

BUYING INFLUENCE

"If you're using blood money, you need to tell people you're using blood money."

—OTIS BRAWLEY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, ON REVELATIONS THAT A TOBACCO COMPANY FUNDED LUNG CANCER RESEARCH, 2008

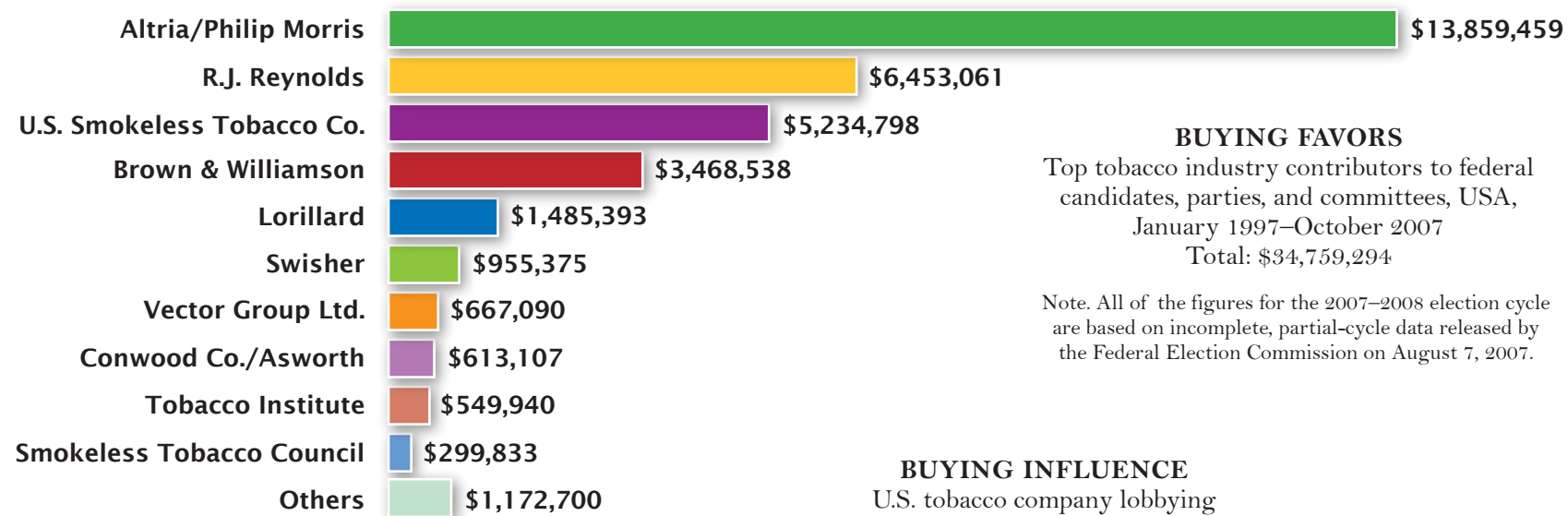
"The chicanery of the tobacco industry is something you almost have to admire. They are ahead of us at every turn, and they have enormous resources. . . . It's like using a muzzle-loading musket against a machine gun."

—FORMER U.S. SURGEON GENERAL C. EVERETT KOOP, 2007

The tobacco industry spends billions of dollars to influence public policy. Tobacco companies make major cash contributions to elected officials, candidates, and political parties; subsidize air travel; and finance political fundraisers, conventions, and inaugurations. Buying influence and favors through political contributions is common practice; however, most countries do not require mandatory reporting of tobacco industry inducements. In the United States, tobacco companies gave more than \$34.7 million to federal candidates, political parties, and political action committees between 1997 and 2007.

To enhance their public image, tobacco companies often donate a small percentage of their profits to civic, educational, and charitable organizations worldwide. Accepting donations from tobacco companies is controversial within the academic community, and many institutions abjure it to protect their academic integrity. Tobacco companies may sponsor research, assuring complete independence, only to suppress unfavorable findings. Findings that support the tobacco industry have been published without proper disclosure of the sponsor's identity.

