

# CLUB FOR GROWTH – “SWAMP” FACT CHECK

## OVERVIEW

- Matt Rosendale would do nothing to crack down on lobbyist influence – he hired an insurance industry lobbyist to help run his office, voted to bring back “special accounts” in the state legislature that would have let him raise money from lobbyists for pay for his travel, and rubbed elbows with insurance lobbyists on junkets around the country paid for by an out-of-state group.
- Jon Tester has led by example in cracking down on lobbyist influence in Washington, DC: he passed legislation banning members of Congress from accepting gifts, meals, or travel from lobbyists and is pushing to ban members of Congress from becoming lobbyists for five years after they leave office.
- Matt Rosendale would be nothing but a rubber-stamp for his big donors and the out-of-state groups propping up his campaign with millions of dollars in outside spending. After short-term health insurance executives gave Rosendale \$16,000, he pushed to expand short-term health insurance plans in Montana. As State Auditor, Rosendale dropped fines and charges against a company whose representatives had donated nearly \$13,000 to his campaigns.
- Jon Tester is the only working farmer in the Senate and still farms the land homesteaded by his family more than 100 years ago; he has fought tirelessly to crack down on perks for members of Congress, including eliminating automatic pay raises and banning insider trading.

## CLAIMS

## FACTS

V/O: In Montana, people know the difference between what politicians say and do.

O/S: IN MONTANA PEOPLE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLITICIANS SAY AND DO.

V/O: Jon Tester said

TESTER: I won't sell Montana down the road by

### **MATT ROSENDALE WOULD DO NOTHING TO CRACK DOWN ON LOBBYIST INFLUENCE**

#### MATT ROSENDALE HIRED AN INSURANCE INDUSTRY LOBBYIST TO HELP RUN HIS OFFICE

**December 2016: Matt Rosendale Hired Bob Biskupiak As Deputy Insurance Commissioner.** [Helena Independent Record, [1/10/17](#); Independent Insurance Agents' Association of Montana, [12/2016](#)]

**2008-2016: Bob Biskupiak Served As The CEO/Executive Director Of The Independent Insurance Agents Association Of Montana.** [LinkedIn, Bob Biskupiak, Accessed [10/23/17](#)]

- **2009-2015: Biskupiak Was A Registered Lobbyist For The Independent Insurance Agents Association Of Montana.** [Montana Commissioner Of Political Practices, Lobbyist And Principal Search 2009-2010, Bob Biskupiak, Accessed [10/20/17](#); Montana Commissioner Of Political Practices, Lobbyist And Principal Search 2011-2012, Bob Biskupiak, Accessed [10/20/17](#); Montana Commissioner Of Political Practices, Lobbyist And Principal Search 2013-2014, Bob Biskupiak, Accessed [10/20/17](#); Montana Commissioner Of Political Practices, Lobbyist And Principal Search 2015-2016, Bob Biskupiak, Accessed [10/20/17](#)]

### MATT ROSENDALE VOTED TO REVIVE “SPECIAL ACCOUNTS” THAT WOULD HAVE LET HIM RAISE MONEY FROM LOBBYISTS FOR HIS TRAVEL AS A STATE LEGISLATOR

**HEADLINE: “Montana Senate Endorses Reviving Constituent Accounts.”** [Associated Press, [2/27/13](#)]

cutting deals with K-Street lobbyists.

O/S:  
TESTER: SAID HE WOULDN'T SELL OUT TO LOBBYISTS

SOURCE: 2006 Candidate Debate

V/O: We'll let somebody else tell you what Tester did

O/S: BUT WHAT HE REALLY DID...

TRUMP: He's taken more cash from lobbyists than almost anyone in the entire Senate.

TRUMP: Jon Tester will never drain the swamp because he happens to live in the swamp, and he loves the swamp

O/S: JON TESTER: HE'S GONE

**2/27/13: Matt Rosendale Voted To Revive "Special Accounts" For State Legislators To Raise Money For Their Travel Costs, Even Though Previous Legislatures Had Cracked Down On The Accounts Due To Lobbyist Abuse.** [Vote 751, SB 241, [2/27/13](#); Associated Press, [2/27/13](#)]

- **As A Senator From A District Representing More Than One County, Rosendale Voted To Give Senators Like Himself Whose Districts Spanned More Than One County The Highest Contribution Limit Of All Legislators.** [Bill text, SB 241, accessed [6/1/18](#)]

**State Sen. Anders Blewett: "What This Would Do Is Allow Fundraising While We Are Here, i.e. Those People Out In The Hallways Would Be Opening Checkbooks And Writing Checks."** [Associated Press, [2/27/13](#)]

