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Benishek Says Oil Companies 'Pay Their Fair Share.' Unfortunately, His Anti-Environmental Voting Record Says the Same

So far, Representative Benishek voted six times to protect oil industry subsidies, while simultaneously casting dozens of votes to slash essential funding for clean air and water.

GRAND RAPIDS – At a recent public forum, Representative Benishek said that "oil companies pay their fair share" in regard to the billions they receive in unnecessary taxpayer subsidies, a sentiment that is well-reflected in his voting record in Congress and is inspired by significant contributions from oil companies. In the midst of the most anti-environment U.S. House in history, Rep. Benishek has accepted \$11,000 in campaign contributions from oil and gas companies and \$10,000 from mining companies. Benishek's \$21,000 in dirty energy money made up 15% of his total PAC contributions in the first six months of the year. [FEC]

"Stating that 'oil companies pay their fair share' as they get billions in unnecessary tax breaks is, unfortunately, only saying out loud how he actually votes back in Washington," said Michigan League of Conservation Voters Political Director Ryan Werder. "He voted six times to protect tax breaks for his donors in the oil industry and then cast another 45 votes against the programs and funding that keep Michigan's air breathable and our water safe. In fact, Congressman Benishek just proudly posted the news of Sleeping Bear Dunes' being named the most beautiful place in America on his Facebook wall; I'm curious to know how he thinks it will remain that way without a clean and pure Michigan."

Benishek by the Numbers:

- Benishek voted 6 times this year to protect tax breaks for Big Oil this year.
- Benishek voted 19 times this year against efforts to combat climate change.
- Benishek voted 45 times this year against programs and funding to keep our air and water clean.
- Benishek voted 33 times this year to defund or weaken the EPA.
- Benishek voted 25 times this year against investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

Source: League of Conservation Voters analysis. http://www.lcv.org/assets/docs/112thantienvirovotes_bytopic.pdf