

AMERICA FIRST ACTION – “BELTWAY” FACT CHECK

OVERVIEW

- Matt Rosendale would do nothing to crack down on lobbyist influence in Washington, DC. Matt Rosendale hired an insurance industry lobbyist to help run his office as insurance commissioner, supported reviving “special accounts” that would have let him raise money from lobbyists to pay for his travel as a state legislator, and even took trips funded by an out of state group to conferences where he rubbed elbows with lobbyists.
- 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, travel, or meals from lobbyists and introduced a bill to “drain the swamp” through a five-year lobbying ban on members of Congress after they leave office.
- Matt Rosendale brought the swamp to Montana – his propped up by more than \$10 million in outside and dark money spending, which is no surprise considering his record of voting against increasing campaign finance transparency in our elections. As state auditor, he has proven he is out for himself by dropping charges against a top donor after taking office.
- Jon Tester has been recognized as a successful bipartisan lawmaker, and has even had 20 bills signed into law by President Trump this Congress. Jon Tester is the Senate’s only working farmer and still returns home every weekend to work the land his grandparents homesteaded more than 100 years ago. He is working to cut back on Congressional perks in DC, including ending automatic pay raises for members of Congress and banning taxpayer-funded oil paintings for members of Congress.

CLAIMS

FACTS

V/O: On TV, Jon Tester drives a tractor. But it's Montana that's getting taken for a ride.

O/S: JON TESTER

V/O: The Post called Tester a member of the beltway elite.

O/S: A MEMBER

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

OF THE
BELTWAY
ELITE

SOURCE:
The
Washington
Post
5/2/17

V/O: He
took
millions
from
Washington
lobbyists
and
special
interests.

O/S:
MILLIONS
FORM
LOBBYIS
TS AND
SPECIAL
INTERES
TS

SOURCE:
Center for
Responsiv
e Politics
2005-2018

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

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		Change Fees	Hotel	Meals	M
			Transport	Airfare				
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		
Totals			\$ 234.09	\$ 3,330.75	\$ -	\$ 6,035.12	\$ 283.33	\$

[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]

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

	<p>Jon Tester Voted For The Honest Leadership And Open Government Act Of 2007. [Vote 294, S. 1, 8/2/07; CQ, 8/2/07]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics Reform Legislation Required Lawmakers To Disclose The Names Of Lobbyists Who Bundled More Than \$15,000. [New York Times, 8/3/07]
<p>V/O: And Tester sides with DC liberals, nearly 90% of the time.</p> <p>O/S: NEARLY 90% WITH DC LIBERALS</p> <p>SOURCE: Jon Tester CQ Vote Studies February 2018</p> <p>V/O: But that's how beltway Jon rolls in DC</p> <p>V/O: And why we'd be better off without him in Washington</p> <p>O/S: VOTE AGAINST BELTWAY JON TESTER NOVEMBER 6, 2018</p> <p>V/O: America First</p>	<p><u>MATT ROSENDALE BROUGHT THE SWAMP TO MONTANA AND WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN A RUBBER-STAMP FOR HIS DARK MONEY BACKERS</u></p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE'S CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN PROPPED UP BY MILLIONS IN OUTSIDE SPENDING ATTACKING JON TESTER AND BOOSTING HIM</u></p> <p>9/25/18: Outside Groups Had Spent \$10 Million Attacking Jon Tester And Propping Up Matt Rosendale's Campaign. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 9/25/18]</p> <p><u>NBC News: "Koch-Backed Americans For Prosperity Is Launching A Six-Figure Ad Campaign In Montana Supporting Republican Senate Candidate Matt Rosendale...Bring[ing] The Group's Total Spending In The State To More Than \$1 Million."</u> [NBC News, 8/28/18]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015: Matt Rosendale Earned A 100 Percent Score From Americans For Prosperity For His Voting Record In The Montana State Senate. [2015 Legislative Scorecard, Americans for Prosperity – Montana, captured 7/19/17] <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE VOTED AGAINST EXPANDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE TRANSPARENCY IN OUR ELECTIONS</u></p> <p>HEADLINE: "Montana House Backs Bill To Require 'Dark Money' Groups Disclose Donors." [Missoulian, 3/26/15]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Rosendale Voted Against The Montana Disclose Act, Requiring Dark Money Groups Participating In Elections To Disclose Their Donors And Campaign Expenditures. [KRTV, 4/22/15; Vote 1560, SB 289, 4/15/15] <p>HEADLINE: "Montana Senate Backs Bill Requiring 'Dark Money' Groups To ID Donors." [Missoulian, 3/26/13]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013: Matt Rosendale Voted Against The Bipartisan TRACE Act, Which Would Require Anonymous Dark Money Political Groups To Disclose Their Donors. [Vote 1148, SB 375, 3/27/13; Missoulian, 3/26/13] <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE HAS PUSHED POLICIES THAT BENEFIT HIS BIG DONORS</u></p> <p>HEADLINE: "State Auditor Drops Fines Against Top Campaign Donor." [Montana Free Press, 9/25/18]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Action disclaimer

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](#)]

JON TESTER HAS BEEN PRAISED FOR HIS BIPARTISANSHIP AND HAS HAD 20 BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

HEADLINE: “Tester The Statesman Montana Needs.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Editorial, [10/7/18](#)]

- **Bozeman Daily Chronicle Editorial: Tester “Has A Demonstrated Record Of Statesmanship – Reaching Out To The Other Party And Looking For The Middle Ground On Issues Important To Montanans.”** [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Editorial, [10/7/18](#)]
- **Bozeman Daily Chronicle Editorial: Tester “Has Voted With The Opposing Party When He Sees It As The Right Thing To Do And Against It When He Does Not. He Is An Independent Thinker.”** [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Editorial, [10/7/18](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tester’s Bipartisan Efforts Serving Our Veterans.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Editorial, [7/14/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tester Named One Of Congress’ Most Effective Senators.” [Missoula Current, [9/29/17](#)]

2017: Center For Effective Lawmaking Named Jon Tester Among The Most Effective Lawmakers In Congress. [News Release, Center for Effective Lawmaking, [9/26/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tester’s Bipartisan Efforts Serving Our Veterans.” [Editorial, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [7/14/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tester Clearheaded On Issues Montanans Care About.” [Editorial, Montana Standard, [2/22/18](#)]

Daily Inter Lake Editor Frank Miele: “Sen. Tester Should Be Commended For Finding A Way To Get Things Done That Are Important.” [Frank Miele, Daily Inter Lake, [10/28/17](#)]

Missoulian Editorial: “Jon Tester...[Has] Demonstrated A Willingness To Set Politics Aside In Order To Get Things Done For Montana.” [Missoulian, Editorial, [11/6/14](#)]

JON TESTER IS THE ONLY WORKING FARMER IN THE SENATE AND HAS FOUGHT TO CUT CONGRESSIONAL 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. Cosponsors, S. 188, Library of Congress, [4/24/17](#); NPR, [3/28/18](#)]