

| END CITIZENS UNITED

From: Tiffany Muller, President of End Citizens United

To: Interested Parties

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Subject: The \$18 Million Corporate Double Down on January 6th + New Ad Holding Them Accountable

Following the attack on the Capitol, corporations made a \$18 million investment in insurrectionists, breaking pledges, offering flimsy, selfish excuses to justify campaign cash donations, and funding restrictive voting laws in the states.

As we approach a year since the January 6th riots and attack on the Capitol, we've taken a look back at the way corporations dealt with the fallout - blessing the conduct and anti-American behavior of members of Congress who attempted to sabotage the election, lied about the results, and incited the deadly insurrection.

Corporations provided a permission structure for spreading misinformation about the election and opposing the freedom to vote, even as attacks on democracy continued. Rather than acting as a moderating force in politics, corporations cynically prioritized their access and influence over the foundation of our democracy.

Additionally, we are launching a [new national ad](#) that exposes corporate America's indifference to the attack on the Capitol and their support for insurrectionists and legislators continuing to threaten our democracy.

Key takeaways:

- After the riots and attack on the Capitol on January 6th, **corporations gave \$18 million to the 147 members of Congress** who attempted to overthrow the election, and the committees they control.
- Of the 46 corporations that broke pledges to pause or refrain from donating, many cited flimsy new standards or the need to buy influence and access, and some even characterized the members' actions as peaceful.
- Many corporations extended their giving to fund anti-voting laws across the state, supporting local legislators who pushed misinformation about the election and passed laws to restrict voting.

Background

Corporations helped fund the insurrection by financially backing members of Congress who voted to not certify the 2020 election results— giving [\\$18 million to their campaigns](#), leadership PACs, or party committees supporting the members.

This included funding Representative Mo Brooks and Senators Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, and Ron Johnson who pushed the baseless fraud claims and rallied the crowd before they stormed the Capitol.

- Corporate PACs have given **nearly \$5.7 million** to Rep. Brooks and Sens. Cruz, Hawley, Johnson:
 - **Rep. Mo Brooks** [spoke at the January 6th Rally](#), his staff reportedly helped insurrection organizers, and Brooks said he'd be proud if they did.
 - **Sen. Cruz** [organized Senators to overturn the election](#), and [led the baseless objections](#) to Arizona's certified electors.
 - **Sen. Hawley** saluted the protestors with a raised fist before [leading the baseless objections](#) to Pennsylvania's duly certified electors.
 - **Sen. Johnson** pushed baseless fraud claims in the aftermath of the election, [even holding a Senate Committee hearing](#) to serve as a platform for the Big Lie.
- Corporate PACs also [funded](#) the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) through its dark-money arm and helped build the crowd for the insurrection.
 - [Comcast, WalMart, Altria, and Centene](#) were some of the biggest donors to RAGA, who helped organize the rally on January 6th.
 - [AT&T, Pfizer, Abbott Laboratories, Anheuser Busch, Match Group, Mastercard, T-Mobile, Nationwide, Postmates, Monster Energy](#), continued to donate to RAGA even after it was revealed to have funded the insurrection.

Post January 6: Corporate Support for Insurrectionists

After the January 6th insurrection, corporate America continued to bankroll the members of Congress who voted to sabotage the 2020 election. Corporations have given \$18 million to the 147 Republican members of the House who voted to overturn the results in AZ or PA. Among the few corporations who pledged to pause or stop donations to supporters of the insurrection, 46 [broke their promise](#).

Many corporations put on a great PR show after January 6th. But in the end, many of their pledges were meaningless and short-lived. These corporations ultimately decided that their political influence to get another corporate tax handout was more important than the freedom to vote and protecting our democracy. Some of the corporations who broke their pledge with lackluster excuses include:

- [UPS](#), which thought it was more important to engage with members they disagree with than protecting our democracy, claimed that "Engagement with those with whom we disagree is a critical part of the democratic process and our responsibility in legislative advocacy as a company."

