



David Koch has got to go.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for holding WGBH accountable to its mission, including “fostering an informed and active citizenry.” Oil and gas multimillionaire David Koch sits on the Board and the Science Visiting Council. This is the same David Koch who’s donated tens of millions of dollars to climate change denial think-tanks, **proactively seeking to misinform Americans** and undermine accurate scientific reporting. From 2003 to 2010, foundations affiliated with David Koch and his brother, Charles, funded climate denialist organizations to the tune of \$26 million—while the portion of Americans who believe that Earth’s temperature rise over the last century is due to natural causes, rather than human activity, climbed from 33% to 46%.¹

Koch is not fulfilling his obligation as a board member to uphold WGBH’s commitment to educating the public. He recently resigned from the board of New York’s WNET after questions of conflict of interest and self-censorship arose around the documentaries “Park Avenue: Money, Power, and the American Dream” and “Citizen Koch”.² In the uncertain funding environment of public broadcasting, where ambitions often outstrip resources, is WGBH placing money over mission? If Koch were a major funder of “research” to show that tobacco doesn’t cause cancer, **would WGBH take his money?** Yet the scientific certainty that humans cause global climate change is the same as that surrounding the assertion that cigarettes kill.³

Board Chair Amos Hostetter, Jr. has said Koch brings “diversity” to the board, and that there is no “political litmus test” for board members.⁴ But this is **not about politics**. Climate change is not something that reasonable people can disagree about, and **climate change denial is not just another “diverse” political viewpoint**. It’s a systematic effort to mislead the American public about scientific fact. And for the Kochs, that confusion directly supports their bottom line.

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¹ “Institutionalizing delay: foundation funding and the creation of US climate change counter-movement organizations,” *Climatic Change*, 12-21-13, and “Americans’ global warming concerns continue to drop,” *Gallup Politics*, 3-11-10

² “How far did PBS go to avoid offending a sponsor?,” *New Yorker*, 5-27-13

³ “What 95% certainty of warming means to scientists,” *Associated Press*, 9-24-13

⁴ “Trying to ‘follow the money’,” *Boston Globe*, 10-11-13



David Koch's record of misinformation:

Financing climate denialism ▶

A recent peer-reviewed study published by Drexel University found that foundations affiliated with David Koch are among the largest sources of funding behind climate science denial, contributing \$26.3 million to organizations at the core of the anti-science effort from 2003-2010. Other studies show that since 1997, Koch-affiliated foundations have given more than \$67 million to organizations that work to miseducate the public about climate change.

Fighting climate solutions ▶

Organizations funded by David Koch are among the most strident opponents of efforts to reduce climate pollution and promote clean, renewable energy at the state and federal level. Americans for Prosperity, founded and heavily funded by David Koch, recently attacked the Northeast's climate accord, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), decrying it as "the biggest conspiracy between the public sector, big banks, and government that Americans have ever seen."

Undercutting public broadcasting ▶

David Koch may seem to be a friend of public broadcasting, but the Kochs fund entities seeking to make funding cuts to PBS so massive they dwarf David Koch's donations to WGBH. In addition to Sens. Jim DeMint (R-SC) and Tom Coburn (R-OK), who from 2004-2010 received totals of \$76,000 and \$53,800 from individual and Koch PAC contributions, respectively, Koch Industries is a top-ten contributor to Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), who has repeatedly pushed for the elimination of funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Because of the sequester, for which Americans for Prosperity campaigned vigorously, CPB lost \$23 million in 2013 and had to eliminate 15 positions. The Koch-run Cato Institute has voiced clear opposition to public broadcasting: "When government brings us the news—with all the inevitable bias and spin—the government is putting its thumb on the scales of democracy."

⁵ "Institutionalizing delay: foundation funding and the creation of US climate change counter-movement organizations," *Climatic Change*, 12-21-13

⁶ "Koch Industries: still fueling climate denial," *Greenpeace*, 2012

⁷ "Protesters rally outside RGGI's New York offices during auction, chanting 'It's a tax!'," *Electric Utility Week*, 9-13-10

⁸ Polluterwatch, 12-6-12, and "Koch Industries: still fueling climate denial: 2011 update," *Greenpeace*, 2011

⁹ *Maplight*, 2013

¹⁰ "Americans for Prosperity campaigns to let the sequester take effect in March," *Washington Post*, 2-14-13, and "Appropriation cuts lead to layoffs and furloughs throughout CPB," *Current.org*, 5-3-13

¹¹ "Free PBS," *Cato Institute*, 8/18/05

How to get involved:

If you work at WGBH...

- **Talk** to your coworkers.
- **Discuss** with your supervisor whether s/he is receptive to bringing your and your coworkers' concerns up the management chain.
- **Approach** the Board of Trustees, perhaps through a trusted intermediary such as a recently retired board member; the Community Advisory Board may also be receptive.

If you're a WGBH member or listener...

- **Write a letter to WGBH**, One Guest Street, Boston, MA 02135. Tips: mention how you value WGBH's objectivity and high-quality science reporting, and voice your concerns about having a leading financier of efforts to deny and distort climate science helping to steer WGBH.
- **Call WGBH at 617-300-5400** during business hours.
- **Visit KochFreeWGBH.org** to sign the petition to demand that David Koch leave WGBH.



Forecast the Facts is a grassroots human rights organization dedicated to ensuring that Americans hear the truth about climate change: that temperatures are increasing, human activity is largely responsible, and that our world is already experiencing the effects. We do this by empowering everyday people to speak out in the face of misinformation and hold accountable those who mislead the public.