

Text	Research Backup
<p>There is only one candidate for the US Senate who...</p>	
<p>Was caught slipping in a special favor for a tobacco company into a homeland security bill, just days after company executives gave him over \$30,000 [Washington Post, 6/11/03; FEC.gov]</p>	<p><b>Blunt Tried To Push Through Tobacco Legislation Beneficial To Donor Philip Morris, Employer Of Then-Girlfriend Lobbyist Abigail Perlman.</b> In the fall of 2002, Rep. Roy Blunt inserted a tobacco provision benefiting Philip Morris directly into the Homeland Security Department bill hours before the legislation was scheduled for final vote. Blunt added the tobacco provision, which cracked down on sales of contraband cigarettes, without informing House leadership or submitting the proposal for normal committee review and debate. After learning of the provision, House Speaker Dennis Hastert had it removed from the proposed language. When reports of the incident surfaced, Blunt was strongly criticized for circumventing legislative procedure to push legislation beneficial to one of his largest donors, Philip Morris. The tobacco company also employed Blunt’s personal relations as lobbyists, including Blunt’s son Andrew Blunt, a lobbyist for Philip Morris in Missouri, and Blunt’s “close personal friend” and suspected romantic interest Abigail Perlman, head of government affairs for Altria Group Inc., Philip Morris’ parent company. [<a href="#">Washington Post</a>, 6/11/03]</p> <p><b>Blunt Received \$30,400 in Contributions From Thirty-Seven Philip Morris and Kraft Executives.</b> Between October 18, 2002 and November 8, 2002, Blunt received contributions to his PAC from thirty-seven executives employed by Philip Morris and Kraft (owned by Philip Morris). The contributions totaled \$30,400. [CQ Moneyline, Accessed 6/1/10]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>October 25: Thirty Contributions From Philip Morris and Kraft Executives Donated on the Same Day.</b> According to campaign finance records, thirty executives employed by Philip Morris and Kraft contributed to Blunt’s PAC on October 25, 2002. [CQ Moneyline, Accessed 6/1/10]</li> </ul> <p><b>Donations Included Contribution from Philip Morris Chief Lobbyist John Scruggs.</b> The October 25, 2002 contributions to Blunt’s PAC from Philip Morris executives included a \$1,000 contribution</p>

	<p>from John Scruggs, chief Washington lobbyist for Philip Morris. [CQ Moneyline, Accessed 6/1/10]</p> <p><b>Lobbyist Scruggs Later Described Cigarette Provision Blunt Tried to Insert as “Pretty Important to Us.”</b> As reported by the <u>Washington Post</u>, “Scruggs said in an interview that the provision was ‘pretty important to us.’ Philip Morris, the nation's largest cigarette producer, would have benefited from the measure more than any other company.” [Washington Post, 6/11/03]</p>
<p>Was allowed to eat for free at convicted felon Jack Abramoff’s Washington DC restaurant [New York Times, 7/6/05]</p>	<p><b>Blunt Was Listed as A “Friend of Owner” at Abramoff’s Restaurant Allowing Him to Dine for Free.</b> Abramoff’s restaurant, Signatures, gave free meals to friends and associates of Abramoff. Blunt was included on a list with the restaurant as a ‘friend of owner’ or FOO, making him eligible for free meals. Signatures employees did not describe Blunt as eating often with Abramoff or often receiving free meals. Blunt’s spokesman said Blunt had never received free meals at Signatures. [New York Times, 7/6/05]</p>
<p>Was a top user of corporate jets [Washington Post, 5/5/05]</p>	<p><b>Washington Post Named Blunt And DeLay Top Users Of Corporate Jets.</b> According to <u>The Washington Post</u>, “Blunt and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay are the top two users of such jets among the current leadership, together accounting for at least 140 trips during the past two election cycles.” [Washington Post, 5/5/05]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blunt and DeLay Flew On Corporate-Owned Jets At Least 140 Times From 2001 To 2004, Averaged One Corporate Flight Every Ten Days.</b> As reported by <u>The Washington Post</u>, “Blunt and 11 other current or former House and Senate leaders -- each with exceptional power to determine the fate of legislation and regulation -- flew on corporate-owned jets at least 360 times from January 2001 to December 2004, according to a review of records by <u>The Washington Post</u>. Blunt and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) are the top two users of such jets among the current leadership, together accounting for at least 140 trips during the past two election cycles -- an average of one flight every 10 days.” [Washington Post, <a href="#">5/5/05</a>]</li> </ul>

<p>And received tens of thousands of dollars from a convicted California defense contractor and his associates [FEC.gov; San Diego Union Tribune, 2/5/06]</p>	<p><b>Blunt Ultimately Received Over \$26,000 in Contributions from Brent Wilkes And His Associates – then Refused to Return the Money:</b> Cong. Blunt’s campaign committees ultimately received \$26,000 from convicted California defense contractor Brent Wilkes’ company and his associates – including his co-conspirator Mitchell Wade. Although many members of Congress who received donations from donors implicated in the bribery case announced they would return the money once the extent of the scandal was revealed, Blunt refused to return the money. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 12/9/05; FEC.gov]</p> <p><b>Brent Wilkes Was Convicted of 13 Felonies:</b> As reported by the San Diego Union Tribune, Brent Wilkes was convicted of “13 felonies for bribing former congressman Randy ‘Duke’ Cunningham with expensive meals, trips a yacht and mortgage payments.” [San Diego Union Tribune, 11/5/07]</p>
<p>The result?</p>	
<p>Congressman Blunt has already spent over half a million dollars in legal fees, but won’t tell us the details [FEC.gov] [Roll Call, 8/11/08]</p>	<p><b>Blunt Has Already Spent Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Legal Fees:</b> Congressman Blunt’s spending on legal fees spiked markedly in the 2008 cycle. He went from spending 5 figures per year on legal services to a whopping \$245,000 in 2008. Blunt spent a total of over \$500,000 on legal fees in the five years between 2003 and 2008. As reported by <i>Roll Call</i> in August of 2008, Blunt “spent significant funds on legal expertise in the current cycle, handing more than \$187,000 — including more than \$112,000 since the beginning of the year — to Atlanta-based McKenna Long &amp; Aldridge LLP and Kansas City, Mo.-based Lathrop &amp; Gage LC.” Blunt’s spokeswoman told <i>Roll Call</i> “that the increase is tied to greater scrutiny in response to new House ethics rules as well as <u>as costs the Missourian faced for legal work prompted by a lawsuit involving former defense contractor Brent Wilkes.</u>” [Roll Call, 8/11/08; FEC.gov]</p>
<p>Don’t you think it’s time that Congressman Blunt came clean with Missourians?</p>	
<p>What is Congressman Blunt Hiding?</p>	
<p>Do you think he should come clean?</p>	

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