

---

# AMERICANS FOR PUBLIC TRUST

---

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
AMERICANS FOR PUBLIC TRUST

BY

CATLIN SUTHERLAND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FOR A HEARING ENTITLED

“FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN AMERICAN NON-PROFITS: UNMASKING THREATS FROM  
BEIJING AND BEYOND”

February 10, 2026

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the invitation to testify on foreign threats and influence in the nonprofit sector. My name is Caitlin Sutherland, and I am the founding Executive Director of Americans for Public Trust (APT), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to uncover and publicize foreign money and influence in politics and policy.

Foreign nationals, foreign charities, and foreign governments are actively exploiting loopholes to funnel their foreign dark money into important American policy fights, institutions, and electoral tools – and they are utilizing the nonprofit sector to do it.

Over 40 years ago, Congress banned foreign nationals from directly or indirectly influencing our elections.<sup>1</sup> And while federal law is still inadequate when defining what foreign nationals can and cannot do in our electoral space, it is even worse to virtually nonexistent in the nonprofit policy space.<sup>2</sup>

The unprecedented rise of foreign donations to policy advocacy nonprofits should be a concern to every American. Tax-exempt organizations, most commonly 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(4)s, are important institutions in our modern society. They are *supposed* to serve as a charitable backbone in our communities, educate the public, and promote the common good.<sup>3</sup>

Yet, many policy groups have been co-opted by foreign actors who are quietly driving radical changes right here in America. This threat of foreign interference is not a hypothetical one. In October 2025, Americans for Public Trust released a report on how just five foreign charities spent almost \$2 billion dollars bankrolling U.S. policy fights, litigation, research, lobbying, and protests.<sup>4</sup> After analyzing the annual reports and grant databases of these foreign charities, this investigative report uncovered how Quadrature Climate Foundation (United Kingdom), KR Foundation (Denmark), Oak Foundation (Switzerland), Laudes Foundation (Switzerland), and Children's Investment Fund Foundation (United Kingdom) have been quietly funding hundreds of U.S.-based organizations, mostly 501(c)(3)s.<sup>5</sup>

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF FIVE FOREIGN CHARITIES SPENDING ALMOST \$2 BILLION TO FUEL EXTREME POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES**

Quadrature Climate Foundation (QCF), founded in 2019 by the two “enigmatic billionaires” Greg Skinner and Suneil Setiya, has steered over \$530 million to U.S.-based groups, mostly to influence energy policy.<sup>6</sup> QCF is the philanthropic arm of the London-based hedge fund Quadrature Capital (QC). QC, which has been described as “a bit of a cult,” “unusually secretive,” and gave the “largest single donation ever” to the UK's Labour Party, simultaneously serves as the sole funding vehicle for QCF's advocacy.<sup>7</sup> QCF's grants are sent “to some of the world's most influential campaign groups and scientific institutions, steering the direction of both research and lobbying on the green transition.”<sup>8</sup> The 501(c)(3) SilverLining, in conjunction

---

<sup>1</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30121.

<sup>2</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30121; 11 C.F.R. § 110.20; *See* 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)-(c)(4).

<sup>3</sup> 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)-(c)(4); *See* IRS, *Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization*, Publication 557, Pages # 22, 48 (Jan. 2025), <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p557.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Americans for Public Trust, *Foreign Charities Fueling Extreme Policies in the U.S.*, Report (Oct. 2025), <https://americansforpublictrust.org/reports/foreign-charities-fueling-extreme-policies-in-the-u-s/>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Kiran Stacey, “Climate Groups Accept Millions from Charity Linked to Fossil Fuel Investments,” *The Guardian* (June 30, 2023), <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/30/climate-groups-accept-millions-from-charity-linked-to-fossil-fuel-investments-quadrature-climate-foundation> and Preston Mizell, “Bombshell Report Shows Foreign Charities Dumped Billions into US Political Advocacy Groups, 'Erode' Democracy,” *Fox News* (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bombshell-report-shows-foreign-charities-dumped-billions-us-political-advocacy-groups-erode-democracy>.

