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| Confidential  http://ralansmith.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Denise-Gitsham-200x300.jpg | **Denise Gitsham**  Republican Challenger in California’s  52nd Congressional District  Research Book - 2016  Last Updated March 2016  Prepared by the  Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee  Research Department |

**Table of Contents**

[Introduction / Executive Summary 3](#_Toc447037223)

[Methodology 53](#_Toc447037224)

[Key Moments on Video 59](#_Toc447037225)

[Biography 61](#_Toc447037226)

[Personal Information 65](#_Toc447037227)

[Property Ownership & Tax Payment History 68](#_Toc447037228)

[Political Career 72](#_Toc447037229)

[Government Career 80](#_Toc447037230)

[Lobbying Career 82](#_Toc447037231)

[… Toxic Chemical Company 84](#_Toc447037232)

[… K Street Controversy 98](#_Toc447037233)

[Public Relations Career 103](#_Toc447037234)

[Washington-Style Partisan 112](#_Toc447037235)

[Abortion Issues 123](#_Toc447037236)

[Budget Issues 124](#_Toc447037237)

[Education Issues 125](#_Toc447037238)

[Energy Issues 126](#_Toc447037239)

[Environmental Issues 137](#_Toc447037240)

[Foreign Policy Issues 151](#_Toc447037241)

[Gun Issues 152](#_Toc447037242)

[Health Issues 156](#_Toc447037243)

[Immigration and Border Issues 157](#_Toc447037244)

[Labor and Working Family Issues 162](#_Toc447037245)

[Other Social Issues 163](#_Toc447037246)

[Seniors Issues 166](#_Toc447037247)

[Transportation Issues 167](#_Toc447037248)

[Appendix I – Campaign Finance 169](#_Toc447037249)

[Appendix II – Lobbying Clients 171](#_Toc447037250)

[Appendix III –Federal Funds-Sapphire Energy 183](#_Toc447037251)

[Appendix IV – Public Relations Firm Clients 184](#_Toc447037252)

