

# Duke Energy—Which Paused Donations After The Insurrection And Claims It "Strongly Believes" In The Democratic Political Process—Is A Top Donor To The Sedition Caucus

**SUMMARY:** Duke Energy gave \$59,500 to the Sedition Caucus after claiming it was "[shocked and dismayed](#)" by the insurrection on January 6, 2021 and that it would [ensure](#) future contributions would "align" to Its "values and goals."

Beyond its contributions to the Sedition Caucus, Duke Energy's support for election deniers is in tension with its stated corporate values on democracy, on advancing representation for marginalized communities, and on ethics:

- Duke Energy claims it "[strongly believes in and supports the democratic political process](#)" and its CEO has stated that "[we must not allow pressure for results to undermine our ethical commitments](#)" as she claimed the company has "[the highest ethical standards.](#)"
- Duke Energy has touted at least [\\$2 million](#) to "[social justice and racial equity](#)" causes, including those dedicated to "[civic engagement](#)" and the "[voter protection](#)" efforts of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Additionally, mere months after the Insurrection, Duke Energy promoted a former operative for a Trump-defending senator and a major voting rights opponent to one of its top lobbyist positions:

- In May 2021, Duke Energy [promoted](#) Louis Renjel to be Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Communications—Renjel spent years working for [Sen. Jim Inhofe \(R-OK\)](#), who voted to [acquit Trump](#) from inciting the insurrection and was an [Associate Director](#) for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, later known for its "[fierce opposition](#)" to voting rights reforms in 2021.

**Duke Energy Has Given \$59,500 To The Sedition Caucus In 2021 After It Paused Contributions, Claimed It Was "Shocked And Dismayed" By The January 6 Insurrection, And Said It Would Evaluate If Candidates "Align To Our Values And Goals."**

## Duke Energy Has Given \$59,500 To The Sedition Caucus, As Of December 2021.

**Duke Energy Has Given \$59,500 To The Sedition Caucus, As Of December 22, 2021.**

PAC	Member	Amount	Date
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	William Timmons (SC-4)	\$10,000	04/21/21; 04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Tom Rice (SC-7)	\$10,000	06/23/21; 04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Jeff Duncan (SC-3)	\$5,000	06/09/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-1)	\$5,000	04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)	\$7,500	04/21/21; 11/26/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-8)	\$5,000	06/23/21; 04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Gregory Murphy (NC-3)	\$5,000	06/23/21; 06/09/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Ralph Norman (SC-5)	\$2,500	06/09/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	David Rouzer (NC-7)	\$2,500	04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	John Kennedy (LA)	\$1,000	06/23/21

Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Jackie Walorski (IN-2)	\$1,000	04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Dan Bishop (NC-9)	\$1,000	04/21/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Jim Banks (IN-3)	\$1,000	06/23/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Bill Johnson (OH-6)	\$1,000	06/23/21
Duke Energy Corporation PAC	Joe Wilson (SC-2)	\$2,000	11/26/21
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$59,500</b>	

[Accountable.US Corporate Donations Tracker, accessed [12/22/21](#)]

**Charlotte, North Carolina-Based Duke Energy Is "One Of America's Largest Energy Holding Companies," Serving 7.9 Million People And Employing 27,500 People, As Of June 2021.** "Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of America's largest energy holding companies. Its electric utilities serve 7.9 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, and collectively own 51,000 megawatts of energy capacity. Its natural gas unit serves 1.6 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The company employs 27,500 people." [Duke Energy, [06/03/21](#)]

**Duke Energy Paused All Federal Contributions Following The Insurrection, Stating It Was "Shocked And Dismayed" By The Capitol Riot And "Taking This Very Seriously" As It Evaluated Its Recipients' "Values And Actions To Ensure They Align To Our Values And Goals."**

**Duke Energy Paused All Contributions To Federal Campaigns Following The Insurrection On January 6, 2021.** "Duke Energy is pausing all financial contributions to federal office holders and candidates following the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol last week." [Blue Ridge Public Radio, [01/15/19](#)]

**Duke Energy's Spokesperson Claimed, "We Were Shocked And Dismayed By The Events" Of The Insurrection And That The Company Was "Taking This Very Seriously."** "We were shocked and dismayed by the events at the Capitol last week. Duke Energy is taking this very seriously and taking a pause on all federal political contributions for 30 days,' said Duke Energy spokesperson Grace Rountree in an email." [Blue Ridge Public Radio, [01/15/19](#)]

**Duke's Spokesperson Said The Company Was Evaluating Candidates' "Values And Actions To Ensure They Align To Our Values And Goals."** "During this time, we are evaluating Duke Energy-supported candidates' values and actions to ensure they align to our values and goals. The way members of Congress conducted themselves in this critical time will be an important consideration in future support,' said Rountree." [Blue Ridge Public Radio, [01/15/19](#)]