<sup>7</sup> Sarah Butcher, “Quadrature Capital: The Hyper-Secretive Prop Trading Firm That's ‘A Bit of A Cult,’” *eFinancialCareers* (Dec. 3, 2024), <https://www.efinancialcareers.com/news/quadrature-capital> and Nick Rodrigues, “Meet the Pair Donating £5.2m A Week to Climate Change,” *The Times* (May 8, 2025), <https://www.thetimes.com/sunday-times-rich-list/feature/article/super-rich-giving-money-philanthropy-2025-wtm08mkr0>.

<sup>8</sup> Madeleine Cuff, “The Man Quietly Spending \$1 Billion on Climate Action,” *NewScientist* (June 11, 2025), <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2482525-the-man-quietly-spending-1-billion-on-climate-action/>.

with the University of Washington, received millions in funding from QCF to quietly conduct research on how to “block the sun’s rays.”<sup>9</sup> Another 501(c)(3), the Arabella Advisors-managed Windward Fund, received \$49 million in foreign money from QCF, in part for “[s]upport for environmental justice advocates in the US.”<sup>10</sup> Windward Fund operates the trade name Global Methane Hub, which has specifically been fueled by foreign money. The Hub has advocated radical positions, such as “diet shifts” away from meat and dairy to “plant-based proteins,” and their CEO has personally reduced his red meat and dairy consumption for environmental reasons.<sup>11</sup>

Over 4,000 miles from our nation’s capital is another group, the little-known Danish charity, the KR Foundation. Since their founding in December 2014, KR Foundation has spent over \$36 million to shape U.S. policy, all under an express mission of “intensifying” their “international climate and environmental activities.”<sup>12</sup> In their annual reports, KR Foundation has detailed how they want to make “coal phase out politically and socially acceptable,” while co-creating and popularizing “a shared vision of how cities could be much better places to live without private cars.”<sup>13</sup> KR Foundation has earmarked almost \$500,000 to the 501(c)(3) Sustainable Markets Foundation for “ending fossil fuel advertising,” over \$300,000 to the 501(c)(3) 350.org for “fossil fuel divestment campaigns,” around \$400,000 to the 501(c)(3) Conservation Law Foundation for “expanding climate accountability litigation,” and \$250,000 to the 501(c)(3) Center for International Environmental Law for “accelerating the managed decline of oil and gas.”<sup>14</sup>

The far-from-neutral Switzerland-based Oak Foundation has given over \$750 million in foreign money to over 150 U.S. groups.<sup>15</sup> Their fortune is derived from British billionaire Alan Parker, who made his money in the international retail industry. Oak Foundation backs a host of radical climate positions, including opposing the Keystone XL pipeline, impractical carbon “net-zero” targets, and implementing the goals of the Paris Climate Accords.<sup>16</sup> The Environmental Law Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) that houses the Climate Judiciary Project (CJP), has received \$650,000 from the Oak Foundation. CJP educates judges on climate litigation, a tactic which has led opponents to accuse them of trying to manipulate the courts for favorable rulings on left-wing lawsuits.<sup>17</sup> In January 2026, the House Judiciary Committee launched a probe into Environmental Law Institute/Climate Judiciary Project for improperly influencing judges.<sup>18</sup> Another 501(c)(3) that Oak Foundation has generously funded with \$1.6 million is the 501(c)(3) Community Change. Community Change is notable, as it is the “fiscal sponsor” for Free DC, a group that mobilized to protest President Trump’s crackdown on crime in the nation’s capital.<sup>19</sup> Free DC is behind multiple radical resistance

---

<sup>9</sup> Corbin Hiar, “Researchers Quietly Planned A Test to Dim Sunlight. They Wanted to ‘Avoid Scaring’ the Public,” *Politico* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/27/california-sunlight-dimming-experiment-collapse-00476983>.

<sup>10</sup> *Supra* note 4.