[Appendix V – Notable Headlines 185](#_Toc447037253)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Introduction / Executive Summary  DT: March 2016  TO: Interested Parties  FR: DCCC Research  RE: Denise Gitsham  The following report contains research on Denise Gitsham, a Republican candidate for California’s 52nd Congressional District.  Research for this book was conducted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee’s Research Department between December 2015 and March 2016  Thousands of news articles, public documents, campaign contributions and other materials were examined and researched in the preparation of this report.  As this document is meant to help develop a specific narrative about Gitsham’s career, this research report has intentionally and unintentionally left out certain material. Consequently, there are may be omissions or areas that need further exploring.  Should further information be needed on a particular topic, please feel free to contact us.  Significant effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. However, before using the materials contained in this report for use in any public forum, always double-check the facts to verify your claims.  The DCCC Research Department is available at all times to assist in such fact-checking efforts.  Should further information be needed on a particular topic, please feel free to contact us. The Case Against Denise Gitsham Denise Grace Gitsham is a candidate for California’s 52nd Congressional District, which is currently held by Democrat Rep. Scott Peters.  Karl Rove gave Denise Gitsham her first job in politics, and she would go on to make a living off her time working for Karl Rove and George W. Bush. Early in her career, she monetized her insider connections as a DC lobbyist pushing dirty technologies for coal companies and fighting against efforts to regulate dangerous chemicals. More recently, she spoke alongside hyper-partisan, Tea Party Republicans at a national event where she proudly proclaimed, “I’m one of you.” Indeed, Gitsham has mirrored the values of those in the most conservative wing of her party, stating she would “look to [Medicare and Social Security] to begin the process of cutting down how much we spend.” Furthermore, Gitsham supported “defunding Planned Parenthood,” despite running in a district overwhelmingly supportive of women’s health care. Gitsham’s record does not mesh with San Diego values.  Born in April 1977, Gitsham was born and raised in Suisan City, California, by her Chinese mother and Canadian father, who were both immigrants. According to Gitsham, her mother “fled communism” in China, and her father served 20 years in the United States Air Force. She attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts for a semester before transferring to Bowdoin College in Maine in 1995. While attending Bowdoin, Gitsham spent a semester abroad in Beijing where she worked at the British Embassy. Additionally, she stayed active in student government, serving as class president sometime in her first three years at Bowdoin and thereafter running for Senior class Vice President. She submitted a letter to the college newspaper to campaign on the latter effort, stating, “Give ME the responsibility of delivering the best Senior pub nights.” However, it is not clear if Gitsham’s appeals to her fellow students’ insobriety were ultimately successful in electing her to student government. Gitsham graduated in 1999, receiving her degree in Government, History, and Chinese. In 2007, she obtained her law degree from Georgetown University.  Following graduation from Bowdoin, the Chairman of the History and Government Department approached a Maine political columnist asking his help in getting Gitsham a job on the 2000 Bush Presidential campaign. Utilizing this connection, Gitsham helped raise money from the high-tech community for then-Governor George W. Bush before being hired as one of four interns by the Bush Presidential campaign. Gitsham turned down two other campaign offers post-college, including one for the Liddy Dole presidential campaign. Despite being non-Hispanic, she was assigned to the position of National Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator by Karl Rove, under whom she would work for the duration of the 2000 campaign. Gitsham helped implement a 33-point Hispanic outreach strategy, which was authored by Rove’s “good friend” and Hispanic media mogul, Warren Tichenor. Current Presidential aspirant Ted Cruz also helped draft Bush’s immigration policy. Later during her 2016 congressional campaign, Gitsham’s campaign manager described Gitsham’s position in the Bush Campaign as unpaid; however, the *San Diego U-T* criticized Gitsham’s campaign for giving “conflicting accounts” as to her compensation and level of professional responsibility. A review of the year-end FEC report from the 2000 Bush presidential campaign did not reveal any compensation or other payments to Gitsham.  