**While Constituent Accounts Began As An Account For Excess Donations, They Grew Into An Account That Could Accept Donations Without Disclosure, Resulting In Cases Where State Officials Were Taking \$10,000 From Lobbyists.** [Billings Gazette, [2/27/13](#)]

- **2006: The Commissioner Of Political Practices Stated That It Probably Wouldn't Be Illegal For A Lobbyist To Purchase A Lexus For A Lawmaker For Official Travel Through The Program.** [Billings Gazette, [5/28/06](#)]
- **Billings Gazette: In 2007, "State Officials Were Raising Thousands In Unregulated Money From Lobbyists And Others With No Oversight."** [Billings Gazette, [2013](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE RUBBED ELBOWS WITH INSURANCE LOBBYISTS ON JUNKETS AROUND THE COUNTRY PAID FOR BY AN OUT-OF-STATE GROUP

**HEADLINE: "Drinks, Junkets And Jobs: How The Insurance Industry Courts State Commissioners."** [Washington Post, [10/2/16](#)]

**HEADLINE: "Regulators Enjoy Cozy Relationship With Insurance Industry."** [Kansas City Star, [12/12/06](#)]

**12/2016 – 8/2017: National Association Of Insurance Commissioners Spent At Least \$10,000 On "Travel Expenses" For Matt Rosendale.**

Travel Expenses for Commissioner Matthew Rosendale  
As of August 31, 2017

***Paid by NAIC***

Date	Destination	Purpose	Ground Transport	Airfare	Change Fees	Hotel	Meals
12/10/16-12/13/16	Miami, FL	2016 Fall National Meeting	\$ 57.11				\$ 138.43
2/9/16-2/13/16	Scottsdale, AZ	Commissioners Conference	\$ -	\$ 813.54		\$ 1,435.40	\$ 63.90
2/14/17-2/15/17	Oklahoma City, OK	National Tornado Summit	\$ -			\$ 453.24	
4/8/17-4/11/17	Denver, CO	Spring National Meeting	\$ 55.36	\$ 579.41		\$ 1,005.20	\$ 81.00
5/2/17-5/4/17	Washington DC	All Commissioner DC Fly In	\$ 17.07	\$ 671.60		\$ 1,167.00	
7/10/17-7/13/17	Madison, WI	Interm Exec Comm Mtg/Mid Yr Update	\$ -	\$ 601.60		\$ 490.08	
8/5/17-8/8/17	Philadelphia, PA	Summer National Meeting	\$ 104.55	\$ 664.60		\$ 1,484.20	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$ 234.09</b>	<b>\$ 3,330.75</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,035.12</b>	<b>\$ 283.33</b>

[Montana Office of the State Auditor, via FOIA, as of 2/16/18]

**2009: National Journal: National Association Of Insurance Commissioners Was "Based In Its Washington [DC] Office" After Moving Its Executive Offices From St. Louis, MO To Washington, DC.** [National Journal, 4/4/09]

WASHINGTON

CFG Action disclaimer.

**National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services: “Industry Lobbyists Outnumber Consumer Advocates At NAIC Meetings By An Order Of Magnitude.”**  
[National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services, 11/22/10]

**2016: Washington Post: “Insurance Commissioners...Were Outnumbered By Insurance Representatives” And Lobbyists At NAIC Meeting In New Orleans.**  
[Washington Post, [10/2/16](#)]

**Kansas City Star: “In St. Louis During The Quarterly Conference Of The National Association Of Insurance Commissioners...Industry Executives And Lobbyists Outnumber[ed] Commissioners More Than 10 To 1.”** [Kansas City Star, [12/12/06](#)]

**JON TESTER HAS LED BY EXAMPLE ON CRACKING DOWN ON LOBBYIST INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC**

**JON TESTER PASSED LEGISLATION BANNING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM ACCEPTING TRAVEL, GIFTS, AND MEALS FROM LOBBYISTS**

**Jon Tester Voted For The Honest Leadership And Open Government Act Of 2007.** [CQ, [8/2/07](#); S. 1, Vote 294, [8/2/07](#)]

- **New York Times: “The Legislation...Calls For Bans On Gifts, Meals And Travel Paid For By Lobbyists And Makes It More Difficult For Lawmakers To Capitalize Quickly On Their Connections When Joining The Private Sector.”**  
[New York Times, [8/3/07](#)]

**Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial: Ethics Reform Legislation “Bans Gifts From Lobbyists To Lawmakers And Staff.”** [Editorial, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 8/3/07]

**Times-Picayune Editorial: “Groundbreaking Ethics Legislation...Will Ban Gifts, Meals And Travel Financed By Lobbyists.”** [Editorial, Times-Picayune, 8/4/07]