<sup>11</sup> ClimateWorks Foundation, *Food Systems Innovations to Lower Methane Emissions in Livestock, Waste, and Rice Cultivation*, Report (May 3, 2023), <https://www.climateworks.org/press-release/food-systems-innovations-to-lower-methane-emissions-in-livestock-waste-and-rice-cultivation/> and Marcelo Mena-Carrasco, “TIME100 Climate 2024,” *Time* (Nov. 11, 2024), <https://time.com/collections/time100-climate-2024/7172458/marcelo-mena-carrasco/>.

<sup>12</sup> The Velux Foundations, Annual Report 2025, <https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2015-KR-Foundation-Annual-Report.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> KR Foundation, Annual Report 2016, <https://krfnd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Annual-Report-2016-web.pdf> and KR Foundation, Annual Report 2020, <https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2020-KR-Foundation-Annual-Report.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> KR Foundation, Annual Report 2019, <https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2019-KR-Foundation-Annual-Report.pdf>; KR Foundation, Annual Report 2020, <https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2022-KR-Foundation-Annual-Report.pdf>; KR Foundation, Annual Report 2022, <https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2022-KR-Foundation-Annual-Report.pdf> and KR Foundation, Annual Report 2023, <https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2023-KR-Foundation-Annual-Report.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> *Supra* note 4.

<sup>16</sup> Christina A. Samuels, “Oak Foundation Aims to Aid Those With ‘Learning Differences,’” *EducationWeek* (Oct. 27, 2025), <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/oak-foundation-aims-to-aid-those-with-learning-differences/2015/10> and Tate Williams, “Why A Major Climate Funder is Backing Movement Building and Shifting Away from the U.S.,” *Inside Philanthropy* (Oct. 29, 2019), <https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2019-2-4-why-a-major-climate-funder-is-backing-movement-building-and-shifting-away-from-the-us>.

<sup>17</sup> Preston Mizell, “Bombshell Report Shows Foreign Charities Dumped Billions into US Political Advocacy Groups, ‘Erode’ Democracy,” *Fox News* (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bombshell-report-shows-foreign-charities-dumped-billions-us-political-advocacy-groups-erode-democracy>.

<sup>18</sup> Lesley Clark, “GOP Probes Climate Lawyers for Ties to Education Group for Judges,” *E&E News* (Jan. 28, 2026), <https://www.eenews.net/articles/gop-probes-climate-lawyers-for-ties-to-education-group-for-judges-2/>.

<sup>19</sup> *Supra* note 17.

and protest events, including a “Cop Watch Training,” while their “guiding principles” include “Do not object in advance” and “Take up space.”<sup>20</sup>

In 2020, a new philanthropic wing of a “highly secretive” foreign clothing empire launched the Laudes Foundation.<sup>21</sup> While new to the world of steering money into U.S. nonprofits, they have recently funneled almost \$20 million to 17 U.S.-based groups.<sup>22</sup> Community Initiatives, a California-based 501(c)(3), has received roughly \$1 million from Laudes, partly to advance “ESG and sustainability disclosure frameworks.”<sup>23</sup> Community Initiatives also acts as a hub for other liberal nonprofits to subsidize their administration expenses and as a “comprehensive fiscal sponsor” for foundations, government agencies, and other “nonprofit activities.”<sup>24</sup> Another little-known, but well-funded 501(c)(3) that received around \$2.8 million from Laudes is the World Resources Institute (WRI). WRI supports many far-left policies, including curbing “the rapid rise of private vehicle use,” and “climate friendly diets” that shift “meat-centric diets” to vegetable-based ones to “help meet global climate goals.”<sup>25</sup>