After George W. Bush’s victory in the 2000 election, Gitsham moved to Washington, D.C., and was hired to work as the Hispanic Liaison for Bush’s Inaugural Committee. Following the inauguration, she was hired as a Senior Caseworker in the White House Office of Agency Liaison where she would work until November 2001. In December 2001, Gitsham took the position of Public Relations Coordinator for the President’s Commission on White House Fellows (“PCWHF”), serving in that capacity until 2002. It is worth noting that Gitsham referred to the aforementioned positions as “Agency Liaison” and “Communications Director and Spokesperson” on her LinkedIn page, respectively, despite news releases and articles indicating otherwise. It is not known if Gitsham was promoted during her one-year tenure at the PCWHF. In 2004, she moved to the US Department of Justice, serving as an Associate Director at the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison until 2005.  Despite Gitsham’s immigrant parents and Hispanic relations role on the Bush campaign, Gitsham shows little sympathy towards present-day immigrants. Indeed, in a March 2016 primary debate, Gitsham expressed her view that immigrant women who come to the United States in order to have a child “should not be given VISAs.” According to Gitsham, this would not pose an issue for enforcement officials because “[i]t’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman.”  In 2004, Gitsham started her pursuit of her J.D. at Georgetown Law School, eventually graduating in 2007. In a 2006 Year-End lobbying disclosure report, Gitsham reported lobbying for K&L Gates from July 1, 2006, but her LinkedIn page indicated she started at the lobbying firm in September 2007. In 2008, while studying for the Washington, D.C. Bar Exam—admitted in June 2008—Gitsham appeared as a contestant on the 12th season of the Bachelor in London. She would not receive a rose, being passed up, according to the *Washington Post*, in favor of a Venice Beach hot dog vendor and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half. As of January 2016, Gitsham remains on “active” status with the DC Bar and lists a phone number with a “202” area code; she is not a member of the California Bar.  Until December 2008, Gitsham lobbied the federal government on behalf of various K&L Gates clients, including Sapphire Energy, for which she sought funding for “algae to gasoline technology development.” According to Gitsham’s LinkedIn page, she began working directly for Sapphire Energy in January 2009 as the “Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel.” She served in this capacity until 2012 when she founded 7 Second Strategies, which would become SVN Public Relations in 2015. According to LinkedIn, the firm represented clients in “cleantech, life sciences, biotech, real estate, and political sectors.”  Gitsham’s ties to George W. Bush’s former Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove are extensive, with the *San Diego Union-Tribune* writing that she had “direct ties” to the Republican strategist. Politico has described Rove as the “keeper” to “a few dozen enigmatic billionaires” that had “effectively crowned themselves the new kings of politics.” As noted previously, Gitsham started in politics working under Rove during the 2000 Bush presidential campaign. She said she would eventually “reach out” to former President George W. Bush and Rove to “ask for their help” in her campaign for Congress. However, Gitsham’s ties to Rove have not turned out favorably for her in the past. Indeed, she failed to receive a rose after gloating to *The Bachelor* about her professional relationship with Karl Rove, stating, “I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s ‘Bush’s brain.’” Additionally, in 2013, Americans for Progressive Action, a super PAC, paid Gitsham’s public relations firm $10,000, which was funded by Sonoma County winemaker John Jordan and staffed by Rove’s former Chief of Staff and Gitsham’s business partner, Sheena Tahilramani. Tahilramani also worked for Rove-founded American Crossroads. Finally, in addition to her business partner, Gitsham’s public relations firm listed at least one client from the Rove world. In 2013, her firm listed a Buffalo-based company founded by a former staffer for Karl Rove when he worked in the White House.  Gitsham has also spoken in a positive light of Washington, D.C., and initially expressed concern that California might provide a comparatively less “intellectually challenging atmosphere.” Gitsham further expressed her unwillingness to relinquish her connection to D.C., calling herself a “Whole Foods Republican” who was “bicoastal” in her Twitter bio.  In 2014, Gitsham chaired Neel Kashkari’s Grassroots Leadership Team for Southern California for his gubernatorial bid. But despite holding the position, Gitsham did not vote in the 2014 General Election in California.  