



September 5, 2017

Mr. David Brooks
Mr. Miles O'Brien
PBS News Hour
2100 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: [Climate Change Politics on "Shields and Brooks"](#)

Dear Mr. Brooks and Mr. O'Brien:

I want to address you first, Mr. Brooks, about your response to Mr. O'Brien's questions in the September 1st "Shields and Brooks" segment about climate change. Mr. O'Brien asked you if you thought there might be any chance for a political sea change in attitudes toward climate change.

Brooks: "Climate change, in the way it was 20 years ago, is a total partisan issue now."

O'Brien: "Is that because Al Gore ran for president?"

Brooks: "He had some positive effects with the move, but he had a very negative effect. Used to have John McCain and a lot of other Republicans with climate change legislation. And once it became a Democratic issue, the Republicans had to go on the other side. And there was a perverse effect for what Al Gore did."

There is no disagreement that climate change politics has become a partisan issue. But the blame for today's hyper-partisanship lays elsewhere..

C&BP invested 1,500+ staff hours over 18 months to conduct the most comprehensive probe of its kind into the efforts by Charles G. Koch and David H. Koch to undermine climate science and climate change solutions. Our 90-page investigative report analyzes the Koch Industries' corporate empire, including the first-ever corporate forensic examination of Koch Industries. It also looks at the Koch Advocacy Network, and how Koch Industries has built, controlled and managed the Koch Advocacy Network over 35 years solely for the financial gain of privately-owned Koch Industries.

Recently, we released an excerpt from our soon-to-be released report. From 1997-2013, C&BP documented \$192 Million to 72 groups associated with opposition to clean energy solutions and climate change denial. You can read that excerpt by clicking [HERE](#) or by visiting our website. What is perhaps most disturbing is that the Kochs and their donor allies *increased* funding in recent years.

From 1997 to 2013, the five Koch Family Foundations donated more than \$73 million to climate change counter-movement groups. Over this period, the family foundations – principally the Charles G. Koch Foundation, David H. Koch Foundation and the now-dissolved Charles R. Lambe Foundation – awarded

Mr. David Brooks
Mr. Miles O'Brien
September 5, 2017
Page Two

grants to 63 such foundations, academic institutions, think tanks and advocacy groups.

Koch Family Foundations *direct* funding of these organizations peaked at a total of \$8.5 million in 2006 — the year Gore's *Inconvenient Truth* was released. From 2007 to 2013, the cumulative totals given directly to groups associated with clean energy opposition efforts ranged from \$4.7 million to \$7.5 million.

As reviewed in other sections of our report, the decline of Koch Family Foundations direct funding of climate change counter-movement organizations corresponded with the rise of cloaked Koch investments and increased use of grantmaking vehicles. These include donor-directed dark money funds, and Freedom Partners Chambers of Commerce, the Koch network's funding arm launched in 2011. The Koch's multi-leveled assault, which they call *The Structure of Social Change*, has had a devastating result.

Today, those of us who believe in facts struggle as the war on science and reasoning continues unabated. You, Mr. Brooks, have referred to that disintegration many times over the years without acknowledging its cause. You have written and discussed the Koch's outsized role in the political world, but I am unaware of your voice regarding their role in fostering the climate crisis.

Checks and Balances Project is an eight-year-old investigative watchdog focused on those that block the growth of a sustainable economy. The name of our report is, "*The Disrupted: The Definitive Investigation into Koch Self-interest, Infrastructure and Strategies to Control Government.*" I would be happy to send you a copy as soon as it is published.

Mr. O'Brien, I have left you until the end of this letter. I want to share this information with you about the Koch's lavish role in instigating and carrying out the war on science, reason, and climate change. I commend you, and the PBS Newshour, for asking questions about the climate crisis that too many other journalists ignore.

Sincerely,



Scott Peterson
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cc: Mark Shields
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