The final charity highlighted in APT’s report is the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), which “[a]t first blush... looks like an uncontroversial philanthropic organization whose mission is to promote children’s health, prevent HIV, and fight climate change.”<sup>26</sup> However, after examining this United Kingdom-based charity’s tax records, Americans for Public Trust exposed how CIFF – led by British activist hedge fund manager Sir Christopher Hohn – “has funneled more than half a billion dollars into U.S. activist organizations as part of a broader effort to push radical climate and DEI policy on U.S. soil.”<sup>27</sup> Hohn’s CIFF has poured over \$25 million into the 501(c)(3) Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development, in part for climate litigation, and nearly \$17 million into the 501(c)(3) Environmental Defense Fund, a preeminent green organization that supports a zero-emission vehicle mandate and has sued the Trump administration.<sup>28</sup> After Hohn’s giving was exposed by Americans for Public Trust, he announced he would no longer be financing U.S. causes in the future.<sup>29</sup> Unfortunately, despite this much-needed shift from Hohn, his foreign money has already caused immense damage, as he has been bankrolling advocacy campaigns and pushing a radical green energy agenda for more than a decade, all while operating relatively unchecked. Perhaps even more disconcerting is that during this same period, Hohn and his charity have maintained close and questionable ties to Communist China, worked with CCP officials, and supported the CCP’s “Belt and Road Initiative.”<sup>30</sup>

### TOP 501(C)(3)S POLICY GROUPS RECEIVING MONEY FROM SELECT FOREIGN CHARITIES: CUMULATIVE TOTALS

Group	Tax-Exempt Status	Total Amount
ClimateWorks Foundation	501(c)(3)	~\$348,529,313
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors	501(c)(3)	~\$204,091,252

<sup>20</sup> Victor Nava, “Left-Wing Dark-Money Megadonors, Including George Soros, Contribute \$20M to Groups Funding Protests Against Trump’s DC Crime Crackdown,” *New York Post* (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/08/12/us-news/dark-money-megadonors-including-george-soros-fund-group-organizing-protests-against-trumps-dc-crime-crackdown/>.

<sup>21</sup> Walter Loeb, “Highly Secretive C&A Brenninkmeijer is A Global Powerhouse in Fashion Retailing,” *Bloomberg* (July 19, 2016), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/walterloeb/2016/07/18/highly-secretive-c-a-brenninkmeijer-is-a-global-powerhouse-in-fashion-retailing/>.

<sup>22</sup> *Supra* note 4.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> Community Initiatives, “About Us,” (Accessed Feb. 8, 2026), <https://communityinitiatives.org/about/>.

<sup>25</sup> World Resources Initiative, “Climate Friendly Diets,” (Accessed Feb. 8, 2026), <https://www.wri.org/food/climate-friendly-diets>.

<sup>26</sup> Audrey Fahlberg, “Inside British Billionaire Christopher Hohn’s Efforts to Bankroll Social Justice, Climate Radicalism on U.S. Soil,” *National Review* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/inside-british-billionaire-christopher-hohns-efforts-to-bankroll-social-justice-climate-radicalism-on-u-s-soil/>.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> *Supra* note 4.

<sup>29</sup> Josh Spero, Attracta Mooney, Costas Mourselas, Joe Miller, and Toby Nangle, “Chris Hohn’s Foundation Blames ‘Policy Environment’ As It Stops Giving to US Charities,” *Financial Times* (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://www.ft.com/content/b87fb34e-40d6-4832-b59d-889038d5e25d>.

<sup>30</sup> Audrey Fahlberg, “Inside British Billionaire Christopher Hohn’s Efforts to Bankroll Social Justice, Climate Radicalism on U.S. Soil,” *National Review* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/inside-british-billionaire-christopher-hohns-efforts-to-bankroll-social-justice-climate-radicalism-on-u-s-soil/>.

Energy Foundation China	501(c)(3)	~\$87,190,999
Sunrise Project	501(c)(3)	~\$80,614,000
World Resources Institute	501(c)(3)	~\$74,047,665
Windward Fund	501(c)(3)	~\$71,380,198
New Venture Fund	501(c)(3)	~\$69,731,297
Natural Resources Defense Council	501(c)(3)	~\$24,347,463
Environmental Defense Fund	501(c)(3)	~\$20,984,000
Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)	501(c)(3)	~\$10,968,795
350	501(c)(3)	~\$9,558,130
Ceres	501(c)(3)	~\$4,366,594

\*\*All data collected directly from the annual reports or grant databases of Quadrature Climate Foundation, KR Foundation, Oak Foundation, Laudes Foundation, and Children's Investment Fund Foundation. Some figures have been converted from their original, listed foreign currency, and are presented as rough estimates due to varying, daily exchange rates.