**Duke Energy Claims It "Strongly Believes In And Supports The Democratic Political Process" And Its CEO Has Claimed The Company Has "The Highest Ethical Standards" And That "We Must Not Allow Pressure For Results To Undermine Our Ethical Commitments."**

**Duke Energy, Named To Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" List In 2021, Claims It "Strongly Believes In And Supports The Democratic Political Process" And Encourages Employees To Foster "Principles Of Good Government."**

**Duke Energy Was Named To Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" List In 2021.** "Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2021 'World's Most Admired Companies' list and Forbes' 'America's Best Employers' list." [Duke Energy, [06/03/21](#)]

**Duke Energy Claims It "Strongly Believes In And Supports The Democratic Political Process" And Encourages Its Directors And Employees "To Take An Active Interest In Fostering Principles Of Good Government."** "Political Expenditures [...] Statement of Purpose and Philosophy Duke Energy strongly believes in and supports the democratic political process and encourages its directors, employees, and agents to take an active interest in fostering principles of good government in the countries, states, and communities in which they live." [Duke Energy, revised 03/01/21, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**Duke Energy States That Its Political Expenditures "Shall Reflect The Company's Interests."** "Political expenditures shall reflect the company's interests and not those of its individual officers or directors." [Duke Energy, revised 03/01/21, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**Duke Energy States That The Principles Guiding Its Political Expenditures Include " Commitment To Our Company Values Of Safety, Integrity And Service."** "Political expenditure decisions will be made based upon the following principles:

- promotion of sound and sustainable energy and environmental policies and legislation;
- efficient and effective regulatory systems, and;
- commitment to our company values of Safety, Integrity and Service."

[Duke Energy, revised 03/01/21, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**Duke Energy's CEO Claimed The Company Has "The Highest Ethical Standards," That It Must " Be Truthful, Transparent And Genuine," And That "We Must Not Allow Pressure For Results To Undermine Our Ethical Commitments."**

**Duke Claims It Is "Committed To Doing The Right Thing" In Its Code Of Business Ethics And That "One Instance Of A Person Failing To Act With Integrity Can Damage The Company's Hard-Earned Reputation."** At Duke Energy, we're committed to doing the right thing. This code reflects our core values and sets expectations for conduct with customers, investors, public officials, business partners and employees alike. Since one instance of a person failing to act with integrity can damage the company's hard-earned reputation, Duke Energy expects its employees to accept personal responsibility for exercising appropriate behavior and maintaining high ethical standards." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**In Its Code Of Business Ethics, Duke Energy CEO Lynn J. Good Claimed That The Company Has "The Highest Ethical Standards."** "Our purpose at Duke Energy is to power the lives of our customers and vitality of our communities. How we bring that purpose to life matters. We need to accomplish it the right way, under the highest ethical standards using the Code of Business Ethics (CoBE) as a guide." [Duke Energy, [10/03/16](#)]

- **Lynn J. Good Was Duke Energy's Chair, President, And CEO As Of November 8, 2021.** [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]
- **This Was The Code Of Ethics Was Active On Duke Energy's Website, As Of November 8, 2021.** [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

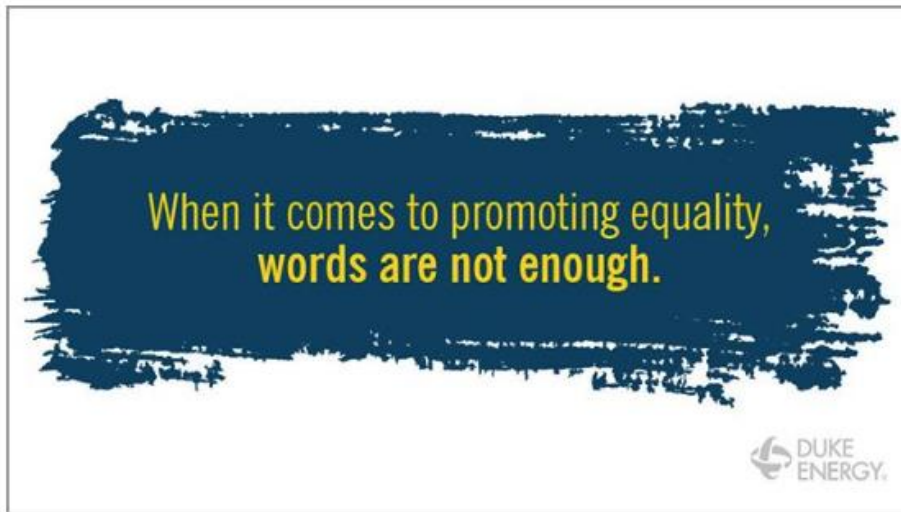
**Lynn Good Claimed, "We're Committed To Earning The Trust And Confidence Of Those We Interact With Every Day" And " We Must Be Truthful, Transparent And Genuine" With Communities That Duke Serves And The Governmental Agencies That Oversee The Company.** "We're committed to earning the trust and confidence of those we interact with every day. To do this, we must be truthful, transparent and genuine in our interactions with each other, our business partners, the communities we serve and the governmental agencies that oversee our business." [Duke Energy, [10/03/16](#)]

