



Interest Groups

Chapter Thirteen

Important Questions

- Do interest groups spawn government programs, or do government programs spawn interest groups?
- As the number of interests represented in Washington has grown, have they become more or less powerful?
- Most lobbyists are paid advocates of special interests. Why should politicians believe anything they say?
- Free riding should doom “public interest” lobbies. Who do so many emerge and thrive nonetheless?
- Do political action committees buy policy with their campaign donations? If not, what do they buy?



Lobbyists and 9/11

- Lobbyists responded quickly
 - did not ask for new things BUT framed their requests with arguments to fit the altered political context
 - insurance industry and the airline industry could make the clearest case for assistance
 - BUT they were joined by farm lobbyists, the travel industry, the aircraft industry, the Marines, and so on
 - each tried to link their usual pleas to the threat of terrorism
- Interest groups and lobbying are inevitable and essential components of modern democratic politics.
- BUT they are also a continued source of problems for modern democratic politics.