These are just a handful of examples of how foreign charities with a mission to steer their money into American policy debates and discourse are using tax-exempt policy and advocacy organizations to do so. While it is a fantastic victory that Hohn was called out and shamed into changing course, this positive step is simply not enough to stem the influx of foreign money coming into the United States. We must have more expansive guardrails in place to protect our democracy.

### SWISS BILLIONAIRE HANSJÖRG WYSS BANKROLLING 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(4)s

Another ever-present threat to American politics is Swiss billionaire Hansjörg Wyss. In fact, Wyss' interest in the U.S. political system is such that his sister once exclaimed that "behind the scenes a Swiss plays an important part in American politics."<sup>31</sup> Despite playing an important part in American politics, Wyss, has "never felt the need to become an American," and has a goal to "(re)interpret the American Constitution in the light of progressive politics."<sup>32</sup>

As *The Associated Press* has detailed, Wyss is "a foreign national [who] is prohibited from donating to candidates or political committees. But his influence is still broadly felt through millions of dollars routed through a network of nonprofit groups that invest heavily in the Democratic ecosystem."<sup>33</sup> His nonprofits – the Wyss Foundation, a 501(c)(3), and the Berger Action Fund (formerly the Wyss Action Fund), a 501(c)(4) – fund liberal groups across the nation, to the tune of almost \$700 million.<sup>34</sup> In fact, the *Associated Press* characterized Berger Action Fund as "a nondescript name for a group with a rather specific purpose: steering the wealth of Hansjörg Wyss, a Swiss billionaire, into the world of American politics and policy."<sup>35</sup>

According to the *New York Times*, Wyss' "political activism is channeled through a daisy chain of opaque organizations that mask the ultimate recipients of his money."<sup>36</sup> Through a detailed accounting of publicly

<sup>31</sup> Hedi Wyss, *Hansjörg Wyss – My Brother*, eFeF-Verlag Wettingen, Page #49, (2014).

<sup>32</sup> Giorgio V. Müller, "We Have Found A Good Home for Synthes," *Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ)* (June 11, 2011), <https://www.nzz.ch/wir-haben-ein-gutes-heim-fuer-synthes-gefunden-ld.589550> and Hedi Wyss, *Hansjörg Wyss – My Brother*, eFeF-Verlag Wettingen, Page #50, (2014).

<sup>33</sup> Brian Slodysko, "Group Steers Swiss Billionaire's Money to Liberal Causes," *The Associated Press* (Apr. 4, 2023), <https://apnews.com/article/dark-money-democrats-wyss-politics-elections-601d40cd01569190559d545418afe396>; Emily Birnbaum, "Meet the Swiss Billionaire Cast by US Conservatives as the 'New Soros,'" *Bloomberg* (Jan. 25, 2024), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-25/meet-the-swiss-billionaire-cast-by-us-conservatives-as-the-new-george-soros> and Philip Wegmann, "Swiss Billionaire's Mega-Influence On U.S. Politics," *Real Clear Politics* (May 17, 2022), <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2022/05/17/swiss-billionaires-mega-influence-on-us-politics-147610.html>.

<sup>34</sup> Hans Nichols and Stef W. Kight, "Scoop: GOP Plan Targets Foreign Dark Money for 2024," *Axios* (July 10, 2023), <https://www.axios.com/2023/07/10/gop-plan-targets-foreign-dark-money-2024-election>.

<sup>35</sup> Brian Slodysko, "Group Steers Swiss Billionaire's Money to Liberal Causes," *The Associated Press* (Apr. 4, 2023), <https://apnews.com/article/dark-money-democrats-wyss-politics-elections-601d40cd01569190559d545418afe396>.