Gitsham made a living based off her employment with partisan D.C. insider Karl Rove, monetizing her connections gathered during that time period for her future federal lobbying work with K&L Gates. She claimed in her LinkedIn biography that she “represented clients in the clean technology” industry, but she conveniently omitted her lobbying work for Peabody Energy, the self-described “largest private-sector coal company in the world” in support of coal-to-natural gas technology. The process of converting coal-to-substitute natural gas involved burning coal to create the natural gas. According to ClimateWire, the technology “results in enormous greenhouse gas emissions.” The year after Gitsham lobbied for the company, Newsweek ranked the company last in rankings of 500 large companies based on their environmental compliance and policies. Additionally, while Gitsham was compensated for lobbying on behalf of Peabody, USA Today referred to the company as “perhaps the staunchest opponent of stringent regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions.” During the same time period, the Sierra Club Director said that Peabody was “the large, unrelenting, unrepentant poster child for the coal industry.” Finally, while Gitsham lobbied for the company, it contributed millions to an ad campaign in support of coal-to-liquid technology.  Gitsham’s record lobbying for dirty technologies was not limited to Peabody. Indeed, between July 2007 and the end of 2008, she lobbied on behalf of Accelergy Corp in support of coal-to-liquid technology. Specifically, Gitsham lobbied on behalf of Accelergy on Energy appropriations bill that contained coal-to-liquid incentives estimated to cost $1.424 billion over 10 years. In 2007, Scientific Magazine wrote that liquid coal was “worse than gasoline” and that it “comes with substantial environmental and economic negatives.” The magazine continued that the technology “would at worse be twice as bad as gasoline in producing the greenhouse gases that blanket the Earth and lead to global warming.” Finally, the magazine stated that “driving a Prius on liquid coal makes it as dirty as a Hummer on regular gasoline.”  Gitsham lobbied on behalf of a chemical manufacturer that downplayed the toxicity of a chemical it produced. In a further departure from her clean energy lobbying claims, from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006, Gitsham lobbied on behalf of Supresta regarding oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) “with respect to upholstered furniture flammability” while the commission considered Supresta’s public comments on the commission’s report finding that a chemical it produced, TDCP—a well-known flame retardant chemical—was potentially toxic. In the comments, Supresta argued against the commission’s assessment that the chemical was “toxic,” attempting to downplay its cancer potency, and even disputing the commission’s assertion that the chemical was “a probable human carcinogen.” The company disputed these findings despite the World Health Organization, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Research Council identifying the chemical as a “cancer risk.” Although Gitsham lobbied on flame retardant chemicals for Supresta in front of the CPSC during this period, it is not known whether Gitsham specifically contributed to the aforementioned public comments.  The toxicity of flame retardants has been well-established in recent years, with the Chicago Tribune publishing a five part series on flame retardants and the chemical industry. The newspaper wrote in one installment that the chemicals were “linked to cancer, neurological deficits, developmental problems and impaired fertility.” The *Chicago Tribune* continued that “people might be willing to accept the health risks if hathe flame retardants packed into sofas and easy chairs worked as promised. But they don’t.”  While Gitsham was lobbying at K&L Gates, the *Washington Post* wrote a pay-to-play expose that revealed a larger scheme that allowed the firm to directly profit from securing taxpayer-funded earmarks. Specifically, from January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008, Gitsham lobbied the US House and the US Senate on behalf of a night vision technology company. Over 16 days in March 2008, the company started operations, hired K&L Gates, and won the help of Democratic Rep. Visclosky in seeking a $2.4 million earmark for research into night vision goggles. The Post reported that this arrangement was part of a larger K&L Gates scheme in which it would use its relationship with Rep. Visclosky as a marketing tool to woo prospective clients. Additionally, according to an internal letter obtained by the Post by a potential client, K&L “hoped to share a cut of its clients’ earmarks,” even offering “a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee,’ in which the client would pay 7.5 percent of the earmark total to the lobbying firm on top of a $6,500 retainer. Notably, the lobbyist mentioned as offering the letter was listed on the First Quarter 2008 lobbying disclosure along with Gitsham. Fifteen tech firms that employed K&L Gates as its lobbyist received over $44 million in earmarks, which were supported or sponsored by the Rep. Visclosky in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Federal investigators would investigate Rep. Visclosky’s earmarks and whether a member of his staff tried to raise campaign money by promising earmarks. The Justice Department closed the case in 2013, and while the House Ethics committee found “probable cause,” they also dropped the case. A *Washington Post* review revealed that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky’s support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the DCCC.  