil CEO Who “Colluded With OPEC” To Drive Up Prices For American Consumers**

**SUMMARY:** Majority Leader Steve Scalise has long been a “favorite” of the industry, and “[one of the biggest recipients of campaign cash from the oil industry](#).” In total, Scalise has taken nearly \$2.5 million from the oil industry.

Among the more recent of those contributions is forty thousand from a PAC associated with Scott Sheffield, the big oil CEO under fire for “colluding with OPEC” to drive up prices for US consumers

### **BACKGROUND**

As a part of a deal to acquire the oil company Pioneer Natural Resources, ExxonMobil agreed to put that company’s founder and long-time CEO Scott Sheffield on the ExxonMobil board of directors.

While the acquisition is complete, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has [stopped](#) one condition of deal; adding Pioneer’s founder and long-time CEO Scott Sheffield to Exxon’s board. In a complaint, the FTC said that text messages show Sheffield had “colluded with OPEC” in a plan to drive up oil prices and hurt US consumers. Sheffield’s appointment would also be “anticompetitive” because he sits on boards of other companies that compete with ExxonMobil.

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

*Steve Scalise Has Taken Thousands From A PAC Tied To Scott Sheffield, The Big Oil Exec Who Just Got Caught Colluding With OPEC To Drive Up Prices.*

**Steve Scalise’s Leadership Fund Took \$40,000 From The Williams Companies PAC In January 23, 2023. [Federal Election Commission, [01/023/23](#)]**

- **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](#)]

**Additionally, Scalise Takes \$5 From Sheffield Personally Every Month.**

- Steve Scalise Took \$5 From Scott Sheffield On March 10, 2024. [FEC, [03/10/24](#)]
- Steve Scalise Took \$5 From Scott Sheffield On February 10, 2024. [FEC, [02/10/24](#)]
- Steve Scalise Took \$5 From Scott Sheffield On January 10, 2024. [FEC, [01/10/24](#)]
- Steve Scalise Took \$5 From Scott Sheffield On December 10, 2023. [FEC, [12/10/23](#)]
- Steve Scalise Took \$5 From Scott Sheffield On November 10, 2023. [FEC, [11/10/23](#)]
- Steve Scalise Took \$5 From Scott Sheffield On October 10, 2023. [FEC, [11/10/23](#)]

**In Total, Steve Scalise Has Taken \$2,464,332 From The Oil Industry During His Career.**  
[Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [05/23/24](#)]

*Big Oil CEO 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, [05/02/240](#)]

**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 Sheffielded 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](#)]

**Representative Steve Scalise Is A Critic Of President Biden's Energy Policy And Regularly Calls On The President To "End His War On American Energy" And "Unleash" Oil & Gas Production**

**Representative Scalise Said President Biden's Federal Lands Leasing Policy Was "An Assault On American Energy" And Responsible For Weakening National Security.** "Biden banned new oil/ gas leases on federal land & water. He's waging an assault on American energy. The outcome: USA Jobs/Production shipped to China, the Middle East & Russia, Weaker national security, Higher household energy costs. This will crush workers & families." [Twitter, [@SteveScalise](#), posted [1/27/2021](#)]

**Representative Scalise Claimed President Biden Refused To "End His War On American Energy" And To Ignore White House Attempts To "Spin" The Energy Crisis Differently.** "Let's be clear: Gas prices don't have to be this high. But Joe Biden refuses to end his war on American energy production so we can fully utilize our own resources. Don't let the White House spin it differently." [Twitter, [@SteveScalise](#), posted [3/16/2022](#)]

- **Representative Scalise Called On President Biden To Open The Strategic Petroleum Reserve And Areas "Closed By President Biden To Leasing" To Replace Russian Imports.** "There is no reason that Putin should be pocketing hundreds-of-millions of dollars per day by selling oil to America in the United States when we can cut that off right now by opening up our reserves, opening up areas that have been closed by President Biden to leasing so that Putin does not have that leverage over America or Europe to finance this brutal invasion." [Twitter, [@SteveScalise](#), posted [3/16/2022](#)]

**Representative Scalise Blamed The Federal Permitting Process For "Sky High" Gas And Home Heating Prices And Claimed It Was The Result Of A Biden Admin That "Doesn't Actually Care About Your Suffering."** "Biden is currently sitting on more than 4,400 pending applications for permits to drill while your gas prices and home heating costs are sky high. Let that sink in. This administration doesn't actually care about your suffering." [Twitter, [@SteveScalise](#), posted [10/19/2022](#)]

**Representative Scalise Said Democrats Reluctance To "Unleash American Energy" Meant They Wanted To "Ban All Drilling," "Beg OPEC For Money," And "Force You To Drive An Electric Car."** "Democrats want to: Ban all drilling, Shut down coal plants, Beg OPEC for oil, Control your thermostat, Force you to drive an electric car. Republicans want to: Unleash American energy production so we can have cheap, reliable energy again. Stark contrast." [Twitter, [@SteveScalise](#), posted [11/8/2022](#)]

- **Representative Scalise Said The Biden Administration Planned To End Oil & Gas Drilling In The US And Persistently "Attacked American Energy" Through Executive Action.** "He's done this from day one. He said it during the campaign when he was running for office. He said no more drilling. Period. Did he forget that he said it? Because that is what he said then did those things thru executive action over and over again he's attacked American energy and its resulted in skyrocketing prices." [Twitter, [@SteveScalise](#), posted [11/8/2022](#)]

**Majority Leader Steve Scalise Has Made Opposing Efforts To Protect Public Land On Behalf Of His Big Oil Donors A Major Priority.**

*Scalise Even Opposed Popular Policies Like The Great American Outdoors Act And Proposed Curbing The Authority Of The President To Designate National Monuments.*

**Representative Scalise Opposed The Great American Outdoors Act On The Grounds It Capped The Funding States Received From Local Oil & Gas Revenues For Conservation.**

“The No. 2 House Republican will oppose a conservation bill on the floor next week that other leaders in his party – including the president – are touting as an important GOP legislative achievement in an election year. House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) will vote "no" on the "Great American Outdoors Act," which would fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund with \$900 million annually, plus address some of a \$20 billion backlog of deferred maintenance projects at national parks and on public lands around the country...The LWCF is funded by revenue collected from offshore oil and gas leases, and lawmakers from Gulf states like Louisiana resent that there is a cap imposed on how much money their states can receive from the drilling they host.” [E&E, published [7/16/2020](#)]

**Representative Scalise Introduced Legislation To Limit The Authority Of The President To Declare National Monuments And Override Local Regulations On Oil & Gas Exploitation.** In 2021, Rep. Scalise introduced HR 4334 to limit the president’s authority to withdraw areas of the Outer Continental Shelf from oil & gas leasing and declare new marine national monuments. Additionally, the bill would have required the DOI to obtain congressional approval before declaring a moratorium on issuing leases on federal lands or waters for oil, gas, or coal and defer to state regulations, guidance, and permit requirements for all activities regarding fracking on federal land. It would also have permitted DOI to delegate decisions about issuing oil and gas drill permits on federal land to states. [Congress.gov, accessed [11/15/2022](#)]