

Tony Evers' Investment Hypocrisy Equals More Failed Leadership

Evers says he's for the environment, workplace protections, and limiting subsidies, but his pocketbook says otherwise

On issue after issue, Tony Evers' campaign rhetoric -- and that of the political party that nominated him to run for governor -- stands in stark contrast to the investments he has made. You can't put a dollar amount on integrity, and Tony Evers' hypocrisy is yet another example of his failed leadership.

- Tony Evers voices support for renewable energy and environmental concerns but is heavily invested in oil and gas interests -- including companies involved in the BP oil spill that turned off scores of consumers -- as well as a significant Wisconsin polluter. He holds no renewable energy investments.
- Evers voices support for workers' rights, wage increases, veterans rights, and gender and racial equality, but has profited off companies that have notoriously bad records on those same issues.
- Evers opposes the Foxconn deal and incentives to keep Kimberly Clark jobs in Wisconsin, but has invested in companies that have received billions in taxpayer subsidies.
- The Democratic Party of Wisconsin's [2018 platform](#) includes resolutions concerning a wide variety of positions Evers claims to hold but does not adhere to in his own personal investments, including a commitment to renewable energy, safeguarding groundwater, and criticizing those who "put profit over public safety."

Oil and Gas Hypocrisy

Tony Evers has invested in out-of-state or foreign companies with a history of repeated pollution of the environment including the company responsible for the Deepwater Horizon explosion that was one of the worst water contamination events in world history, and a company whose pipeline leak contaminated Wisconsin groundwater with cancer-causing chemicals. That is not reflective of a man who actually believes his campaign rhetoric of protecting our natural resources.

2010 Deepwater Horizon Explosion

In April 2010, the Transocean-operated Deepwater Horizon rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in the worst oil spill in US history. ([Smithsonian](#), Gulf Oil Spill, Accessed 10/13/18)

- Eleven workers were killed and 4.9 million barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. (Michael Martinez, "Transocean Pleads Guilty, Fined 2nd-Biggest Penalty For Gulf Spill," [CNN](#), 2/14/13)
- The Deepwater Disaster is ranked in the top 5 all time largest water contaminations in the world. Environmental agencies are not sure if the oil will ever be removed from the gulf. ([Water Filters](#), 13 all time biggest water contaminations)
- Evers owned as much as \$50,000 worth of Transocean bonds in 2010 when the catastrophe happened, and held the investment for 2 years after the explosion. (Evers Calendar Year 2010 SEI)

2012 Wisconsin Gas Spill Disaster Precedes Evers Purchase of Buckeye Stock

Evers invested as much as \$50,000 in Buckeye Partners the year after a Buckeye spill contaminated drinking water supplies for hundreds of people in Jackson, WI. ([MIS](#), Washington County Residents Settle Lawsuit, 3/11/15; Evers 2014 SEI)

- A section of 10-inch pipe in the company's Milwaukee-to-Green Bay line ruptured on July 17, 2012, spilling an estimated 54,600 gallons of gasoline in a farm pasture.
- Gasoline from the spill contaminated groundwater in roughly a 1-square-mile area of the town. Tests of drinking water detected benzene and other gasoline contaminants in 44 private wells at least once since the spill.
- State environmental officials ordered 37 property owners to permanently abandon their contaminated wells.
- The state Department of Natural Resources required West Shore and Buckeye to offer a new water supply to 153 town properties. Around 139 property owners accepted water service provided by the Village of Jackson.
- West Shore paid \$5.3 million to build eight miles of water main to extend municipal water to the rural area.
- DNR official: Jackson water may be unusable for a decade or more. (Fox 6 Now, DNR to Host Pipeline Cleanup Meeting, [Sept 18, 2012](#))
- Homeowners were unable to use water from their wells which tested positive for cancer-causing benzene. ([WIS](#), Homeowners Suing over JacksonGas Pipeline Spill 12/3/12)

In 2013, Evers investments in various energy interests included three of the of top 16 pipeline companies with the most incidents the previous year - Exxon, Oneok and Buckeye. ([Business Insider](#), Pipeline Operators with the Most Incidents, 10/26/12, Evers 2013 SEI)

Though Evers has investments across the nation in fossil fuel interests, and none in renewable energy, he wants to force Foxconn to install solar panels, to create power for 33,000 homes in southern Wisconsin. ([The Bozho](#) Tom Whitcomb, "Get this: Scott Walker and Tony Evers disagree on climate change" 10/11/18)

Evers' Positions

Clean Environment and Clean Water: Evers promises on his website to: "Make sure Wisconsin families have clean water to drink and clean air to breathe." (www.tonyevers.com)

Renewable Energy: Evers says on his campaign website: "We can grow our economy and increase our national security by producing renewable energy here at home rather than buying our energy from foreign countries and hostile nations." (www.tonyevers.com)

DPW Platform: Evers investments also run counter to resolutions included in the Democratic Party of Wisconsin platform calling for a moratorium on pipeline construction, an end to subsidies for fossil fuel companies, and supporting the EPA's clean power plan. ([DPW 2015 Resolutions](#), [DPW 2016 Resolutions](#), [DPW 2017 Resolutions](#).)