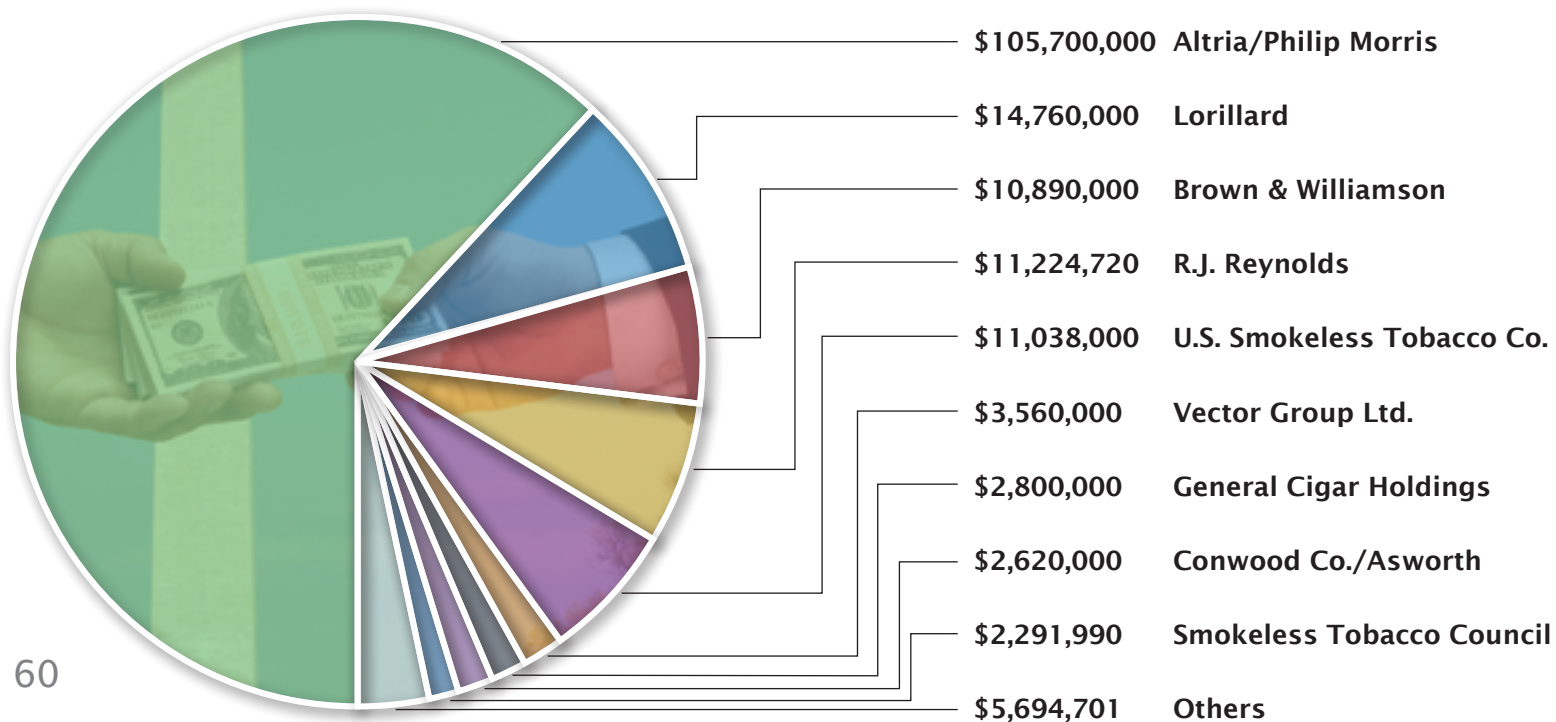
Despite the tobacco industry's long history of successfully buying favorable public policies and scientific research, the weight of scientific evidence and the tide of public policy continue to mount against Big Tobacco.



BUYING FAVORS
Top tobacco industry contributors to federal candidates, parties, and committees, USA, January 1997–October 2007
Total: \$34,759,294

Note: All of the figures for the 2007–2008 election cycle are based on incomplete, partial-cycle data released by the Federal Election Commission on August 7, 2007.

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U.S. tobacco company lobbying expenditures, 1999–2006



Tobacco Industry Influence Exposed