- [Cigna](#), which defended the members of Congress who voted to overturn the will of the people, claiming that the votes to overturn the results of the election were “part of the peaceful transition of power outlined by law, and therefore, we believe are not the appropriate indicator for the application of our policy.”
- [Toyota](#), which thought that a vote to sabotage a free and fair election wasn’t a vote appropriate to judge a member of Congress on, arguing that “Toyota supports candidates based on their position on issues that are important to the auto industry and the company.”

Other corporations made meaningless, half-hearted pauses in giving, breaking their so-called pledges to stop donating to insurrectionists within weeks of January 6th. Not only did they continue to fund extremism that violently tried to overthrow the government, but they lied to the American people in a pathetic attempt to save face.

- [AT&T](#) made a [pledge in January](#) to Republican lawmakers who voted to overturn the will of the people. However, they [broke that pledge](#) to stop giving to insurrectionists within a month. They then [made another meaningless pledge](#), which they again [broke](#) within months.
- [Ford](#) paused their donations for a grand total of 19 days.

Other corporations have been more open about the fact that they do not care about protecting American democracy, explicitly saying that their profit margins are more important than the will of the people being upheld in free and fair elections. The companies that stated that they value their influence in Washington and tax handouts more than democracy include:

- [Boeing](#), which defended its donations by saying, “We will continue to carefully evaluate our giving to ensure that we support candidates who **support our business.**”
- [Lockheed Martin](#), the third largest supporter of insurrectionists, which said it was giving “in **support of our business interests.**”
- [JetBlue](#), which was one of the first corporate PACs to donate to an insurrectionist who voted to overturn the results of the election after the violent attack on the Capitol, did so because that member of Congress, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, was on a subcommittee which had “**specific relevance to JetBlue’s network and business.**”
- [Ford](#) decided to bankroll insurrectionists because having influence over those members of Congress “is central to navigating **Ford’s global priorities**”
- [General Motors](#) said they are supporting members of Congress who don’t care about the will of the people because they want politicians, “who **foster sound business policies**”
- [American Airlines](#) decided that working to “advance policies that will **positively shape the future of our company**” was more important than the ability of Americans to make their voices heard in free and fair elections.
- [UPS](#) said donating to insurrectionists was “**our responsibility in legislative advocacy as a company.**”

Corporations Funding State Anti-Voting Laws

Corporations have also been responsible for the dangerous, anti-American restrictive voting laws that self-serving politicians have been passing at the state level. These laws restrict access to the ballot box and make it harder for Americans to make their voices heard on the issues that matter most to them, stacking the deck in corporate America's favor. Several companies who signed letters lying about their support for voting rights, later [gave over \\$100,000](#) to groups dedicated to electing anti-voter bill sponsors, including **Amazon, Bank of America, Best Buy, Cisco, Citigroup, Facebook, General Motors, Microsoft and Wells Fargo.**

In Georgia, where Republicans passed one of the most egregious anti-voter laws in the country, several companies, including [those who feigned opposition to the law](#), funded the politicians who authored and supported the law:

- [AT&T](#) gave \$800,000 to authors of Georgia's anti-voter bill
- [Comcast](#) gave \$20,000 to GA politicians who supported the anti-voter law in the months it was being considered.
- [Coca-Cola](#) gave \$25,000 to sponsors of Georgia's restrictive voting bill.

The politicians who led the charge to pass Texas' radical anti-voter law were also funded by corporate America. [AT&T](#) gave \$574,000 to lead sponsors and supporters of Texas' restrictive voting law. They [defended](#) restricting access to the ballot box and disproportionately harming communities of color in Texas by saying that they value their political influence over "agree[ing] with every PAC dollar recipient on every issue."

Conclusion

Corporate America has consistently put the good of the country behind their profits. They've created permission structures to help radicalize politics, not serve as moderating forces. For many of them, their faux-support for voting rights is nothing more than a cynical public relations stunt designed to distract from the fact that these companies only care about their political influence and bottom line. They want another corporate tax handout and are willing to overlook a violent attempt to sabotage our elections and overturn the will of the people to do it. We will continue to hold corporations funding extremism accountable for their continued radicalization of American politics.

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