

RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

To: Colleagues in the Texas legislature
From: American Accountability Foundation
Date: April 20, 2023
Re: Wolves, Sheep's Clothing, and the Austin Lobby
(The Blackrock edition)

As you debate and discern the most effective way to *roll back the ESG scourge*, the American Accountability Foundation would like to share a situational intelligence update.

Ancira Strategic Partners, **Sampson Public Affairs**, and **Spreen Consulting**, have decided to represent east coast asset manager **BlackRock** rather than Texans.

While we begrudge no individual in making an *honest* living, and are sure Blackrock pays healthy fees, we believe protecting the conservative Texans livelihoods and pensions ought to be a higher priority.

BlackRock's fees benefit all the lobbyists at **Ancira**, **Sampson**, and **Spreen** so when one of their lobbyists complains that they aren't on the BlackRock account they should be reminded that the BlackRock fees help keep the lights on at their firm.

In addition to the obvious problems involved with Blackrock's ESG advocacy, this relationship could pose a conflict of interest with other clients of **Ancira**, **Sampson**, and **Spreen**.

These firms also represent companies which, if BlackRock carries the day, would be put out of business. We list the most egregious examples below.

At Ancira:

- Las Vegas Sands (BlackRock's ESG fund excludes gaming lumping them in with pornography and other industries they disfavor.)
- Diagio NA (BlackRock's ESG fund also treats alcohol like pornography and excludes it from its ESG fund.)

At Sampson:

- Las Vegas Sands (BlackRock's ESG fund excludes gaming lumping them in with pornography and other industries they disfavor.)



Spreen Consulting:

Spreen Consulting represents a portfolio of oil and gas companies. BlackRock has said, “If the world wants to reach net zero by 2050, the *use of coal, gas and oil needs to decline at a much faster clip* than it would under current policies or pledges.”

- Comstock Resources, Inc.
- DG Petro Oil & Gas, LLC
- EXCO Resources, Inc.
- Wasser Operating, LLC
- Williams Companies

We encourage you to send a message to these firms that until they show BlackRock and their oil & gas hating policies the door, don't come knocking on your door for a meeting whether it is about BlackRock or one of their other clients.

Feel free to distribute this information to colleagues.



Below are the full client lists for **Ancira**, **Sampson**, and **Spreen**.

Anicra Strategies

- Alamo Trust Inc.
- BlackRock Inc.
- BNSF Railway
- City of San Antonio (*)
- Diageo North America Inc.
- Fast Growth School Coalition (*)
- Houston Independent School District (*)
- Huckabee Inc.
- Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas
- Labatt Institutional Supply Company
- Las Vegas Sands Inc.
- Leander Independent School District (*)
- Lower Brush Creek WCID (*)
- Lower Colorado River Authority-LCRA (*)
- North Texas Tollway Authority (*)
- Raise Your Hand Texas (*)
- Samsung Austin Semiconductor
- Savion Energy
- Texans for Texas Hold'em Inc.
- Texas Association of Community Colleges (*)
- Texas Association of Community Schools
- Texas Association of School Administrators (*)
- Texas Municipal League (*)
- TML Health Benefits Pool (*)
- Travis Central Appraisal District (*)

* - Taxpayer Funded

Sampson Public Affairs

- Association of Electric Companies of Texas, Inc.
- BHE Infrastructure Group, Inc.
- BlackRock Inc.
- Entergy Texas, Inc.
- Johnson Controls, Inc.
- Las Vegas Sands Corp.
- Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC
- Sabine Pilots Association
- TechNet



- Texas Association of REALTORS
- Texas Association of School Administrators (*)
- Texas Competes Action
- Texas Electric Cooperatives
- Texas Medical Association

* - Taxpayer funded.

Lauren Spreen

- Apache Corporation
- Arrington Oil & Gas Operating LLC
- BlackRock, Inc.
- CDP II Holdings, LLC
- Comstock Resources, Inc.
- DG Petro Oil & Gas, LLC
- Enterprise Products Partners L.P.
- EXCO Resources, Inc.
- SOGC, Inc.
- Standard Lithium Ltd.
- Targa Resources
- Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association TIPRO
- Wasser Operating, LLC
- Waste Management Energy Services TX
- Williams Companies
- Windstream Corporation

