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### **Students Exposed Billionaire Climate Deniers as “Fossil Fools”**

On March 31st, UNCW student activists exposed two of the world’s most powerful oil barons, David and Charles Koch, for their role in undermining climate science and energy policy at a pre-“Fossil Fools’ Day” street performance. The pre-“Fossil Fools’ Day” event at UNCW this March 31<sup>st</sup> is part of a national push to educate the public about fossil fools, like the Kochs, that stand in the way of clean energy solutions. ECO members staged an arrest of the Koch brothers in front of the clock tower in the center of campus and informed fellow students of their crimes. Two members, wearing suits and masks of the faces of David and Charles Koch, stood handcuffed to the clock tower as their crimes were made known.

Over the megaphone, ECO president Brinkley Hutchings said, “This is what these men are about: righteous, willful disregard for science, and irresponsible deception of the public. For the past 20 years, for our entire lives, front groups directed by fossil fuel companies like the Koch brothers, have run a systematic campaign to sow doubt where there is no doubt and to promote negligence where our generation requires action. We can’t continue to let corporate polluters like David and Charles Koch use their money to decide our fate. We need clean energy like wind and solar now to ensure a sustainable future. Koch brothers, you do not have the right to remain silent and hidden behind your money anymore, you have been corrupting science and the policy process for far too long.”

UNCW students are a part of a generation which climate change is already affecting. Students are taking an active role in exposing these hidden climate criminals who are using their money to decide their fate. In recent years, Koch Industries has spent \$24 million on junk science and lobbying, topping ExxonMobil’s \$9.1 million, making it the leading spender in blocking clean energy policy and climate policy. On top of the \$24 million, the Koch’s gave another \$48 million to climate opposition groups from 1997 to 2008, and they don’t deny it. They have a strong record of Environmental Crimes and Violations that have ended in their payment of about \$546.7 million in fines and lawsuits. Koch Industry has had a hand in a number of cases that have influenced the climate debate. These include: Public Relations pushes to keep spew false information about ClimateGate and keep doubt narrative in the public eye; a bogus study declaring Arctic sea ice decline was less severe than recent science has show; Release of a report saying renewable energy will actually cost jobs in economies abroad; Publishing a wind power study on Denmark that contained factual errors and was irrelevant to U.S. policy. The company's web is currently fueling a campaign to oppose clean energy and climate legislation by funding organizations to generate misleading information which is provided to astrotuf (fake grassroots) groups who force-feed misinformation to the public.

Students at UNCW took an active interest in what ECO members had to say about the Koch brothers. For those who followed the UN conference on climate change in Copenhagen last December, there has been much disappointment in our leaders for their

lack of political will. At the root of the leadership crisis we are facing at this crucial time are corporations like the Koch Brothers.

The Greenpeace report on Koch Industries reveals in depth information about what Koch Industries has been doing and who they have partnered with.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/kochindustries>

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