**JON TESTER INTRODUCED BILL TO “DRAIN THE SWAMP” BY IMPOSING A FIVE-YEAR LOBBYING BAN ON LAWMAKERS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS**

**HEADLINE: “Dem Senator Introduces Bill To ‘Drain The Swamp.’”** [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]

**The Hill: “Jon Tester...Says He Will Introduce A Five-Year Lobbying Ban, Pressing President-Elect Donald Trump To Make Good On His Campaign Pledge.”** [The Hill, [12/9/16](#); S. 522, Congress.Gov, [3/2/17](#)]

- **Jon Tester: “Draining The Swamp In Washington Is One Of The Issues Where The President And I Agree.”** [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]
- **National Journal: “Tester...Revealed A Plan Earlier This Month To Enact Trump's Proposed Lobbying Ban For Lawmakers And Some Executive-Branch Officials.”** [National Journal, [12/15/16](#)]

**JON TESTER VOTED FOR ETHICS REFORM THAT REQUIRED LAWMAKERS TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF LOBBYISTS WHO BUNDLED MORE THAN \$15,000**

**Jon Tester Voted For The Honest Leadership And Open Government Act Of 2007.** [Vote 294, S. 1, [8/2/07](#); CQ, [8/2/07](#)]

- **Ethics Reform Legislation Required Lawmakers To Disclose The Names Of**

**Lobbyists Who Bundled More Than \$15,000.** [New York Times, [8/3/07](#)]

**MATT ROSENDALE IS A MULTIMILLIONAIRE EAST COAST DEVELOPER AND POLITICAL OPPORTUNIST PROPPED UP BY OUTSIDE SPENDING**

MATT ROSENDALE IS A MULTIMILLIONAIRE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER

**Matt Rosendale: “I Develop Property, I’ve Said So.”** [49:01, Missoula County Republican Primary Debate, [3/28/18](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Matt Rosendale: “As I’ve Told You, I Develop Property.”** [1:41:04, Primary Debate, Montana State University College Republicans, Bozeman, MT, [3/22/18](#)] (VIDEO)

**MTN News: “Matt Rosendale: The State Auditor And Real-Estate Manager From Glendive Reported Assets Valued From \$7 Million To \$32 Million.”** [MTN News, [2/15/18](#)]

**August 2002: Matt Rosendale Purchased A Working Ranch At Auction For \$2.175 Million In Glendive.** [Glendive Ranger-Review, 8/22/02]

MATT ROSENDALE MOVED TO MONTANA TO START HIS POLITICAL CAREER, AND HAS RUN FOR HIGHER OFFICE FIVE TIMES IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS

**Associated Press: Matt Rosendale Was Attacked By His Republican Primary Opponent As A “Political Opportunist Seeking His Fifth Elected Office In Eight Years.”** [Associated Press, [6/6/18](#)]

- **Former Republican Statewide Elected Officials Marc Racicot, Stan Stephens, Denny Rehberg, And Rick Hill: “Montanans Deserve More Than A U.S. Senator Whose Top Priority Is Climbing The Political Ladder.”** [Marc Racicot/Stan Stephens/Denny Rehberg/Rick Hill, Helena Independent Record, [5/28/18](#)]

**Troy Downing On Matt Rosendale: “It Looks Like Somebody That Is In It For Themselves, Especially In A State Where, You Know, We Put Him In Office To Do A Job And He’s Already Looking For Another One.”** [Montana Democratic Party, YouTube, [2/5/18](#)] (VIDEO)

**MSU Political Science Professor David Parker: “It’s Very Easy To Say That [Rosendale]’s Opportunistic.”** [Montana Public Radio, [9/18/17](#)] (AUDIO)

MATT ROSENDALE’S CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN PROPPED UP BY MILLIONS IN OUTSIDE SPENDING ATTACKING JON TESTER AND BOOSTING HIM

**9/25/18: Outside Groups Had Spent \$15.6 Million Attacking Jon Tester And Propping Up Matt Rosendale’s Campaign.** [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [9/25/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS PUSHED POLICIES THAT BENEFIT HIS BIG DONORS

**HEADLINE: “State Auditor Drops Fines Against Top Campaign Donor.”** [Montana Free Press, [9/25/18](#)]

- **Insurance Commissioner Matt Rosendale Dismissed Two Of Three Charges Against Friedel, LLC The Day After An In-Person Meeting With The Company,**

**Whose Employees Had Donated \$13,000 To Rosendale's Political Campaigns.**  
[Montana Free Press, [9/25/18](#)]

- **“Longtime Government Ethics Watchdog” Bob Stern: “The Appearance Is Terrible [...] The Appearance Is That [Rosendale] Made The Decision To Drop The Lawsuit Because These People Gave His Campaign A Bunch Of Money.”**  
[Montana Free Press, [9/25/18](#)]

