

End Polluter Welfare Act of 2020

Sponsors: Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Co-led by Sen. Merkley (D-OR), Sen. Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Barragan (D-CA)

American taxpayers currently foot the bill for up to \$15 billion in [direct federal subsidies](#) to the fossil fuel industry every year. In 2019, the oil, gas, and [coal](#) industry [spent](#) more than \$130 million lobbying Congress in defense of these giveaways for an over 11,000 percent return on investment. Even while the country is facing unprecedented health and economic crises, the fossil fuel industry is bringing all its political might to extract ever more subsidies. These corporate handouts are driving unprecedented expansion of U.S. fossil fuel development – over the next 10 years, we are on [track](#) to account for 60 percent of global growth in oil and gas production.

The End Polluter Welfare Act would eliminate these absurd corporate handouts and save American taxpayers up to \$150 billion over the next ten years by:

- Preventing fossil fuel companies from taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic by restricting access to relief funds and limiting executive discretionary authority.
- Abolishing dozens of tax loopholes and subsidies throughout the federal tax code that benefit oil, gas, and coal special interests.
- Updating below-market royalty rates for oil and gas production on federal lands, recouping royalties from offshore drilling in public waters, and ensuring competitive bidding and leasing practices for coal development on federal lands.
- Prohibiting taxpayer-funded fossil fuel research and development.
- Ending federal support for international oil, gas, and coal projects and supporting the global community's fight to move away from dirty fossil fuels.

Additionally, the bill would ensure continued medical care for tens of thousands of working-class Americans who have helped provide electricity to the nation for decades by guaranteeing the solvency of the Black Lung Disability Fund.

At a time when scientists tell us we need to reduce carbon pollution to prevent catastrophic climate change, and when fossil fuel companies are making billions of dollars in profit every year, we have a fiscal and moral responsibility to stop forcing working families to pad the profits of an industry that is destroying our planet.

For more information on the bill's energy policy, please contact Katie Thomas (Katie.Thomas@sanders.senate.gov; 8-6353) in Senator Sanders' office, or Maria Martirosyan (Maria.Martirosyan@mail.house.gov; 5-4755) in Congresswoman Omar's office.

For more information on the bill's tax policy, please contact Richard Phillips (Richard.Phillips@budget.senate.gov; 202-224-2775) on the Senate Budget Committee.