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BILL MCKIBBEN JOINED HUNDREDS OF BICYCLISTS CONVERGING ON CAPITOL HILL TUESDAY NIGHT TO CALL FOR AN END TO OIL SUBSIDIES

CYCLISTS RALLY IN DC TO REPRESENT THE 464, 225 AMERICANS WHO HAVE CONTACTED CONGRESS TO END BIG OIL SUBSIDIES IN THE LAST WEEK

Washington, DC- In response to an impending vote in the US Senate, bicyclists and concerned residents converged on Capitol Hill in a last minute bid to demand an end to subsidies for wealthy oil companies.

Rally participants held up a jumbo check from the American taxpayers to Big Oil for \$4 billion dollars to represent the massive government handouts given to the industry and held up signs calling for Congress to end this corporate welfare. Speakers Bill McKibben, founder and Board President of 350.org, and Steve Kretzmann, Executive Director of Oil Change International, riled up the crowd.

“No Senator can explain why we need to subsidize fossil fuel- we’ve known how to burn it for 200 years. The only explanation is that Big Oil gives our elected leaders Big Presents, and we get the receipts,” said Bill McKibben of 350.org. “Taxpayers are fed up with subsidizing the profits of wealthy oil companies.”

In the last week, almost half a million Americans have written and called Congress demanding that they stop subsidizing oil companies. This record outpouring of anger over subsidies for the hugely profitable oil industry reflects recent surveys that show [three quarters of Americans oppose subsidizing Big Oil](#).

“The American people are fed up with hand-outs to the uber-rich oil industry, and tonight is the night to stop it. Any politician voting to extend these government hand-outs is putting their campaign contributions from Big Oil above everyday Americans, and that is unacceptable.” said Steve Kretzmann of Oil Change International.

The fossil fuel industry [poured over \\$500 million](#) into anti-climate lobbying and campaigns during the mid-term elections, a fact that spurred many to attend Tuesday despite predictions of rain.

This rally followed the arrival of Climate Ride, the national charitable bicycling event that raises funds and awareness for sustainable solutions and bike advocacy. Cyclists on climate ride arrived after a 300 mile journey to rally for both sustainable solutions and an end to oil subsidies. The next climate ride takes place in California October 2nd-6th, 2011.

Members of the Dirty Energy Money Campaign took part in the actions to demand an end to Big Oil subsidies. The Campaign is a growing coalition of national and state organizations who are calling on Congress to stop taking campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry, and stop giving those companies taxpayer support (www.dirtyenergymoney.com) Partners in the actions over the last week include: 350.org, Public Citizen, the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, Credo, USAction, Energy Action Coalition, EarthWorks, League of Conservation Voters, and Oil Change International.