

Pro-Koch Op-ed Betrays Claim of "journalistic integrity"

Blogpost by **Connor Gibson** - February 10, 2011 at 14:39

Koch Industries, which has dumped tens of millions of dollars into organizations that deny climate science, also wields its influence through a [network of media operatives](#) that are now shielding the private conglomerate from criticism.

In a dismissal of the questionable connection between Koch Industries and Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, the *Wall Street Journal's* **James Taranto** recently [defended](#) the dubious political wrangling of the Koch brothers while chastizing its critics, namely Common Cause. Common Cause organized the recent [protest in Rancho Mirage](#), California outside of the ritzy resort Charles Koch selected as a haven for undemocratic scheming.

What is ironic about Taranto's pro-Koch piece is his offense to the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial page being considered biased (it clearly is, as you would [expect](#) from a [Rupert Murdoch business](#)), while **the WSJ editorial board actually has a direct connection to Koch Industries itself.**

[Stephen Moore](#), who sits with Taranto on the *Wall Street Journal* editorial board and is an economic pundit on TV networks, [attended](#) the secretive gathering hosted by **Charles Koch in Aspen, Colorado last June**. In fact, it was Moore who revealed in a 2006 [interview with Charles Koch](#) that these meetings exist.

As outlined in a forthcoming Greenpeace report, Moore has [ties](#) to the [Cato Institute](#), co-founded by Charles Koch, and the [Heritage Foundation](#), which have each received millions of dollars from Koch foundations since 1997. Moore has provided an explicit voice in the fabricated non-debate over climate science, where scientists are pinned against industry talking points and cherrypicked data (see [clip provided by ThinkProgress](#)).

The *Wall Street Journal's* opinion section has also served as host to prominent climate obstructionists, such as [Bjorn Lomborg](#) and scientists-for-hire [Richard Lindzen](#) and [Patrick Michaels](#). Lindzen and Michaels are deeply integrated into Koch- and Exxon-funded think tanks such as Cato, the [George C. Marshall Institute](#), [Tech Central Station](#) and the [Heartland Institute](#). Michaels is currently being scrutinized after he apparently under-reported his [financial backing by coal and oil companies](#) during a presentation before Congress.

Taranto also cites Jonathan Adler from the [National Review Online](#) to attack Common Cause. Adler has [links](#) to the Koch- and Exxon-funded [Federalist Society](#) (**which paid for the Justices Thomas and Scalia attendance at a secret Koch meeting**), [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), and the [Property and Environment Research Center](#).

Oh, and Adler's connection as a [blogger](#) for the *National Review Online* adds another connection to Koch Industries--**NRO senior editor Ramesh Ponnuru attended the Koch meeting in Aspen last June**, just as Stephen Moore did. Moore also contributes to the *National Review*.

...that must have been what Taranto meant by adhering to the "highest standards of journalistic integrity."

For more on Koch Industries' connections to media outlets, **check out [Kate Sheppard's recent piece in Mother Jones](#)**, and keep your eyes peeled for more details from Greenpeace.