<sup>36</sup> Kenneth P. Vogel, "Swiss Billionaire Quietly Becomes Influential Force Among Democrats," *The New York Times* (May 3, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/03/us/politics/hansjorg-wyss-money-democrats.html>.



available records, Americans for Public Trust has been able to trace some of this “daisy chain,” and identify the organizations that have heavily benefitted from Wyss’ giving.

### NOTABLE GROUPS RECEIVING HANSJÖRG WYSS’ FOREIGN MONEY

Group	Tax-Exempt Status	Total Amount
Sixteen Thirty Fund	501(c)(4)	\$278,475,000
Fund for a Better Future	501(c)(4)	\$102,698,000
New Venture Fund	501(c)(3)	\$93,803,700
Resources Legacy Fund	501(c)(3)	\$19,187,631
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	501(c)(3)	\$18,712,000
Indivisible	501(c)(4)	\$6,455,000
ACLU Foundation	501(c)(3)	\$5,745,000
ACLU	501(c)(4)	\$3,000,000
National Redistricting Action Fund	501(c)(4)	\$5,000,000
Our American Future Action	501(c)(4)	\$5,000,000
Dēmos	501(c)(3)	\$4,275,000
States Newsroom	501(c)(3)	\$2,140,000
Campaign Legal Center	501(c)(3)	\$750,000
Priorities USA	501(c)(4)	\$500,000
Common Cause	501(c)(4)	\$175,000

The top beneficiary of Wyss’ giving is the Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) Sixteen Thirty Fund, receiving almost \$280 million.<sup>37</sup> Sixteen Thirty Fund, the “indisputable heavyweight of Democratic dark money” acts as “a [clearinghouse] for the left” as it bankrolls political battles all across the country.<sup>38</sup> Sixteen Thirty Fund bankrolls Supreme Court nomination fights, invests in massive voter turnout operations, and engages in issue advocacy campaigns against vulnerable Republican senators and representatives.<sup>39</sup> In 2024, Sixteen Thirty Fund poured over \$63 million into super PACs and other political groups that largely supported former Vice President Kamala Harris and Democratic candidates for the House and Senate.<sup>40</sup>

Another important electoral tool in which Sixteen Thirty Fund heavily invests are state ballot issue campaigns. In the absence of laws restricting foreign nationals from contributing to them, Sixteen Thirty Fund has poured \$130 million into ballot issue campaigns in 26 states.<sup>41</sup> Given this alarming pipeline of foreign-backed cash into states meant to sway important policy debates and enshrine laws into their state constitution, numerous states are fighting back against this interference. Since 2024, nine states – Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wyoming – have banned foreign nationals from directly or indirectly contributing to state ballot measure campaigns.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Josh Christenson and Ryan King, “Swiss Billionaire Hansjorg Wyss, 89, Bankrolling US ‘Working Families’ Group Opposed to Trump Tax Cuts,” *New York Post* (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/03/13/us-news/swiss-billionaire-hansjorg-wyss-89-bankrolling-working-families-group-opposed-to-trump-tax-cuts/>.

<sup>38</sup> Emma Green, “The Massive Progressive Dark-Money Group You’ve Never Heard Of,” *The Atlantic* (Nov. 2, 2021), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/11/arabella-advisors-money-democrats/620553> and Emily Birnbaum, “Meet the Swiss Billionaire Cast by US Conservatives as the ‘New Soros,’” *Bloomberg* (Jan. 25, 2024), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-25/meet-the-swiss-billionaire-cast-by-us-conservatives-as-the-new-george-soros>.

<sup>39</sup> Scott Bland and Maggie Severns, “Documents Reveal Massive ‘Dark-Money’ Group Boosted Democrats in 2018,” *Politico* (Nov. 19, 2019), <https://www.politico.com/news/2019/11/19/dark-money-democrats-midterm-071725> and Scott Bland, “Liberal ‘Dark-Money’ Behemoth Funneled More than \$400M in 2020,” *Politico* (Nov. 17, 2021), <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/11/17/dark-money-sixteen-thirty-fund-522781>.