- 2017 Resolution 17-AGE-03 calls for a moratorium on pipeline construction.
- 2015 Resolution 15-AGE-05 calls for an end to subsidies for fossil fuel companies.
- 2016 Resolution 16-AGE-07 supports the EPA Clean Power Plan to reduce use of fossil fuels

Evers' Endorsements

The Sierra Club endorsed Tony Evers, saying he was “committed to protecting Wisconsin families’ health, air and water and to building a clean energy economy that works for Wisconsin.” ([Sierra Club press release](#))

- **The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club put out a report last year about the ills of fossil fuels.** “Wisconsin is needlessly putting water at risk from the transportation and use of the fuels used to generate energy. The transportation of natural gas, oil, and frac sands through Wisconsin by rail, pipeline and shipper pose a significant threat to environmental and public health due to aging infrastructure and frequent spills and accidents.” ([Sierra Club John Muir Chapter](#))

The League of Conservation Voters endorsed Tony Evers.

- Evers investments seem to run counter to the LCV clean energy : “I pledge to fight for pollution-free communities, and to move Wisconsin and our country toward 100 percent clean energy. I will do this by urging my federal, state, and local elected officials to support this work and hold them accountable for their decisions, actions, and inaction.” ([LCV](#))

Clean Wisconsin endorsed Tony Evers. ([Clean Wisconsin Action Fund](#))

- Clean Wisconsin supports the EPA Clean Power Plan which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially. ([Clean Wisconsin](#))

Subsidy Hypocrisy

Despite campaigning on opposition to economic development initiatives to create and keep jobs in Wisconsin, Tony Evers invests in and has profited from companies that have taken hundreds of billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies.

Evers Does Not Support The Kimberly-Clark Incentive Plan to Save Wisconsin Jobs

Evers does not support a plan to keep 2 Kimberly-Clark plants, employing 600 people, operational in Wisconsin through a tax-incentive package.

- **Evers said in a debate that he did not support the Kimberly-Clark plan to save 600 jobs in Wisconsin.** ([WPR](#), Laurel White 7/30/2018)
- Evers said of the proposed \$100 million tax incentive to keep two Kimberly-Clark plants and 600 jobs in central Wisconsin: **“We can’t keep picking winners and losers.”** and “...at the end of the day there’s more to economic development than cutting last-minute checks.” ([Racine Journal Times](#), Ricardo Torres, “Evers Weighs In On Foxconn” 9/21/18)

Evers Does Not Support the Foxconn Incentive Package To Create Wisconsin Jobs

Evers does not support the Foxconn tax-incentive package that awards tax credits only when employment and construction measures are met.

- **Evers said that Foxconn was “a lousy deal” and that as governor, he would “hold Foxconn’s feet to the fire.”** ([Racine Journal Times](#) Ricardo Torres, “Evers Weighs In On Foxconn” 9/21/18)
- **Evers said he would renegotiate the Foxconn deal** because it was “\$3 billion without environmental restrictions on the company and no guarantees on the number of jobs.” ([MIS](#), Tom Kertscher, “Governor candidate Tony Evers says he would renegotiate Wisconsin’s deal with Foxconn” 8/27/17)

Total Subsidies

Company	Subsidy state	Subsidy fed	Fed loan/bailout	Total Subsidy
Exxon	\$951,988,130		\$3,853,988,000	\$4,805,976,130
Wells Fargo	\$176,823,225	\$403,608,359	\$342,508,317,229	\$343,088,748,813
Transocean	\$2,643,650			\$2,643,650
Kinder Morgan	\$8,572,424	\$104,799,908	\$482,536,088	\$595,908,420
Oneok	\$18,759,997			\$18,759,997
Time Warner				\$52,832,603
NW Natural	\$448,594			\$448,594
US West	\$243,857			\$243,857
Buckeye	\$100,000			\$100,000
	\$1,159,579,877	\$508,408,267	\$346,844,841,317	\$348,565,662,064

Workplace Hypocrisy

Tony Evers voices support for workers' rights, wage increases, veterans rights, and gender and racial equality. But Evers has profited off investments in out-of-state companies that have faced #MeToo scandals, a wide range of allegations over discrimination in the workplace, discrimination with its customers, and more.

