Politics

The tobacco industry spends millions of dollars trying to influence public policy. It makes major contributions to legislators, candidates, and political parties in the USA, with over 80 percent of contributions going to federal candidates and political parties. The industry also gives money to civic, educational, and charitable organisations and a host of others.

Since 1995 US tobacco companies have donated more than $32 million in political contributions to state and federal elections. Tobacco companies have donated more than $32 million in political contributions to state and federal elections. Tobacco companies have donated more than $32 million in political contributions to state and federal elections. Tobacco companies have donated more than $32 million in political contributions to state and federal elections.

Tobacco companies also attempt to influence the political process, to subsidise the air travel of candidates and their staff, funding political conventions and inaugurations, and hosting fundraisers. As well as campaign contributions, tobacco companies conduct direct lobbying and sophisticated public relations campaigns, including paid media, to influence the opinions of political decision-makers.

Comprehensive tobacco legislation was defeated in the US Senate in 1998. Those who voted against the legislation had received on average, nearly four times as much money from the tobacco industry in the two years before their last election, as those who voted in favour of the bill. Buying influence and favours through political contributions is common practice; however, most countries do not require mandatory reporting.

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Philip Morris, 1990

We have got the unions to support industry in several countries. Prominent have been the efforts they have made on the tax issues in the UK where they were very involved in a letter writing campaign to Members of Parliament.

Philip Morris, 1985

Buying influence
Expenditure on lobbying by US tobacco companies USA 1987

- Philip Morris: $15.8m
- R.J. Reynolds: $11.8m
- Brown & Williamson: $2.7m
- Lorillard-Loews: $2.6m
- US Tobacco Company: $4.1m
- Brown & Williamson: $1.8m
- Philip Morris: $5.4m

Total: $35.5 million

“Unless countervailing steps are taken (such as lobbying), public decision-making will march with public opinion.” R.J. Reynolds, 1978

Small shopkeepers were enlisted to write protests to members of Parliament; the letters some with deliberate typographical errors to create the aura of authenticity, were prepared by the (tobacco) industry for the shopkeepers.

Philip Morris, 1990

Turning now to primary and passive smoking To get more favorable press, we are contemplating organizing another journalists conference similar to the one we put together in Madrid for Latin American journalists in 1984.

Philip Morris, 1985

Buying favours
Top tobacco contributions to federal candidates USA 1995–2000

- Philip Morris: $9.0m
- Brown & Williamson: $4.7m
- Lorillard: $3.4m
- US Tobacco Company: $2.9m
- R.J. Reynolds: $2.1m
- Brown & Williamson (BAT): $1.2m
- Tobacco Institute: $0.6m
- Lorillard Tobacco: $0.6m
- Swisher International: $0.4m
- Conwood Company: $0.3m
- Pinkerton Tobacco Company: $0.2m
- Stich & Company: $0.1m

Philip Morris and the industry are positively impacting the government decisions of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE through the creative use of market specific studies, position papers, well briefed distributors who lobby, media owners and consultants.

Philip Morris, 1987

The International Tobacco Growers Association could front for our third world lobby activities at WHO, and gain support from nations hostile to multinational corporations.

INFOTAB, (tobacco industry pressure group), 1988