**Lynn Good Stated, "We Must Not Allow Pressure For Results To Undermine Our Ethical Commitments."** [Duke Energy, [10/03/16](#)]

**Duke Energy Has Touted At Least \$2 Million To "Social Justice And Racial Equity" Causes, Including Those Dedicated To "Civic Engagement" And The "Voter Protection" Efforts Of The NAACP Legal Defense Fund.**

**June 2021: Duke Energy Claimed Its "Second Annual \$1 Million Grant Opportunity" For "Social Justice And Racial Equity" Causes—including Those Focused On "Civic Engagement"—And Declared, "When It Comes To Promoting Equality, Words Are Not Enough"...**

**June 2021: Duke Energy Announced Its "Second Annual \$1 Million Grant Opportunity" For "Organizations Working For Social Justice And Racial Equity."** "Duke Energy today announced its second annual \$1 million grant opportunity through the Duke Energy Foundation for North Carolina nonprofit organizations working for social justice and racial equity." [Duke Energy, [06/03/21](#)]



[Duke Energy, [06/03/21](#)]

**Duke Energy's North Carolina President Said The Company Was "Proud" To Partner With Nonprofits Working Against Racism And Stated, "We Have More Work To Do To Ensure Justice And Opportunity For Our Underserved Neighbors."** "Duke Energy is proud to continue partnering with nonprofits taking a stand against racism across North Carolina," said Stephen De May, Duke Energy's North Carolina president. "As a community, we have more work to do to ensure justice and opportunity for our underserved neighbors, and these grants will support organizations on the front lines advocating for racial equity." [Duke Energy, [06/03/21](#)]

**Duke Energy Was Accepting Grant Applications From Organizations Focused On "Civic Engagement For Communities Of Color," Among Other Issue Areas.** "Grant applications should come from organizations with primary missions of addressing social justice and racial equity. Initiatives of focus for interested organizations may include but are not limited to:

- Training and policy reform.
- Criminal justice reform, including community policing.
- Civic engagement for communities of color.
- Reducing disparate outcomes for people of color through education and workforce development.
- Legal assistance, including pathways to citizenship."

[Duke Energy, [06/03/21](#)]



**...In Its First Year, Duke Energy's \$1 Million Grant Program Gave To The NAACP Legal Defense Fund And Its "Voter Protection" Efforts While Duke's Chief Diversity And Inclusion Officer Declared, 'We're Committed To Being Part Of The Long-Term Solution To End Systemic Racism And Inequality.'**

**August 2020: Duke Energy's First Year Of \$1 Million Grants Were Given To 80 Organizations.** "Duke Energy, through its foundation, today announced the recipients of more than \$1 million in employee-directed grants to nonprofit organizations committed to social justice and racial equity. Grants will be distributed to 80 organizations across seven states where the company has electric and gas customers – North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee." [Duke Energy, [08/12/20](#)]

**In Its List Of Grant Recipient's Duke Energy's Chief Diversity And Inclusion Officer Said, "'We're Committed To Being Part Of The Long-Term Solution To End Systemic Racism And Inequality In The Communities We Serve'":**



[Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**One Of Duke Energy's Grant Recipients Was The NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Which Focuses On "Voter Protection," Among Other Issues, And Works To Advance "The Promise Of Equality For All Americans."** "NAACP Legal Defense Fund Criminal justice reform [...] Through advocacy and litigation, focus on issues of education, voter protection, economic justice and criminal justice. Encourage students to embark on careers in the public interest through scholarship and internship programs. Pursue racial justice to move our nation toward a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**In May 2021, Duke Energy Promoted Louis Renjel To Be Senior Vice President Of External Affairs And Communications—Renjel Spent Years Working For Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Who Voted To Acquit Trump From Inciting The Insurrection And Was An Associate Director For The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, Later Known For Its "Fierce Opposition" To Voting Rights Reforms In 2021.**

## **May 2021: Duke Energy Promoted Louis Renjel To Be Senior Vice President Of External Affairs And Communications, Who Was Responsible For "Federal Government Affairs."**

### **May 2021: Louis Renjel Was Named Duke Energy's Senior Vice President Of External Affairs And Communications After Serving As Vice President Of Federal Government Affairs And Strategic Policy.**

