

THE RAW STORY

Koch Industries tells employees to vote Republican to avoid higher gas prices

By Eric W. Dolan - Sunday, October 14, 2012

A Koch Industries voter guide sent encourages the company's 50,000 employees to vote for Republican candidates, according to MSNBC.

The guide was first obtained by In These Times.

"If we elect candidates who want to spend hundreds of billions in borrowed money on costly new subsidies for a few favored cronies, put unprecedented regulatory burdens on businesses, prevent or delay important new construction projects, and excessively hinder free trade, then many of our more than 50,000 U.S. employees and contractors may suffer the consequences, including higher gasoline prices, runaway inflation, and other ills," Koch Industries president Dave Robertson warns in the voter guide.

The voter guide includes registration deadlines, early voting options, and a list of candidates supported by Koch companies. All of the candidates listed are Republicans. The guide also includes an anti-Obama editorial written by Charles Koch and a pro-Romney editorial written by David Koch.

"To encourage employees to be informed about and engaged in the political process, Koch mailed a letter in early October to its 50,000 U.S.-based employees. It is also important to note that many companies, as well as organizations such as labor unions, also provide similar information to their members and fellow employees. Indeed, unions and newspapers go further than this and actually endorse candidates to their readers and members," Koch spokesman Rob Tappan told MSNBC.

A similar voter guide sent out by Koch Industries in 2010 warned that "recent government actions are threatening to bankrupt the country."

The Koch brothers have long championed free-market policy, and their generous political giving helped the tea party movement get off the ground. They are also supporters of libertarian groups like Americans for Prosperity, the Cato Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and the Reason Foundation.

Koch-related organizations plan to spend \$400 million during the 2012 campaigns, more than Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) raised for his entire presidential campaign, according to Politico. The Koch brothers have personally pledged to spend \$60 million to defeat Obama.