**MTN News: Matt Rosendale Raised \$16,000 From Short-Term Health Insurance Executives And Then Supported Short-Term Health Insurance Plans.** [MTN News, [9/5/18](#)]

- **MTN News: “The Money Raised...Was Used To Pay Off The Debt From [Rosendale's] 2014 U.S. House Race...So The Money To Pay It Off Goes To Rosendale.”** [MTN News, [9/5/18](#)]
- **9/14/17: Matt Rosendale Presented A Report To The Montana Economic Affairs Committee That Included A Recommendation To Support Options Such As Short Term Insurance Policies At The Federal Level To Address The Cost Of Health Care.** [Presentation, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, [9/14/17](#); Hearing, Economic Affairs Interim Committee, Montana Legislature, [9/14/17](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “New Short-Term Health Insurance Plans Can Be In Place Next Week.”** [Montana State Auditor's Office, Press Release, [9/28/18](#)]

**JON TESTER FARMS THE LAND HIS GRANDPARENTS HOMESTEADED THREE GENERATIONS AGO AND HAS FOUGHT TO END PERKS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

JON TESTER, THE SENATE'S ONLY WORKING FARMER, STILL FARMS THE LAND HIS GRANDPARENTS HOMESTEAD MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO

**Jon Tester, The Senate's Only Active Farmer, Returned To The Big Sandy Farm His Grandparents Homesteaded A Century Ago To Work The Land.** [New York Times, [6/3/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Tester Spent His Break On A Tractor, Tilling The Land For Organic Peas On An 1,800-Acre Farm That Has Been In The Family For More Than 100 Years.”** [Washington Post, [5/2/17](#)]

JON TESTER HAS FOUGHT TO END AUTOMATIC RAISES FOR CONGRESS

**March 2009: Jon Tester Was One Of 10 Democratic Senators To Vote To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress.** [CQ, [3/10/09](#); Vote 95, S. Amdt. 621 to H.R. 1105, [3/10/09](#)]

**March 2012: Jon Tester Introduced Measure Eliminating Cost Of Living Adjustment For Members Of Congress.** [S. 2210, Text, Library of Congress, [3/20/12](#)]

- **September 2012: Jon Tester Voted In Favor Of A Continuing Appropriations Measure That Denied Congressional Pay Adjustment.** [Public Law 112-175, [9/28/12](#); H.R. Res. 117, Vote 199, [9/22/12](#); Congressional Research Service, [6/21/16](#)]

**2009-2016: Jon Tester Cosponsored Bipartisan Measures To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress.** [S. 17, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [9/8/16](#); S. 133, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [1/25/11](#); S. 542, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [3/10/09](#)]

JON TESTER COSPONSORED SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION BANNING TAXPAYER-FUNDED OIL PAINTINGS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

**Jon Tester-Cosponsored Legislation Prohibiting Federal Funds For Official Portraits For Members Of Congress Was Signed Into Law.** On April 24, 2017, Jon Tester cosponsored S. 188, the EGO Act. NPR reported: “On Tuesday, President Trump signed into law the Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act, also known as — wait for it — the EGO Act. Under the new law, federal funds can no longer be used toward official painted portraits for federal government officials or employees. (It remains a little unclear if watercolor painters can find themselves a loophole.) The law applies to members of Congress, heads of executive agencies, even the president himself.” [Cosponsors, S. 188, Library of Congress, [4/24/17](#); NPR, [3/28/18](#)]

JON TESTER VOTED TO BAN INSIDER TRADING BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

**2012: Jon Tester Voted For The STOCK Act, Which Banned Insider Trading By Members Of Congress, Required Lawmakers To Publicly Report Any Stock Transactions Within 45 Days Of The Trade, And Barred Lawmakers From Participating In Initial Stock Offerings On A Favored Basis.** On March 22, 2012, Jon Tester voted in favor of “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would clarify that members of Congress as well as officials and senior staff of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government are covered by current regulations that bar the use of non-public information for trading stocks and bonds. It would require lawmakers and other covered officials to publicly report any stock or securities transaction within 45 days of when the transaction occurs. It would bar lawmakers and other covered officials from participating in initial stock offerings on a favored basis.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 96-3. [Vote 56, S. 2038, [3/22/12](#); CQ, [3/22/12](#)]

- **Jon Tester On The STOCK Act: “It Is Critically Important That We Operate In A Way That Is Totally Clean.”** [NewsTalk KGVO, [12/2/11](#)]