Evers' Positions

Workers rights and wages: Evers' website declares: "It's time we started treating all Wisconsin workers – including our public employees – with respect and compassion." (www.tonyevers.com)

Women's rights: Evers' Women for Tony Network page proclaims: "We need a governor who understands not just what is important to women, but who will work hard for ALL Wisconsinites." ([Women for Tony](#))

Racial equality: According to TonyEvers.com: "Advancing racial equity and increasing opportunities for children, families and communities of color across the state is imperative to Wisconsin's healthy and sustainable future." (www.tonyevers.com)

Veterans: Evers' website says: "Tony is grateful for the service and sacrifice of our state's veterans and believes we must do all that we can to honor their service and protect the benefits they have earned." (www.tonyevers.com)

Corporate behavior: Evers claimed to be concerned about Foxconn being a good corporate citizen: "We can, and should, compel them to be good corporate citizens." ([Racine Journal Times](#), Ricardo Torres," Evers Weighs In On Foxconn" 9/21/18)

Wells Fargo

Evers owned as much as \$50,000 worth of stock in Wells Fargo from at least 2010-2017 and continued his loyalty to the company through a decade of their #metoo moments. (Evers SEI)

- In October 2014 Wells Fargo paid a \$5 million penalty related to discriminatory practices against women who were pregnant, had recently given birth, and were on maternity leave. ([Good Jobs First](#) Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Record)
- In 2014, Wells Fargo settled a sexual harassment lawsuit for nearly \$300,000. Women employees were subjected to graphic sexual comments, images and inappropriate touching and though reported to management multiple times, the company did not stop it. ([EEOC](#) WF Settles EEOC Same Sex Sexual Harassment Lawsuit, 9/15/14)
- In 2017 a female Wells Fargo employee claimed in a lawsuit that she was repeatedly sexually harassed and the company took no action on her complaints. Among other instances, the manager reportedly told her she looked "hot" at the funeral of her infant daughter. (Joe Marusak and Maria David, [Miami Herald](#), "Her boss asked her to cook for him in the nude and said she looked hot at a funeral." 8/31/17)
- In 2009 women employees of Wells Fargo brought a federal class-action gender discrimination lawsuit against Wells Fargo, charging they were denied career opportunities and retaliated against when they complained. Wells Fargo settled for \$32 million in 2011. ([Wealth Management](#), Wells Fargo Settles Sex Discrimination CLaims, 2/25/11)

In addition, Wells Fargo has faced legal issues regarding its treatment of veterans, disabled people, students and minorities.

- **Veterans:** Wells Fargo paid \$108 million to settle claims that it charged military veterans hidden fees while refinancing their mortgages and hid the fees while applying for federal loan guarantees. (Jonathan Stempel, "Wells Fargo to pay U.S. \$108 million over veterans' loans," [Reuters](#), 8/4/17)
- **Students:** Wells Fargo was fined \$3.6 million for student loan practices that misled borrowers and charged on-time payers with late fees. (Charisse Jones, "Wells Fargo fined \$3.6M over student loan practices," [USA Today](#), 8/22/16)
- **Minorities:** In July 2012 the USDOJ Civil Rights Division fined Wells Fargo \$234 million for engaging in a pattern or practice of discrimination against African American and Hispanic borrowers in its mortgage lending ([Good Jobs First](#) Wells Fargo Bank Record)
- **Disabled people:** In May 2011, Wells Fargo paid \$16 million in a federal civil case brought by the Justice Department Civil Rights Division related to complaints filed by individuals who were deaf or had speech disabilities who alleged that Wells Fargo would not do business with them over the phone. ([USDOJ](#) Justice Department Reaches ADA Settlement with Wells Fargo 5/31/11)

All told, companies Tony Evers invested in have been fined more than \$17.6 billion for environmental, safety and workplace violations.

Total Violations

Company	Total Violations	Environmental	Labor/Wage	Safety
Buckeye	\$3,525,258	\$3,414,158	\$0	\$104,800
Oneok	\$10,465,675	\$941,370	\$0	\$66,450
Kinder Morgan	\$170,074,967	\$119,431,331	\$3,048,613	\$16,057,950
Transocean	\$1,426,734,859	\$1,400,040,000	\$131,614	\$0
Exxon	\$1,025,645,420	\$980,104,010	\$1,506,106	\$1,680,304
Wells Fargo	\$14,710,307,588	\$0	\$205,403,723	\$0
Time Warner	\$317,380,642	\$0	\$14,263,967	\$85,415
	\$17,664,134,409	\$2,503,930,869	\$224,354,023	\$17,994,919

Note: These amounts are from the Violation Tracker page for the parent company in the list above. The breakdown columns combine various safety violations, labor, wage and related items, and environmental items that are listed separately on the website. There are numerous other categories of violations, so the totals in the three breakdown categories do not add up to the amount in the Total Violations column.