



November 3, 2015

## **\$17.7 Million and Counting: Oil Lobby's Campaign to Weaken Clean Energy and Climate Law Shatters Records**

***\$11 Million** in the last quarter puts industry on pace to exceed 2014 total*

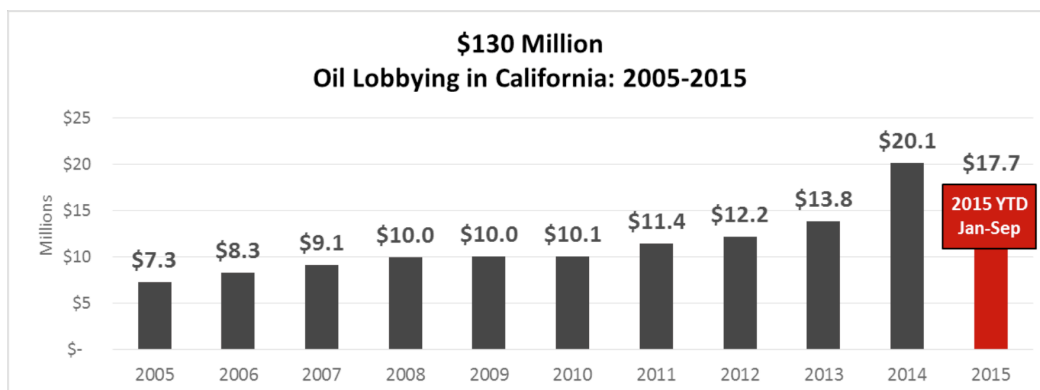
SACRAMENTO – New lobbying figures and a [detailed analysis by the American Lung Association in California](#) indicate the lengths the oil industry will go to in order to keep Californians dependent on petroleum. The focal point of industry spending was SB 350, clean energy and climate change legislation sponsored by State Senate President pro Tem Kevin De León. In the third quarter of 2015, oil companies, their lobbyist and allied groups reported spending **\$11 million dollars** on California lobbying in the last quarter. In the first nine months of 2015, oil interests spent **\$17.7 million**, putting the industry on pace to exceed its own \$20 million spending record from 2014.

Facing extreme pressure from these special interests, lawmakers ultimately removed an important provision from SB 350 calling for a 50 percent reduction in petroleum use by 2030. Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 350 into law on Oct. 7 in Los Angeles. The new law calls on California to double the efficiency of existing buildings and derive 50 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources, both by 2030.

A new analysis by the American Lung Association in California, which tracks oil industry spending annually, includes the following revelations:

- Oil companies and the industry's lobbyist, WSPA, blanketed the Legislature, spending \$17.7 million so far this year, \$11 million in the last three months;
- The recent filings put the industry on track to exceed the \$20 million it spent in 2014;
- Spending in 2015 already exceeds the \$10 million the industry spent in 2010, the year Prop 23 was on the ballot.

[More findings and graphics from the American Lung Association analysis](#)



For an industry that remains immensely unpopular with California citizens, it is noteworthy the degree to which oil companies are willing to spend to protect their bottom lines.

“Much like tobacco companies want to keep smokers dependent on their deadly products, the oil industry will stop at nothing to keep California dependent on harmful fossil fuels – putting our health and climate in danger,” said Olivia (Gertz) Diaz-Lapham, President and CEO of the American Lung Association in California. “These reports highlight the magnitude of the spending power of the oil industry, which will put the protection of its profits before the health of our children, communities, and planet.”

**Links:**

*Clean Energy California*

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CleanEnergyCA>

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/CleanEnergyCA>

*American Lung Association in California analysis, November 2, 2015*

**[“Oil Industry Lobbying in California: January-September 2015”](#)**

###

Contact:

Eric Jaffe, Resource Media, [ejaffe@resource-media.org](mailto:ejaffe@resource-media.org) or (415) 235-7822