

**More APS Sleaze - Response to Senator Burges  
Information and Perspective by Warren Woodward  
Sedona, Arizona ~ January 28, 2015**

Last Sunday I sent out an email with a link to an article about APS getting U.S. congressmen and women to send letters that APS had essentially written for them. My email said this:

More APS sleaze, in case you missed it. Big money to both Democrats and Republicans to get what they want.

<http://azcir.org/2015/01/16/aps-employee-drafted-anti-solar-letter-signed-by-az-congressmen/>

I got a reply from State Senator Judy Burges saying this:

Warren: Would you be kind enough to tell me just where you fit into this issue and how this letter impacts you directly? Thank you, Judy

I also got a response from State Representative Ken Clark who informed me that he had just filed a bill "... that will require APS (and all regulated monopolies) to disclose where it spends its money --actually rate-payer money-- in elections."

I suppose Rep. Clark's bill is a start, but really, why should these monopoly corporations be able to influence politics at all? They already have a monopoly; isn't that enough?

Below is my answer to Senator Burges. I am sending it to all Arizona state legislators because something needs to be done about this deplorable situation.

I ask all state legislators to show the same integrity, leadership and independence that I have asked Senator Burges to show. Come clean, people, and kick your monopoly money habit.

State Senator Burges;

APS is a monopoly. By law, its monopoly status is for the public's benefit, not its benefit. How is it then that a monopoly set

up for our benefit is allowed to further its own interests (not the public's) via political and charitable donations?

The current situation is sick, and if you wanted to demonstrate real integrity, leadership and independence you'd return the money they gave you, make a point of refusing any in the future and work to pass a law forbidding this travesty.

I have heard the argument that the money is "shareholders' money" not ratepayers' money but that's just rationalization, twisted logic. If it weren't for ratepayers there would be no "shareholders' money."

Additionally, it seems from the news story that the letter the congressmen and women based theirs on was written by an APS employee not a Pinnacle West employee, so there was not even that loophole degree of separation in this case.

APS's so-called "charitable donations" (\$17.5M/yr. last I checked) are even more influence peddling. In discussing the "smart" meter issue with a city council member of one AZ city, I was told, "I doubt any of the other council members would ever go against APS because of all they do for the community." And he was correct as it turned out. Again, sick.

I believe APS's media buys are also corrupting. In the two years since I started sending everything I write (or video) on the "smart" meter issue to various media outlets statewide, and despite me catching APS repeatedly in outright lies, mainstream media outlets won't investigate the issues I raise. Only some small independents reproduce my work.

If APS has millions to give away to politicians, "charity," and to spend on advertising, then clearly it has too much money and our rates are too high.

APS's job should be to provide us with electricity at the

cheapest possible price. Period. APS should not be involved in politics, "charity" or advertising.

Individuals working in the corporation should of course be free to exercise their rights and spend their money as they see fit. But for a corporation enjoying monopoly status, and supposedly regulated for the benefit of the public, to be allowed to engage in the sort of influence peddling that APS is allowed is just plain wrong.

So to answer your question as to how the APS letter affects me and where I fit in with the issue, as I pointed out in my initial email, this particular story is just another example of APS sleaze. I should have also mentioned that it is another example of a system sleazy enough to allow it. Sleazy APS and sleazy politicians -- a marriage made ..... where?

This sleazy system has had a direct impact on my efforts to expose the toxic and fraudulent "smart" meter scam and resolve same. I am up against bought politicians and a bought media. Even if those are not outright "bought," APS's fabulous and misspent wealth has the effect of buying it the sort of stature, respect and legitimacy that is an obstacle to anyone who goes up against it, especially small fry who don't have that wealth.

I do not have solar. But whether I do is not the point. The point is that there is a monster monopoly on the loose, untamed because politicians just like you (of both major parties) are benefiting from it, the biggest corporate political donor in the state (according to the online database of disclosed political contributions, [FollowTheMoney.org](http://FollowTheMoney.org)).

Sincerely,

Warren Woodward

PS:

This is not the land of milk and honey.

This is the place where people sell their souls out for money.  
And you know they do.  
~ Dr. John, *Babylon*