"Louis Renjel is senior vice president of external affairs and communications for Duke Energy [...] Before assuming his current position in May 2021, Renjel served as Duke Energy's senior vice president of federal government and corporate affairs and, prior to that, as vice president of federal government affairs and strategic policy." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

### **Louis Renjel Is Responsible For "Federal Government Affairs," "Strategic Policy," And Other Matters.**

"In this role, he is responsible for corporate communications, federal government affairs, strategic policy, sustainability, stakeholder engagement and the Duke Energy Foundation." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

## **Louis Renjel Was An Associate Director For The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, Which Would Later Face Controversy Over Its "Fierce Opposition" To Election Reforms In The For The People Act As Voter Restrictions Advanced In Multiple States.**

**Louis Renjel Was On The Staff Of The U.S Chamber Of Commerce.** "Prior to joining CSX, Renjel served as director of government relations for Cummins Inc., where he was responsible for managing energy, environmental, transportation and corporate matters before Congress and the executive branch. His government relations experience also includes serving on the staff of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

- **1999-2000: Louis Renjel Was An Associate Director For The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce.** [Linkedin Profile for Louis Renjel, accessed [11/09/21](#)]

**April 2021: The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Faced Controversy Over Its "Fierce Opposition" To The "Sweeping Voting Bill Known As The For The People Act," Which Would Have Countered Voting Restrictions That Were Advancing In Georgia And Other States.** "Progressive activists are calling on Ford, Target, Google, Bank of America and other major companies that have pledged to support voting rights to cut ties with the US Chamber of Commerce, CNN Business has learned. At issue is the Chamber of Commerce's fierce opposition to the Democrats' sweeping voting bill known as the For the People Act, which advocates say would counter efforts by Georgia and other states to impose new voting restrictions." [CNN, [04/21/21](#)]

## **Louis Renjel Worked For Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) For About Four Years—Inhofe Would Later Vote To Acquit Trump From His Second Impeachment Over Inciting The January 6 Insurrection.**

**From 1999 To 2003, Louis Renjel Worked For Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), As Deputy Staff Director For The U.S. Senate Committee On Environment And Public Works And As A Legislative Assistant.** "Before joining CSX, Renjel was a director of government relations for Cummins Inc. From 1999 to 2003, he worked with U.S. Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, first as legislative assistant and then as deputy staff director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works." [CSX, [11/24/08](#)]

**Louis Renjel Was The Chairman's "Principal Environmental Policy And Political Advisor" While Deputy Staff Director For The U.S. Senate Committee On Environment And Public Works.** "Renjel's public sector experience includes serving as deputy staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he was the committee chairman's principal environmental policy and political advisor." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

- **According To His LinkedIn Profile, Renjel Was Deputy Staff Director From 2002 To 2003.** [LinkedIn Profile, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**Louis Renjel Was Legislative Assistant For Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) From 2000 To 2002.** "Additionally, he served as legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma and staff member on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce." [Duke Energy, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

- **According To His LinkedIn Profile, Renjel Was Legislative Assistant For Sen. Inhofe From 2000 To 2002.** [LinkedIn Profile, accessed [11/08/21](#)]

**February 2021: Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) Voted To Acquit Donald Trump From His Second Impeachment Over Inciting The Insurrection On January 6, 2021.** "Oklahoma Sens. James Lankford and Jim Inhofe, both Republicans, voted Saturday to acquit former Republican President Donald Trump at the close of his impeachment trial for the insurrection he incited at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th. [...] Rallying outside the White House, he unleashed a mob of supporters to 'fight like hell' for him at the Capitol just as Congress was certify Democrat Joe Biden's victory. As hundreds stormed the building, some in tactical gear engaging in bloody combat with police, lawmakers fled for their lives. Five people died." [Public Radio Tulsa, [02/13/21](#)]

**Louis Renjel Has Given Nearly \$3,200 To The Duke Energy Corporation PAC In The 2022 Cycle, As Of November 2021.**

**Louis Renjel Has Given \$3,194.32 To The Duke Energy Corporation PAC In The 2022 Election Cycle, As Of November 8, 2021:**

Date	Contributor	Contributor Employer	Contributor Title	Amount	Amount
01/31/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$326.56</a>
03/31/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$333.10</a>
05/31/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$375.00</a>
02/28/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$326.56</a>
04/30/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$333.10</a>
06/30/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$375.00</a>
08/31/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, External Affairs & Communic	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$375.00</a>
07/31/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, Federal Government And Corporate	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$375.00</a>
09/30/21	Renjel, Louis E.	Duke Energy Business Services, LLC	SVP, External Affairs & Communic	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	<a href="#">\$375.00</a>
<b>Total:</b>					<b><a href="#">\$3,194.32</a></b>