

Big Green campaigns kill jobs and enrich Buffett

Billionaire bankrolls anti-pipeline agenda and gets richer through secretive foundations

Opponents of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project across Minnesota have portrayed themselves as simply being a home-spun coalition of family, student, hiker, and Native American grassroots activists.

It's a nice fable. But it's false.

In truth, according to new research conducted by CFACT policy analysts Ron Arnold and Paul Driessen, the anti-Sandpiper campaign is being funded and coordinated by a number of shadowy out-of-state foundations and financiers – including the Tides Foundation and billionaire railroad tycoon Warren Buffett.¹

Arnold and Driessen note that while some small local and state groups – such as Friends of the Headwaters and Occupy Minnesota – are involved in this debate, these organizations have little money or clout.

The true leader of the campaign against Sandpiper is in fact **Honor the Earth**, a Native American group that wants “No more mines. No more pipelines.”⁴ It's not incorporated and files no income tax reports of its own.³ Instead, Honor the Earth is a “project” of the [Tides Foundation](#)², which also serves as its fiscal sponsor.

99% of Honor the Earth's money – nearly **\$1.5 million** – was funneled to it by out-of-state donors.⁵

Honor the Earth is also sponsored by the **Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)**, another Native group. However, Minnesota corporate records show no incorporation entry for the anti-pipeline IEN. And only \$120,000 of the IEN's **\$2.2 million** in tax-exempt foundation money came from inside Minnesota.⁶

In fact, behind these “grassroots” groups is a formidable **\$25 billion** in foundation investment portfolios.⁷

“That's the real power behind the scenes: Out-of-state donor puppeteers who pull the activists' strings,” said Driessen.

The **Tides Foundation** is one of the biggest environmentalist donors. It is a massive, secretive San Francisco operation created to hide the names of donors who want to block development.⁸

Our researchers also uncovered that Tides has given over \$700,000 to **Honor the Earth** to oppose development, particularly pipelines – first Keystone XL and now Enbridge's Sandpiper pipeline, both of which are potential competitors for oil-by-rail companies.⁹

Tides also gave over \$670,000 to the **Indigenous Environmental Network** to oppose pipelines.¹⁰

Amazingly, the Tides Foundation's biggest donor is multi-billionaire **Warren Buffett** and his family.

Mr. Buffett is one of President Obama's most important friends, advisors, and major campaign contributors. At Buffett's urging, and because of constant pressure from environmental and climate activists, Obama vetoed the Keystone XL Pipeline and is blocking other pipelines.

Warren Buffett's interest in blocking pipelines like Sandpiper is likely financially motivated.

Most oil that isn't shipped by pipeline is shipped by rail cars – **like the BNSF Railway and Union Tank Car Company, both of which are owned by Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, Inc.**

So it appears Minnesota's anti-pipeline activists are, perhaps unknowingly, helping Warren Buffett maintain his railroad's oil transport operations, using their activism to help strangle competition from Sandpiper and other pipelines.

"No wonder **\$30.5 million** in Buffett money went to the Tides Foundation – which funds dozens of anti-pipeline activist groups. **His \$30.5 million investment is generating billions in oil-by-rail revenues,**"¹¹ commented Arnold.

In an ironic twist, the Greens, by stopping the pipeline construction, may in fact be placing the environment more at risk. This is because railroad tanker cars all too frequently have accidents, like the horrible spill in Lac Magantic, Quebec, which caused huge fires that destroyed much of the town and killed 54 people.¹²

These allegedly grassroots groups are actually part of a tightly orchestrated, generously funded anti-pipeline campaign to help the vested interests of the oil-transporting BNSF Railway, its parent company Berkshire Hathaway, and CEO billionaire Warren Buffett. It's the Attack of Buffett's Puppets.

"It may be a game for them, but they're playing with lives, livelihoods, and living standards," commented Driessen. "They're getting rich on the backs of poor and middle class families whose energy costs are skyrocketing and whose families and communities are put at risk when companies are forced to ship oil by less safe tanker trucks and rail tanker cars, instead of by modern pipelines," he added.

Journalists, citizens, and political leaders who care about honesty and transparency need to ask:

- Why did "No more pipelines" Honor the Earth get **over \$700,000** from a San Francisco money-funnel for Warren Buffet's oil-by-rail fortune?
- Why are the anti-pipeline groups so secretive about their money and ties? What else are they hiding?
- Why aren't Minnesota's news media, legislature, governor, and attorney general digging into this?
- Why aren't they investigating the dangers of truck and rail oil transport, compared to pipelines?

Protesters who are ranting about Sandpiper, Keystone, and other pipelines must be asked:

- Didn't anyone tell you you're actually campaigning on behalf of the interests of Warren Buffett and the Tides Foundation?
- Do you know who is really bankrolling and calling the shots in this anti-Sandpiper campaign?
- Are you happy to be working for pennies for oil-by-rail billionaires, helping them get even richer?
- Did you know you might be endangering American lives along these oil-by-rail lines through cities?

SOURCES:

Ron Arnold and Paul Driessen; *Cracking Big Green: Saving the world from the Save-the-Earth money machine*. Washington, DC: Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (2014).

William Walter Kay, "The American Environmental Movement - The American Counter-Movement Perspective," April 2015, <http://ecofascism.com/review38.html>

Cory Morningstar, "Keystone XL: The art of NGO discourse – Buffet acquires the Non-Profit Industrial Complex," [Part IV of The Keystone XL: Art of NGO Discourse series. See also *Part I, Part II, Part III*], <http://theartofannihilation.com/keystone-xl-the-art-of-ngo-discourse-part-1v-buffett-acquires-the-non-profit-industrial-complex/> and <http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/09/12/keystone-xl-the-art-of-ngo-discourse-3/>

Original research by Ron Arnold, Paul Driessen and the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow.