Gitsham’s lobbying record on energy issues is not completely dirty. She reported lobbying for Sapphire Energy in 2008 in support of algae-to-gasoline technology. Notably, while Gitsham worked at Sapphire as Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel, the company received over $100 million in federal funds in 2009 to build a New Mexico Algae production facility. In 2013, Biofuels Digest named the company’s algae crude farm in New Mexico its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award winner. After leaving Sapphire, Gitsham praised the company for working against, in her words, “Big Oil.” Furthermore, in 2014, she led a multi-industry public-private association focused on establishing a domestic renewable crude industry. Additionally, she lobbied on behalf of multiple nanotechnology companies and associations.  Despite calling for DC to be more focused on budget cuts, Gitsham has established a record of being associated with companies and entities that have actively sought out and accepted stimulus funding. In 2009, $50 million of the over $100 million Sapphire Energy received for their algae plant consisted of Stimulus funds, with an additional $54.5 million in the form of a loan guarantee from the Department of Agriculture. As of March 2016, Gitsham listed the federal funding as an accomplishment in her public relations firm bio. In 2008, the City of Las Cruces gave the company an additional 90 acres of land, which had a value of $1.35 million. Furthermore, in 2011, while Gitsham served as a Director or Individual Trustee of the Chico Economic Planning Corporation—an organization that received more than 97 percent of its funding from public sources—undertook an effort “to take advantage of the stimulus package.”  In 2011, Gitsham testified on behalf of the Advanced Biofuels Association at a California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing regarding the state’s cap-and-trade bill, AB32. The legislation called for reducing California’s greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. She said the bill “strengthen[ed] California’s legacy” in developing environmental and energy policies. But she voiced her concerns over the proposal’s regulation of carbon produced by biofuel projects and said she supported protecting “low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” Additionally, in May 2009, while Gitsham worked at Sapphire Energy, the company issued a press release urging US Senators to add algae-based fuel to cap-and-trade legislation. Despite her past history being associated with pro-cap-and-trade views, in 2014, her public relations firm tweeted that a John Jordan opinion article was a “great piece,” in which he wrote that pushing cap-and-trade contributed to Obama’s “political demise.”  In 2014, Gitsham commented on the Rock Amato show in regard to undocumented children, saying “we are a nation of laws,” and voiced her opposition to reclassifying them as refugees. In November 2015, Gitsham advocated her support for the American SAFE Act, which would have made it more difficult for Syrian and Iraq refugees to come to the United States. On her campaign website, Gitsham called for securing the border, cracking down on human trafficking and instituting a guest worker visa program as the way to fix immigration.  Gitsham sounded very much the detached political consultant when, in 2013, she wrote an op-ed in Politico in which she compared the Republican Party to the British Burberry luxury fashion line, noting that they both appealed to old white men. She opined that Republicans needed to rebrand in the way the fashion company did—by modernizing their brand to appeal to millennials. She wrote, “I hope the GOP chooses the former and embraces the only ‘fashion advice’ that can possibly save the party.” Additionally, Gitsham has appeared multiple times on local TV to talk politics. In December 2015, SVN Public Relations tweeted that “Medicare negotiating with Pharm is not the answer.”  Gitsham’s public relations firm had connections to a leader of the extremist birther movement. In 2013, ThinkProgress reported that 7 Second Strategies worked publicity for “birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books.” In 2012, Talking Points Memo wrote that Farah’s WND website had “carved out a niche for itself as the go-to destination for” birthers. According to the Wayback Machine, WND Books was listed as a client on July 21, 2013, but then on November 24, 2013, the company was no longer listed as a client.  In November 2015, Gitsham announced her campaign to challenge Rep. Scott Peters in the 52nd Congressional District of California. On December 19, 2015, the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote a story outlining the positions on gun issues of Rep. Scott Peters and other candidates in the 52nd congressional district race, but only Gitsham did not respond to questions from the newspaper. The Union-Tribune wrote that, on her campaign Facebook page, she has “ignored questions from potential voters who ask her for stance on 2nd Amendment-related issues.” The newspaper further took her to task for her silence, criticizing her in an editorial entitled, “Gitsham’s gun silence a disappointment.” The editorial continued, “In a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost daily,” Gitsham, “has been silent for six weeks when asked about the Second Amendment. That’s Disappointing.”  