

CONGRESSMAN RICHARD BURR & MTBE

MTBE BIO: CONGRESSMAN RICHARD BURR (NC-05)

VOTED FOR ENERGY BILL:	Yes
MTBE MONEY TAKEN ('04 CYCLE):	\$10,000 From Chevron, \$2,000 From Conoco Phillips, \$9,500 From El Paso Energy, \$4,000 From Exxon Mobil, \$2,000 From Kerr-McGee, \$10,000 From Koch Industries, \$2,000 From Valero Energy, \$5,000 from Tom DeLay's PAC (American's for a Republican Majority)
LAWSUIT IN DISTRICT:	None as of yet
CURRENT LAWSUIT IN STATE:	None as of yet
MTBE IN WATER IN DISTRICT:	At least 100
MTBE IN WATER IN STATE:	1911 Sites

(Data obtained from North Carolina Dept Of Environment Health & Natural Resources)

1997: LANDMARK MTBE CASE TOOK PLACE IN NORTH CAROLINA

1997: After Contaminating the Water Supply With MTBE Conoco Settled With Wrightsboro Residents For \$36 Million. Conoco settled with 179 Wrightsboro residents after their water had been contaminated with MTBE for \$36 million. The decision peeled away another layer of secrecy in a case that has drawn national attention in part because it is one of the first cases to explore the health effects of the gasoline additive MTBE, a suspected carcinogen that travels quickly through groundwater. [Morning Star, 1/4/04]

- **Five Week Federal Trial Found Conoco Was Negligent And Committed Fraud In Covering Up Gas Spills Contaminating Water With MTBE.** After a five-week federal trial in 1997, a jury sitting in Wilmington found Conoco Inc. was negligent and committed fraud in covering up gasoline spills that contaminated the water supplies of two trailer parks for about 10 years. Then Conoco settled out of court for \$ 36 million with the 178 residents who had sued. [Associated Press, 8/1/99]

BURR VOTED FOR ENERGY BILL, TOOK MONEY FROM MTBE INTERESTS

Congressman Richard Burr Voted For The Energy Bill. On November 18, 2003 Congressman Richard Burr voted to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2003. [HR 6, Roll Call 630, 11/18/03]

- **The Energy Bill Will Create A Liability Waiver For MTBE Producers Nullifying Lawsuits Filed After September 5, 2003.** Title XV Section 1502 of the Energy Policy Act establishes a “safe harbor” for MTBE producers by removing all lawsuits by cities, states and other entities seeking compensation for groundwater contamination filed after September 5, 2003. [HR 6 Title XV Sec. 1502 p. 21.]
- **Waiver Estimated To Be A \$29-Billion Industry Giveaway.** The MTBE liability waiver included in the Energy Policy Act of 2003 is estimated to protect MTBE producers from an estimated \$29 billion that they would have to pay to cleanup contaminated sites across the United States according to the Environmental Working Group. [www.ewg.org, Accessed 12/15/03]

Burr Took Thousands From MTBE Manufacturer. In 2004, Congressman Richard Burr took \$3,000 from Valero Energy, \$4,000 from Exxon and \$10,000 from Koch Industries, both manufacturers of MTBE [NY Times, 11/26/03; CNN, 11/18/03, Center for Responsive Politics, Campaign Finance Data, 2004]

Burr Took \$5,000 From Tom DeLay PAC, Funded By MTBE Interests. In 2004, Congressman Richard Burr took \$5,000 from Tom DeLay PAC – Americans for a Republican Majority. [Center for Responsive Politics, Campaign Finance Data, 2004]

- **Largest MTBE Manufacturers Come From DeLay District.** The largest makers of the additive, including Lyondell Chemical, Huntsman Chemical and Texas Petrochemicals, are based in or near DeLay's Houston district. Another big manufacturer, Valero Energy, is based in San Antonio. [NY Times, 11/26/03]
- **Lyondell Is A Consistent Top Contributor To DeLay.** Lyondell has been a top single contributor to DeLay's 2004 campaign for reelection, giving \$16,000 of the \$1,856,178 he has raised so far, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. [Center for Public Integrity, 9/11/04]
- **Lyondell Spent Millions Lobbying For The Energy Bills Passage.** Lyondell's political action committee, according to the Washington Post, has spent nearly \$3 million in lobbying in 2002 and 2003. [Boston Globe, 11/26/03]

Burr Has Taken Money From Oil & Gas Companies Who Support MTBE Liability Waiver. Congressman Richard Burr took \$10,000 From Chevron, \$2,000 From Conoco Phillips, \$9,500 From El Paso Energy, \$4,000 From Exxon Mobil and \$2,000 From Kerr-McGee. All of these companies lobbied for the energy bills passage. [United States Senate, US Lobby Registration & Reporting Database, 2003-2004]