¹ Warren Buffett funds Tides and its foundation and center and other entities through his family's Novo Foundation, of which he is the sole donor.

² <http://www.tides.org/impact/stories/show/story/single/title/honor-the-earth/>.

³ Page 5 of a 12-page document titled "Tides Fiscal Sponsorship Services" explains the relationship between Honor the Earth and Tides. <http://www.tides.org/fileadmin/user/pdf/Tides-Fiscal-Sponsorship-Services.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.honorearth.org/>

⁵ The proprietary database Foundation Search shows the following, which includes only the top 4 donors (full list of 17 foundations and amounts available on request):

Search Criteria: Recipient name matches "HONOR THE EARTH"

Grant Total: \$1,423,568 # Grants: 55 # Foundations : 17

<u>Granting Foundation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
TIDES FOUNDATION	SAN FRANCISCO	California	<u>24</u>	\$716,068
THE POSS FAMILY FOUNDATION	BROOKLINE	Massachusetts	<u>4</u>	\$230,000
THE FRANCES FUND INC	NORTHAMPTON	Massachusetts	<u>4</u>	\$122,000
SURDNA FOUNDATION INC	NEW YORK	New York	<u>2</u>	\$100,000

Two grants totaling \$20,000 came from Minnesota donors.

⁶ The proprietary database Foundation Search shows the following, which includes only the top 5 donors (full list of 23 foundations and amounts available on request):

Search Criteria: Recipient name matches "Indigenous Environmental Network "

Grant Total: \$2,183,750 # Grants: 65 # Foundations : 23

<u>Granting Foundation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
TIDES FOUNDATION	SAN FRANCISCO	California	<u>24</u>	\$670,388
TRUE NORTH FOUNDATION	GRASS VALLEY	California	<u>2</u>	\$363,000

<u>JESSIE SMITH NOYES FOUNDATION INC</u>	NEW YORK	New York	<u>8</u>	\$250,000
<u>ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION</u>	PRINCETON	New Jersey	<u>2</u>	\$182,950
<u>BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESOTA FOUNDATION</u>	ST. PAUL	Minnesota	<u>3</u>	\$150,000

Three grants totaling \$120,000 came from Minnesota donors.

⁷ **ANTI-PIPELINE DONOR TOTAL ASSETS LIST.**

- BEN & JERRY'S FOUNDATION \$4,926,500;
- BRAINERD FOUNDATION \$24,811,595;
- CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS FOUNDATION INC \$23,825,791;
- COMMON STREAM INC \$27,254,779;
- COMPTON FOUNDATION INC \$63,939,751;
- DOLPHIN FOUNDATION INC \$296,136;
- DRT FUND \$1,353,499;
- EARTH ISLAND INSTITUTE INC \$11,017,260;
- FORD FOUNDATION \$12,259,961,589;
- HILL SNOWDON FOUNDATION \$33,074,672;
- JESSIE SMITH NOYES FOUNDATION INC \$51,117,046;
- KAPOR CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT (MITCHELL KAPOR FOUNDATION) \$39,930,915;
- LANNAN FOUNDATION \$223,074,452;
- MARISLA FOUNDATION \$49,580,734;
- MAX & ANNA LEVINSON FOUNDATION \$15,768,418;
- NATHAN CUMMINGS FOUNDATION \$444,987,710;
- NEEDMOR FUND \$26,800,943;
- NORMAN FOUNDATION \$26,290,573;
- PANTA RHEA FOUNDATION INC \$2,667,971;
- PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION INC \$488,153,146;
- ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION \$10,173,403,442;
- SCHERMAN FOUNDATION INC \$121,038,255;
- SILVER TIE FUND INC \$1,518,649;
- SURDNA FOUNDATION INC \$929,596,379;
- SWIFT FOUNDATION \$58,156,067;
- THE FRANCES FUND INC \$18,166,203;
- THE POSS FAMILY FOUNDATION \$14,284,395;
- THE SUSAN A. & DONALD P. BABSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION \$5,363,697;
- TIDES FOUNDATION \$150,545,700;
- TITCOMB FOUNDATION \$2,204,558.
- TRUE NORTH FOUNDATION \$2,981,527.
- TURNER FOUNDATION INC \$12,200,379.

Total \$25,268,361,816

PROOF DOCUMENTS: IRS FORM 990 REPORTS ASSET PAGE GATHERED IN SEPARATE FILE.

⁸ Tides Wikipedia entry: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tides_%28organization%29

⁹ The proprietary database Foundation Search shows the following for Honor the Earth:

Search Criteria: Foundation name matches "TIDES"

Grant Total: \$716,068 # Grants: 24 # Foundations : 1

<u>Granting Foundation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
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TIDES FOUNDATION	SAN FRANCISCO	California	24	\$716,068
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¹⁰ The proprietary database Foundation Search shows the following for Indigenous Environmental Network:

Search Criteria: Foundation name matches "TIDES"

Grant Total: \$670,388 # Grants: 24 # Foundations : 1

<u>Granting Foundation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
TIDES FOUNDATION	SAN FRANCISCO	California	24	\$670,388

¹¹ The proprietary database Foundation Search shows the following for Tides:

Search Criteria: Foundation name matches "NOVO FOUNDATION"

Grant Total: \$30,551,973 # Grants: 39 # Foundations : 1

<u>Granting Foundation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
NOVO FOUNDATION	NEW YORK	New York	39	\$30,551,973

¹² Wikipedia entry: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lac-M%C3%A9gantic_rail_disaster