Gitsham released her positions on the 2nd Amendment following the Union-Tribune’s criticism, but the paper did not publish them until the day after they wrote the editorial criticizing her for her silence. Despite Gitsham’s release of her policy positions, she was criticized for being short on specifics. She advocated for “closing sensible loopholes” in regard to people on the terrorism watch list, purchases at gun shows, and firearm purchases on the Internet. However, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune, “Her campaign did not specify how she would like the regulations changed, and did not provide further clarification upon request.”  On March 29, 2016, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported that “Over five months later,” Gitsham filed an incomplete financial disclosure “a day after a reporter asked why the document had not been submitted earlier.” While all her opponents had filed their disclosures, she paid a $200 fee for filing late. The House Ethics instructions guide on financial disclosures requires candidates to file their disclosures after raising or spending $5,000. On October 26, 2015, Gitsham received $5,400 in donations from two individuals to push her over the $5,000 limit imposed by the House Ethics Committee. The Union-Tribune continued writing that Gitsham had not “completed a required political ethics document,” which left “voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makers a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office.” Her campaign manager would not answer questions as to why she did not file for an extensions, claiming “there’s not an extension process.” But one of the campaign manager’s former clients, Carl DeMaio received an extension while running for the House in 2014.  In 2016, Gitsham gave an address at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, D.C., in which she made insensitive comments about how her “ambiguous[]” ethnicity has helped propel her career in politics. Specifically, she said, “I’m just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything, and as a result ended up as a Hispanic Relations Coordinator” on the 2000 Bush presidential campaign. Her campaign defended her comments as a “joke” that she has been using for three years, but stated she was not portraying herself as Hispanic. Indeed, in a biographical piece on the Disruptive Thinkers website, she gloated about her time as Bush’s Hispanic Relations Coordinator despite not having “a Latino bone in [her] body.” Gitsham’s comment attracted criticism from 2014 Republican congressional candidate Carl DeMaio who likened her to “San Diego’s own version of Rachel Dolezal,” a person referred to by DeMaio as “[t]he nutty white woman who claimed to be African American.” Called Medicare, Social Security And Medicaid “Huge Burgeoning Debts That Are Contributing Every Year To The Deficit,” Saying She Supported Cuts To The Programs **Called Medicare, Social Security And Medicaid “Huge Burgeoning Debts That Are Contributing Every Year To The Deficit,” Saying She Supported Cuts To The Programs.** “Gitsham said she would target social programs to eliminate deficit spending and cut government debt. ‘Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid are huge burgeoning debts that are contributing every year to the deficit. And so we can look to those to begin the process of cutting down how much we spend,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)] Mother Is A Chinese Immigrant And Father Is A Canadian Immigrant **Mother Is A Chinese Immigrant And Father Is A Canadian Immigrant.** “Denise’s mother, a Chinese immigrant who fled communism, and her father, a Canadian immigrant who served 20 years in the United States Air Force, instilled in her a deep appreciation of the blessings associated with being American.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress website, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)] Studied Government, History And Chinese While Pursuing Undergraduate Degree At Bowdoin **Studied Government, History And Chinese While Pursuing Undergraduate Degree At Bowdoin.** “Denise Gitsham ‘99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George VV Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)] Ran For Bowdoin Senior Class Vice President, Writing “Give ME The Responsibility Of Delivering The Best Senior Pub Nights **Ran For Bowdoin Senior Class Vice President, Writing “Give ME The Responsibility Of Delivering The Best Senior Pub Nights.”** “’Get ready to party like its nineteen-ninety-nine, kids!’ As your vice-president, I will be singly focused on attaining one goal: making sure OUR senior year will be the ONLY ONE you’ll want to remember. I KNOW THE ROPES. I’ve been your president once before. I’ve worked closely in numerous occasions with faculty and administrators, and I ALWAYS GET THE JOB DONE…. Give ME the responsibility of delivering the best senior pub nights.” [Bowdoin Orient, 9/18/98]  *NOTE: It is not clear whether Gitsham was in fact elected SVP of her senior class. Additionally, it is not clear in which previous year Gitsham served as class president.