

Alliance for a Better Minnesota:

“Congressional Record”

:60 Radio

| Script | Background |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Wait - don't change the station.</i></p> <p><i>I've got something to tell you that really matters – it's about Norm Coleman.</i></p> <p><i>I know - you've heard a lot on both sides – but I've got the facts to back it up.</i></p> <p><i>On July 29th, 2005, the Congressional Record reports that Norm Coleman voted to give oil companies a 2.6 <u>billion dollar</u> tax break.</i></p> | <p><u>Coleman Supported Bush-Cheney Energy Policies:</u></p> <p>Coleman Supported \$14.5 Billion in Energy Tax Credits and Subsidies - Including \$2.6 Billion for Oil and Gas Companies. In July 2005, Norm Coleman voted for an energy bill that made available \$14.5 billion in subsidies and tax credits, including up to \$3.2 billion for renewable electricity sources, \$3.1 billion for electric utilities, \$2.9 billion for the coal industry and \$2.6 billion for oil and gas companies. Smaller sums would be available for research into alternatives to gasoline-fueled cars and for conservation programs. [HR 6, Vote #213, 7/29/05]</p> <p><u>2001: When Bush Energy Plan was Unveiled in Saint Paul, Coleman Proclaimed “This Is A Great Day for Minnesota.”</u> In 2001, Norm Coleman hosted and stood by the side of President Bush as the Bush-Cheney national energy plan was unveiled to America in May 2001. After Bush delivered a speech outlining his energy plans, which called for more oil, more coal, more fossil fuel pollution and drilling in ANWR, Coleman said: “This is a great day for Minnesota.” [Star Tribune, 5/18/01; U.S. Newswire, 5/17/01]</p> |
| <p><i>Did you know Coleman also took over 275 thousand dollars from big oil?</i></p> | <p><u>Coleman Took Over \$275,000 from Oil and Gas Industries:</u></p> <p>Coleman Has Taken \$276,500 from the Oil and Gas Industry. Since running for Senate, Coleman has taken \$276,500 in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. [Center for Responsive Politics]</p> |
| <p><i>And the Congressional Record reports Coleman voted 4 times against negotiating lower prescription drug prices for Medicare.</i></p> | <p><u>Coleman Opposed Negotiating Lower Prescription Drug Prices:</u></p> <p>Coleman Voted Four Times Against Negotiating For Lower Prescription Drug Prices...Coleman has voted at least four times against allowing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program. His votes include:</p> <p><u>2003: Coleman Voted for Medicare Prescription Drug Bill that Heavily Favored Drug Companies.</u> In 2003, Coleman voted HR 1, a Medicare reform plan that included perks for private companies that increased the cost of Medicare and hurt seniors. The legislation made it illegal for Medicare to bargain with drug companies over the price of prescriptions, which was expected to add an additional \$139 billion to corporate profits. The drug benefit covered 75 percent of prescription costs up to \$2,250 a year, beginning in 2006. [HR1, Vote 459, 11/25/03, Adopted 54-44 (R42-9; D11-35); New York Times, 2/3/04; The Hill, 11/19/03]</p> |

2005: Voted Against Allowing Medicare To Negotiate Cheaper Prescription Drug Prices. In November 2005, Coleman voted against an amendment to allow the secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices under Medicare. The amendment would have specified that the authority could not be used to set prices. [S 1932, Vote #302, 11/3/05]

2005: Voted Against Allowing the Government to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices for Medicare. In 2005, Coleman voted against an amendment that would have allowed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug manufacturers for lower drug prices under Medicare. [S Con Res 18, #60, 3/17/05]

2006: Opposed Creating Reserve Fund For Prescription Drug Program Under Medicare That Allowed For Negotiation. In 2006, Coleman voted against an amendment to create a reserve fund pay for the impact of legislation that would create a government-run prescription drug plan under Medicare and authorize the secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies for that plan. The amendment was rejected 39 to 60. [SConRes 83, Vote #71, 3/16/06]

January 2007 – Said He Would Continue To Oppose Government Involvement In Medicare Drug Prices Negotiation: In January 2007, after Coleman missed a vote on legislation require the Bush administration to negotiate with drug companies on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries, Coleman said he would continue to oppose government involvement in Medicare drug prices. Coleman said, “We’ve got a system now that’s working.” Coleman charged that negotiation would “add another layer of bureaucracy.” [The Hill, 1/10/07]

...And Then Changed his Position Just in Time for '08 Re-Election After Admitting his Stance Could Risks Attacks. In January 2007, Coleman acknowledged that he would risk political attacks during his reelection run in 2008 for his stance opposing negotiation for prescription drug prices. Four months later, in April of 2007, Coleman voted to end debate and allow a vote on legislation to allow the Health and Human Services Department to negotiate with drug companies the prices of drugs covered under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. [S 3, Vote #132, 4/18/07; The Hill, 1/10/07]

And from the drug companies? Coleman took over 350 thousand dollars.

Coleman Took \$361,000 from Pharmaceutical Industry:

Coleman Has Taken \$361,667 from the Pharmaceutical and Health Product Industry Since Running for Senate. According to campaign finance reports, Norm Coleman has taken \$361,667 from the pharmaceutical and health product industry. [[Center for Responsive Politics](#)]

You've heard a lot of claims about Coleman being "independent." But check the Congressional Record shows Coleman voted with George Bush 86% of the time – that's a fact Minnesota could do without.

Call Norm Coleman and Tell Him The Facts Matter. We need him to stand up for us, not Bush and the Washington special interests.

Paid for by Alliance for a Better Minnesota 527. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Coleman Stood with Bush-Cheney Administration:

From 2003-2007, Coleman Voted with George Bush 86% of the Time. [CQ Member Profile, Accessed 8/25/08]

Coleman Voted With Bush 98 Percent Of The Time In First Year In Office. In 2003, Coleman voted with President Bush 98 percent of the time according to vote rankings by *Congressional Quarterly*. The rankings were based on an analysis of 119 recorded Senate votes in which the President took a position. [Congressional Quarterly Weekly, 1/1/07; Star Tribune, 1/9/06]

Coleman Proud of Voting with Bush 98 Percent of the Time. On voting with Bush 98 percent of the time in 2003: "I'm not apologetic about that record. That 98 percent record means that I voted for things that passed, because the president did pass his agenda last year." [Star Tribune, 1/25/04]

Coleman Called George Bush "Part of God's Answer." In 2002, Coleman said: "George Bush is a leader for our times. When we sing 'God Bless America,' it is a prayer, and I believe this person is part of God's answer." [Star Tribune, 10/19/02]

Coleman Said He Wouldn't be a U.S. Senator without Bush's Support. At his swearing in as a U.S. Senator: "I wouldn't be here without the support of the president of the United States." [Star Tribune, 1/8/03]

Coleman Predicted Special Relationship with George Bush: "I was for George Bush before he had an 80 percent approval rating...And wouldn't it be nice when the Senator from Minnesota calls, the president answers the phone?" [Roll Call, 5/20/02]