

SunZia and Southwestern Power Group Federal Lobbying, 2008–2014
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The following summarizes lobbying expenditures for SunZia, either in the name of SunZia itself or the SouthWestern Power Group. Most lobbying related to SunZia would have occurred from 2008 to the present. Note that the total federal lobbying expenditures for this period by both companies is **\$1,255,875**. The figures below are taken from <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/>.

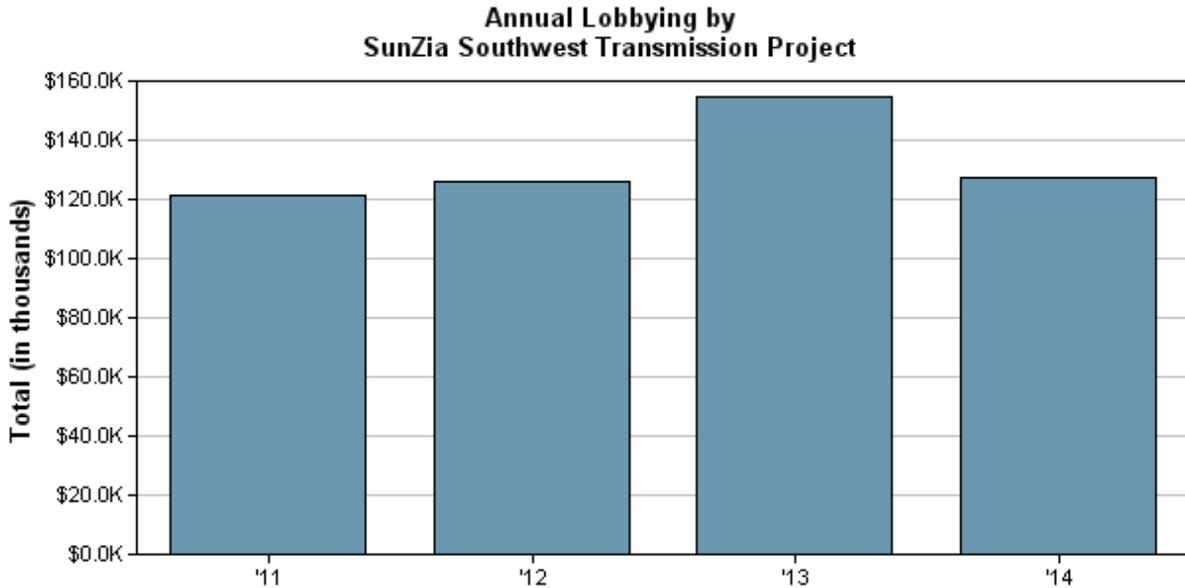


Figure 1. Federal lobbying carried out in the name of SunZia by Thomas J. Champion.

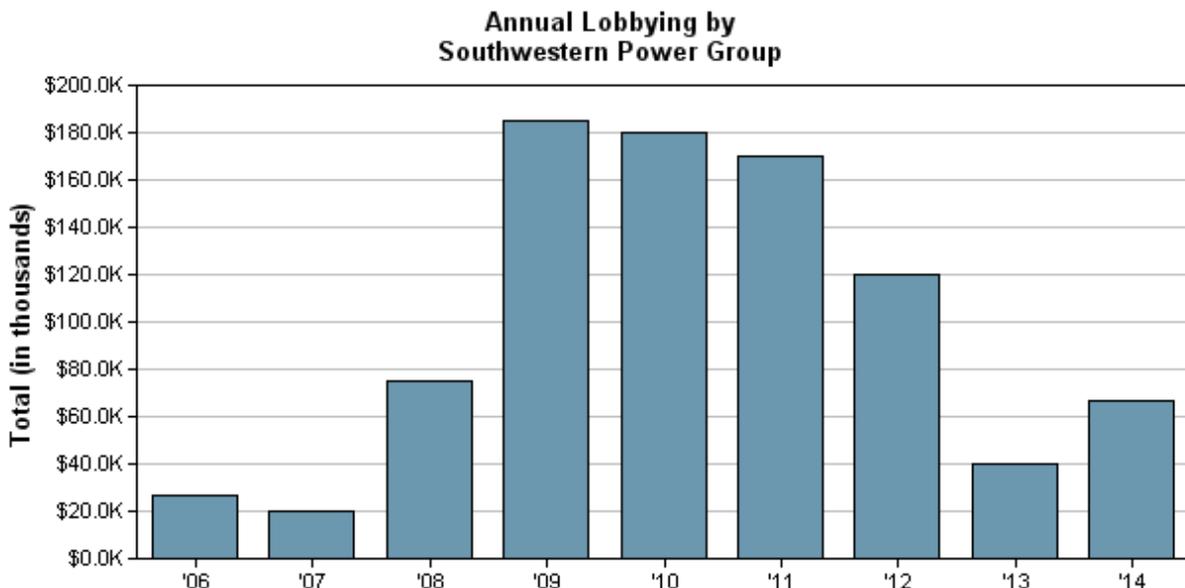


Figure 2. Federal lobbying carried out for predominantly SunZia through the SouthWestern Power Group by Capital Consultants and the AJW Group.

For the years 2011–2014 SunZia hired a single Washington lobbyist, Thomas J. Champion, to lobby full time for the project, paying him an average annual salary of more than \$120,000

(Figure 1). Mr. Champion did not work for any other clients during this time. Mr. Champion lobbied the following federal agencies and entities: U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, and Council on Environmental Quality.

This lobbying activity does not reflect state and local lobbying carried out for SunZia and the SouthWestern Power Group by Copper State Consulting, which includes Copper State's president Stan Barnes, and other Copper State employees. **Total federal, state and local lobbying expenditures for SunZia could easily exceed \$2 million.**

Federal Lobbying by Other Companies

How much federal lobbying have other major transmission projects in the West done? Here is a comparison:

Southline Transmission Project: \$0

Hunt Power (Southline backer): \$0

TransWest Express Project (Anschutz Corp.; SunZia major competitor): \$0 (both companies)

Zephyr Transmission Project (Duke American Transmission Company): \$0 (both companies)

MMR Group (SouthWestern Power Group parent company): \$0

Clean Line Energy Partners (Centennial West and Western Spirit parent company): \$110,000 in 2011 and \$100,000 in 2012 for issues related to electrical transmission, the 2005 Energy Act, and renewable energy. The company ceased federal lobbying in the third quarter of 2012.

Why is it that the SouthWestern Power Group and SunZia have felt compelled to spend such exorbitant sums on federal and state lobbying when these other active transmission projects have not? These numbers indicate how strongly SunZia has relied on political manipulation rather than project merit for success. This perhaps reflects the mindset of the project's originator, Tom Wray, who was a New Mexico state senator from 1993–1997.

Summary of Lobbying Expenditures

Thomas J. Champion for SunZia

2011: \$127,000

2012: \$155,000

2013: \$126,000

2014: \$121,500

Capitol Consulting and AJW Group for the SouthWestern Power Group

2008: \$75,000

2009: \$185,000

2010: \$180,000

2011: \$170,000

2012: \$120,000

2013: \$40,000

2014: \$66,375