

Andy Barr's Record is not one of a true bipartisan Legislator

Q. Andy Barr has stated in open forums he is working with Democratic members of the House in a bipartisan manner, does he?

A. Andy has worked with Democrats on some legislation and referred to any legislation in which he gets even one Democrat to agree bipartisan. However, on some of the largest and contentious issues in Washington, Barr has been very partisan, sponsoring and co-sponsoring legislation that is so partisan it reeks from the special interest money supporting it.

Q. Does Andy Barr consider the interest of his constituents before special interests?

A. Andy Barr receives less than 4% of his campaign contributions from small donors. The vast bulk comes from Political Action Committees and Large donors, particularly those from mining \$663,869; Securities and Investments \$621,743; Commercial Banks \$430,663; Large Agri-business \$604,977; Financial and Credit companies \$144,050. Thus, when Barr sponsors or co-sponsors major legislation see if you can guess whose interests he is representing, theirs or yours. **HR 4289** eliminates the requirement of coal owners to report fines, major safety violations, deaths or lawsuits to investors on SEC filings. **HJR 38** ends the Stream Protection Rule that places 6,000 miles of rivers and streams at risk for debris from surface mining and allows big Agri-businesses to continue to pollute rivers that result in massive fish kills in the gulf coast. **HJR 111** returned the right of financial institutions to impose forced arbitration on customers who wish to sue when caught abusing or defrauding them. **HR 10** unwinds the major oversight of large financial institutions enacted after the Great Recession of 2008. **HR 3117** prohibits the DOE, EPA, Interior Dept. and Council on Environmental quality from considering the social costs of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide in any cost benefit analysis in rule making and requires the EPA to go back to 2009 and re-

do their analysis of the cost benefit under these modified conditions. **HR 2553** eliminates funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. **HR 226** rolls back mortgage protections by eliminating the due diligence provisions on mortgage lending.

Q. Surely Barr does care about workers since he has talked incessantly about the poor coal miners and others hurt by the war on coal.

A. If Andy ever cared about coal miners it was only as a ploy to justify his support of coal operators. He certainly wasn't concerned about coal miners when he co-sponsored **HR 4289**. Nor was he concerned with Kentucky workers when he co-sponsored **HR2723** a National Right to Work Law that would decrease worker wages and decrease the power of unions to represent workers. Or when Barr co-sponsored **HR 1552** that would eliminate the Federal regulations requiring all Federal contractors establish a project labor agreement that define the terms and conditions of employment prior to receiving Federal contracts. Or when Barr ignored the \$17 billion/yr loss from retirement accounts from a lack of fiduciary responsibility to investors when he co-sponsored **HR 3857** that eliminates the Dept of Labor fiduciary rule.

Q. Barr always says he wants to do right by his constituents, so he must be acting in their best interests, right?

A. Barr voted twice for a health care bill (**HR 1628**) that would have stripped healthcare from tens of thousands of his constituents. He has never agreed that health care is an essential need or right of his constituents. Barr also voted twice in favor of a tax bill (**HR 1**) that was the most regressive in modern history and will give the wealthiest Americans the biggest tax refunds, while the poorest Kentuckians will get crumbs and even the crumbs will be gone in ten years as their taxes are raised while the wealthiest will continue to receive tax cuts paid



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for by the poorest Americans. By rolling back protections of workers and his constituents, Barr has favored big donors at their cost. Ultimately, these changes will cost consumers far more money. Environmental and financial protections merely shift smaller compliance costs from businesses onto the backs of consumers in the form of much higher costs created by problems related to business abuses. Disasters related to global warming cost the US over \$300 billion last year alone. The 2008 Great Recession cost US households over \$11 trillion, the loss of millions of jobs and millions of homes. While wealthy Americans weathered that economic upheaval and recovered, middle class Americans lost much of the wealth they had worked hard to accumulate. Meanwhile, unregulated payday lenders continue to suck over \$117 million out of the pockets of the poorest Kentuckians each year because Barr believes these people deserve “financial choices”, and apparently interest rates of 456% are a good option?

Q. Yes, but all of these bills listed that Barr supported were also supported by Democrats, right?

A. Nope, not a single bill listed here had even a single Democrat voting for it or co-sponsoring it. Although these were major bills affecting how society functions, who pays for government, how much and how things in Washington operate, not a single one of the bills listed had ANY Democratic support. Yes, Barr does work with some conservative Democrats and does write some legislation that has bipartisan support. However, when it comes to his donor base Barr places his donor's interest's way ahead of the interests of his own constituents. Kentucky does need a bipartisan legislator, who works across the aisle, but one who addresses the most serious problems facing his constituents. Not a person who claims to be bipartisan, but fails to work in a bipartisan

manner, whenever the issue being addressed is one his rich donor base want addressed in their favor, at the expense of his constituents.

Barr either does not understand or simply doesn't care if his legislative actions hurt his constituents. In place of honesty, they get lies. Barr supported both his egregious votes for the GOP health care bill and the tax bill by telling his constituents how great these bills would be for them. He publicly stated the health care would be more affordable and more accessible because of his health care plan. It would not be, and Barr refused to listen to the many vocal complaints about the GOP health care plan. Barr touted the tax bill just passed as a job creator that would return money to the pockets of his constituents. The only money most of his constituents will see is some change in their pockets and even that change will be gone in ten years as their taxes are raised. Most of the money and wealth will end up in the far bigger pockets of his wealthy backers, not his constituents. In support of his continued efforts to eliminate the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform, Barr has lied to his constituent base that Dodd-Frank was responsible for income inequality in America today. It is not. Income inequality is a problem that has been 40 years in the making, and has nothing to do with Dodd-Frank legislation. Barr even blamed the Wells-Fargo defrauding of its own customers on Dodd-Frank legislation. Barr said that if only there were more small community banks, Wells-Fargo would not have been enticed to cheat its own customers. What a perfect justification for “protections of consumers” instead of de-regulation of businesses. If we can't trust businesses to be honest, why would we want to give them the freedom to do whatever they want without any oversight as Andy proposes? Let's elect a real Representative for the 6th District who will put Constituents interests before big money.