<sup>40</sup> Caitlin Oprysko, “How the Left’s Dark Money Behemoth Spent Its Millions,” *Politico* (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/11/14/sixteen-thirty-fund-spending-00653144>.

<sup>41</sup> Americans for Public Trust, *Sixteen Thirty Fund: Cumulative Spending on Ballot Issue Campaigns*, Report (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://americansforpublictrust.org/reports/sixteen-thirty-fund-cumulative-spending-on-ballot-issue-campaigns/>.

<sup>42</sup> Americans for Public Trust, “Foreign Funding Bans: 2026 State Legislative Tracker,” (Accessed Feb. 8, 2026), <https://americansforpublictrust.org/stop-foreign-funding/>.

Foreign money is flowing through the tax-exempt sector, and it is impacting policy right here in America. And while foreign money directly and indirectly to candidate elections is prohibited, Wyss has instead, as stated in his biography, found a way to “exert an influence on American domestic politics through his foundations.”<sup>43</sup>

The precise reason this Swiss billionaire, or any other foreign billionaire, can do this is because foreign money running through foundations and nonprofits to influence policy and advocacy is not prohibited.

## FOREIGN FUNDING OF PROTESTS

Again, our laws governing what foreign nationals can and cannot fund are weak. Currently, there is no federal prohibition on foreign nationals funding activities designed to influence U.S. policy like protests or infrastructure disruptions or blockages of houses of worship via the tax-exempt sector.<sup>44</sup> The foreign backing of protests and disruptions is not a hypothetical concern, but one that is playing out across the country. Indivisible, a 501(c)(4), for example, first came onto the scene in 2017 to protest and disrupt the town halls of Republican members of Congress.<sup>45</sup> Currently, the group has spent the entirety of President Trump’s second term organizing protests across the country. Indivisible organized the April 2025 “Hands Off” rally, the “No Kings” protests in June and October 2025, and is planning a third “No Kings” demonstration for March 2026.<sup>46</sup> All activities intended impact domestic policy inside the United States. Yet, one of Indivisible’s key donors is Swiss billionaire Hansjörg Wyss, receiving at least \$6.5 million from him.<sup>47</sup> Numerous partners of the “No Kings” protests are also funded by foreign charities and foreign nationals.

### PAST AND CURRENT SPONSORS OF THE “NO KINGS” PROTESTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED FOREIGN FUNDING

Group	Tax-Exempt Status	Foreign Source of Funding
350.org	501(c)(3)	Quadrature Climate Foundation, KR Foundation, Oak Foundation
American Civil Liberties Union	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
Americans for Tax Fairness (Project of New Venture Fund)	501(c)(3)	Hansjörg Wyss, KR Foundation, Oak Foundation, Laudes Foundation, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation
Center for Biological Diversity	501(c)(3)	Hansjörg Wyss
Center for International Environmental Law	501(c)(3)	Laudes Foundation, Oak Foundation, KR Foundation
Common Cause	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
Corporate Accountability	501(c)(3)	KR Foundation, Oak Foundation
Free DC (Project of Community Change)	501(c)(3)	Oak Foundation
Friends of the Earth	501(c)(3)	KR Foundation
Greenpeace	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss

<sup>43</sup> Giorgio V. Müller, “We Have Found A Good Home for Synthes,” *Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ)* (June 11, 2011), [https://www.nzz.ch/wir\\_haben\\_ein\\_gutes\\_heim\\_fuer\\_synthes\\_gefunden-ld.589550](https://www.nzz.ch/wir_haben_ein_gutes_heim_fuer_synthes_gefunden-ld.589550) and Hedi Wyss, *Hansjörg Wyss – My Brother*, eFeF-Verlag Wettingen, Page #49, (2014).

<sup>44</sup> See 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)-(c)(4); See IRS, *Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization*, Publication 557, Pages # 22, 48 (Jan. 2025), <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p557.pdf>.

