



The National Restaurant Association and its Heavy Hitter Members

Cooking Up Insider Influence in Washington

THE ANTI-WORKER AGENDA OF THE NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

Hard to Stomach

The National Restaurant Association is the lobby for the \$600 billion restaurant industry, including member corporations like McDonald's, YUM! Brands (owner of Taco Bell and KFC), Disney, and the largest full-service restaurant brand in the world, Darden Restaurants (owner of Red Lobster, Olive Garden, and Capital Grille). For decades, the NRA and its top corporate members have been the power behind anti-worker campaigns: they have led the fight to keep the federal tipped minimum wage at \$2.13/hour (where it's been stuck since 1991), stop minimum wage increases, deny workers access to paid sick days, and prevent food safety rules across the country. This analysis is part of an ongoing effort to expose the NRA's true agenda and activities.

THE REVOLVING DOOR

WASHINGTON'S VERSION OF INSIDER TRADING

Nothing symbolizes influence-peddling in Washington like the revolving door between Congress and K Street—it's like Washington's version of insider trading.

Despite reforms passed in 2007 following the Jack Abramoff scandal, the revolving door spins faster than ever. According to an analysis by the Sunlight Foundation, the share of active contract lobbyists who are revolvers (ie, lobbyists with former government jobs) increased from 18% in 1998 to 44% in 2012.

A Lobbying Powerhouse

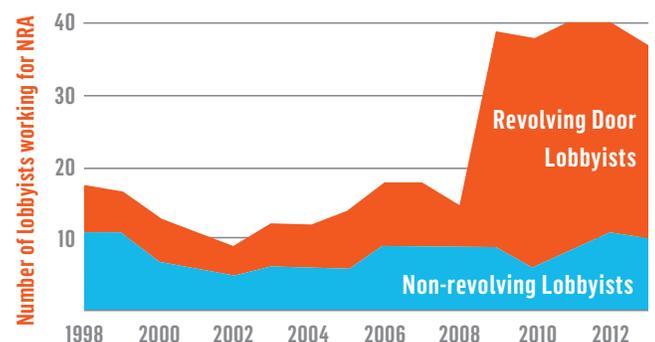
- The National Restaurant Association (NRA) is one of Washington's corporate lobbying powerhouses, playing a prominent role in opposition to minimum wage increases, earned sick time, and other low-wage worker issues.
- Even as more of the Washington influence industry moves underground and key influencers use loopholes to avoid registering as lobbyists, the NRA had 37 reported lobbyists pushing its agenda in Congress in 2013, according to the Center for Responsive Politics' OpenSecrets.org.
- Nine of the NRA's biggest members—including Fortune 500 and Global 500 members Darden Restaurants (parent company of Red Lobster, Olive Garden and Capital Grille), Walt Disney, YUM! Brands (parent of Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut), McDonald's, Marriott, Aramark, Sodexo, Starbucks, and affiliate member Coca-Cola—had another 127 registered lobbyists representing their interests in Washington in 2013, according to data from OpenSecrets.org.
- The NRA's in-house lobbyists and contracted firms racked up four mentions in The Hill's Top Lobbyists list for 2013, including NRA's in-house lead lobbyist Scott DeFife, along with leaders of three of the five outside lobbying firms hired by the NRA in 2013.

The Revolving Door

The National Restaurant Association

- The NRA has super-sized its investment in insider influence since 2008.
- When the NRA more than doubled its registered lobbyist count from 15 in 2008 to 37 in 2013, all of the growth came from a steep increase in "inside traders" (ie, revolvers)—quadrupling from 6 in 2008 to 27 in 2013.
- From 1998 to 2008, revolvers made up less than half (46%) of NRA's lobbying corps, with an average of 7 revolvers each year. From 2009 to 2013, revolvers made up more than three quarters (77%) of NRA's lobbying force, with an average of 30 revolvers each year.

The NRA has super-sized its investment in revolving door influence since 2008.



SOURCE: WWW.OPENSECRETS.ORG



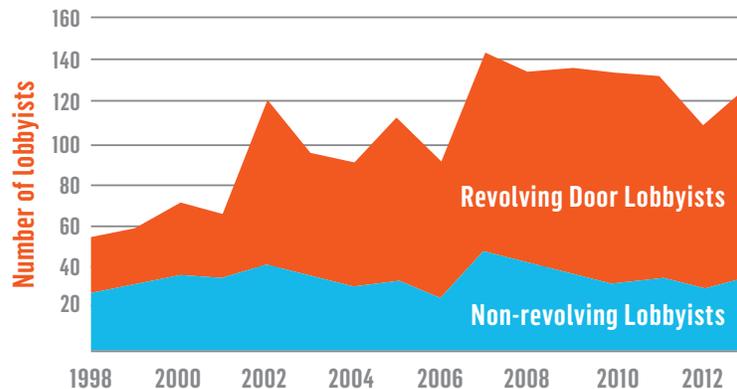
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The Revolving Door

The Other NRA's Corporate Members

- NRA member companies in the Fortune 500 and Global 500 have doubled down on insider influence, too.
- These companies expanded their combined registered lobbyist count from 56 lobbyists in 1998 to 127 in 2013, based on Center for Responsive Politics data. Almost all of this growth came from an increase in "inside traders." Revolving door lobbyists tripled from 28 to 91 in these companies' registered lobbyist ranks; non-revolvers only increased from 28 to 36.
- From 1998 to 2013, these big NRA members' combined "insider trading index" (the share of revolving door lobbyists among their overall registered lobbyist count) grew from 50% to 72%.
- Examples include:
 - YUM! Brands hired **26 revolvers in 2009**, averaging 86% revolvers from 2008-2013.
 - Walt Disney hired **14 revolvers in 2013**, averaging 80% revolvers from 2008-2013.
 - Starbucks hired **14 revolvers in 2013**, averaging 71% revolvers from 2008-2013.

Fortune 500 and Global 500 NRA members have also doubled down on revolving door influence.



SOURCE: WWW.OPENSECRETS.ORG

THE NRA'S 2013 REVOLVING DOOR LOBBYISTS BY THE NUMBERS

37

Registered lobbyists who lobbied for NRA in 2013

27

Revolving door lobbyists

73%

"Insider trading index"
Revolver share of total lobbyists

9

"Rapid revolvers"
From government jobs to lobbying same or following year

6

Former chiefs of staff for members of Congress

6

Former legislative directors for members of Congress

4

Former staff directors for congressional or leadership committees

SOURCE: WWW.OPENSECRETS.ORG



allianceforajustsociety.org



Restaurant Opportunities Centers United

rocunited.org