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## **Sierra Club Condemns Latest Oil Billionaires' Efforts to Control California Elections**

*State Supreme Court Orders Disclosure of Campaign Finance Sources; Billionaire Koch Brothers Revealed as Big Donors to Campaign Fund Fighting California Progress*

SACRAMENTO, Calif (November 5, 2012) – Today, in response to an order by the California Supreme Court, the Arizona-based Americans for Responsible Leadership admitted that it was not the true source of \$11 million in funds it contributed to try to influence outcomes on two California ballot measures.

The organization admitted it was an intermediary for the funding and that the source of the money was Americans for Job Security, through a second intermediary, The Center to Protect Patient Rights.

The Center to Protect Patient Rights is closely tied to David and Charles Koch, whose Koch Industries is heavily invested in oil and coal energy. The Koch brothers were also key funders of the failed ballot effort in 2010 to undercut California's greenhouse gas emissions reduction laws.

**Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California, released the following statement:**

“We have known for quite a while that the Koch Brothers were sending money to California to undermine environmental protections. We didn't know they were part of an effort to undermine the entire political process through campaign money laundering.

“Thank goodness we have a Fair Political Practices Commission that is determined to try to provide transparency to voters, and ferret out illegal campaign money laundering.

“The Koch Brothers are motivated by their big investments in oil and other dirty energy to try to tear down the state government. Their hidden contribution to oppose Proposition 30, which would help avert severe education and environmental budget cuts, is despicable and cowardly.”

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*Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club's 13 chapters and more than 170,000 members and activists in California.*