<sup>45</sup> Elana Schor and Rachael Bade, “Inside the Protest Movement That Has Republicans Reeling,” *Politico* (Feb. 10, 2017), <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/02/protest-movement-republicans-234863>.

<sup>46</sup> Cheyanne M. Daniel, “Third ‘No Kings’ Nationwide Protest Planned for March,” *Politico* (Jan. 28, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/28/no-kings-protest-march-00750265>.

<sup>47</sup> Chadwick Moore, “‘Grassroots’ Anti-ICE Campaigns Funded by Left-Wing Billionaire Donors: Sources,” *New York Post* (Feb. 3, 2026), <https://nypost.com/2026/02/03/us-news/grassroots-anti-ice-campaigns-funded-by-left-wing-billionaire-donors-sources/>.

Health Care Voter and Families Over Billionaires (Projects of Sixteen Thirty Fund)	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
Indivisible	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
League of Conservation Voters	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
Physicians for Social Responsibility	501(c)(3)	KR Foundation
Planned Parenthood Action Fund	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
MomsRising	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
Oil Change International	501(c)(3)	Oak Foundation, KR Foundation, Quadrature Climate Foundation
Sierra Club	501(c)(4)	Hansjörg Wyss
Stop the Money Pipeline	501(c)(3)	KR Foundation

Another example of foreign funded protests attempting to influence U.S. policy is British billionaire Christopher Hohn who “is the single biggest individual donor to Extinction Rebellion (XR), which has staged high-profile climate protests around the world.”<sup>51</sup> XR is based in the United Kingdom, but they have organized protests in the United States. In June 2019, 66 members of the group were arrested outside the *New York Times* building, and that following September, “the collective claimed that 2,000 of its volunteers ‘seized’ 22 intersections in Washington, D.C., and police arrested 32 in the ensuing gridlock.”<sup>52</sup>

As the protest movement is not going away anytime soon, and is becoming ever more pronounced and heightened, the prohibitions on tax-exempt organizations funding illegal activity will become even more relevant. In 1975, the IRS issued a ruling that concluded that if an organization intentionally “induces or encourages the commission of criminal acts by planning and sponsoring such events. . . . Its activities demonstrate an illegal purpose which is inconsistent with charitable ends.”<sup>53</sup> Illegal acts include having “participants deliberately block vehicular or pedestrian traffic, disrupt the work of government, and prevent the movement of supplies.”<sup>54</sup> Illegal activities “are contrary to the common good and the general welfare,” and an organization that promotes these activities does not operate for the promotion of social welfare.<sup>55</sup> This is especially true for foreign funded tax-exempt organizations which sponsor illegal activities.

## CONCLUSION

How these tax-exempt policy and advocacy organizations can simultaneously raise and spend hundreds of millions of dollars from foreign actors – be it from Switzerland or China – all while seeking to influence policies in our own backyard, is a vital problem worth solving. Any policy solution must maintain protections for the privacy of lawful donors, ensuring that American’ free speech rights are never abridged. I look forward to discussing ways to prevent foreign influence in the policy and advocacy nonprofit sector. Thank you.

<sup>51</sup> Rupert Neate, “Extinction Rebellion Donor Leads World’s Top-Performing Hedge Fund,” *The Guardian* (Jan. 17, 2022), <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jan/17/billionaire-philanthropist-leads-worlds-top-performing-hedge-funds>.

<sup>52</sup> Jeff Patch, “Not American, But He’s Got A Rich Footprint in U.S. Environmental Politics,” *RealClear Investigations* (Jan. 6, 2020), [https://www.realclearinvestigations.com/articles/2020/01/06/a\\_british\\_billionaires\\_big\\_investments\\_in\\_us\\_environmental\\_politics\\_121359.html](https://www.realclearinvestigations.com/articles/2020/01/06/a_british_billionaires_big_investments_in_us_environmental_politics_121359.html).

<sup>53</sup> Rev. Rul. 75-384, 1975-2 C.B. 204, <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/rr75-384.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.*

<sup>55</sup> *Id.*