* Spent Semester Abroad In Beijing While Studying At Bowdoin, Where She Worked At The British Embassy **Spent Semester Abroad In Beijing While Studying At Bowdoin, Where She Worked At The British Embassy.** “Denise Gitsham ‘99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George VV Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)] Attended Wellesley College In Massachusetts For One Semester **Attended Wellesley College In Massachusetts For One Semester.** “Denise Gitsham ;Title: Principal, 7 Second Strategies; Age: 37; Education: B.A. in government and legal studies with a minor in American history from Bowdoin College in Maine; one semester at Wellesley College in Massachusetts; J.D. from Georgetown University Law Centre. Work experience: Political and communications work, law and lobbying. Family: Two dogs Likes reading: Business magazines and leadership books.” [UT San Diego, [5/25/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2014/05/ut-san-diego-qa-dont-forget-your-business-strategy/)]  **Worked On President Bush’s 2000 Campaign On Hispanic Outreach; Assigned To Position By Karl Rove**  **Worked As National Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator In Austin, Texas For 2000 Bush Presidential Campaign.** “We are pleased to announce that Denise Gitsham joined our staff in December as the PCWHF’s Public Relations Coordinator. Some of you may have met Denise at the Alumni Association reception last October and I hope you will join me in welcoming her on board. Denise’s political career began in 1999, working on then-Governor Bush’s presidential campaign as the National Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator in Austin, Texas. She moved to Washington to serve as public liaison for the Presidential Inaugural Committee and was subsequently appointed to the position of Senior Caseworker in the White House Office of Agency Liaison.” [George W. Bush White House, [2002](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)] Alex Ray Column: Karl Rove Assigned Gitsham To Implement The Hispanic Outreach Strategy Authored By Rove’s “Good Friend” And Hispanic Media Mogul, Warren Tichenor **Alex Ray Column: Karl Rove Assigned Gitsham To Implement The Hispanic Outreach Strategy Authored By Rove’s “Good Friend” And Hispanic Media Mogul, Warren Tichenor.** “The leader of this small group was Warren Tichenor of Texas whose family owns the largest Hispanic radio network in the country. Its holdings include 47 stations in Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada and Illinois and an Internet company that promotes Hispanic businesses. Tichenor is relatively new to politics, first getting involved in 1997 in Texas. He became good friends with Bush’s political guru, Karl Rove, and when the Texas governor decided to seek the White House, Tichenor volunteered to help. He was the principle author of the campaign’s 33-point Hispanic strategy. To implement the strategy, Rove assigned a young Californian, Denise Gitsham, who was fresh out of Maine’s Bowdoin College and was helping to raise money in the high technology community for then-Governor Bush. I feel very proud of the fact that I helped Ms. Gitsham get into the campaign in the first place. An old friend, who is chairman of the History & Government Department at Bowdoin, called to ask if I could intercede for what he described as probably the brightest student he had ever taught. Although not Latino, Denise became the Bush campaign’s Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator, implementing the strategy that Tichenor had authored. Fifteen hours a day became the norm for the young woman who had never before been involved in a campaign, but would not accept the ‘it can’t be done’ song that permeates campaigns.” [The Star Democrat, Alex Ray Column, [3/25/01](http://stardem.newspapers.com/newspage/115859543/)] Alex Ray Column: Prior To Being Hired By The 2000 Bush Campaign, Gitsham Was Helping Raise Money From The High-Tech Community For Then-Governor Bush **Alex Ray Column: Prior To Being Hired By The 2000 Bush Campaign, Gitsham Was Helping Raise Money From The High-Tech Community For Then-Governor Bush.** “To implement the strategy, Rove assigned a young Californian, Denise Gitsham, who was fresh out of Maine’s Bowdoin College and was helping to raise money in the high technology community for then-Governor Bush. I feel very proud of the fact that I helped Ms. Gitsham get into the campaign in the first place. An old friend, who is chairman of the History & Government Department at Bowdoin, called to ask if I could intercede for what he described as probably the brightest student he had ever taught. Although not Latino, Denise became the Bush campaign’s Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator, implementing the strategy that Tichenor had authored. Fifteen hours a day became the norm for the young woman who had never before been involved in a campaign, but would not accept the “it can’t be done” song that permeates campaigns.” [The Star Democrat, Alex Ray Column, [3/25/01](http://stardem.newspapers.com/newspage/115859543/)] Ted Cruz Helped Draft Bush Campaign’s Immigration Policy **Ted Cruz Helped Draft Bush Campaign’s Immigration Policy.** “In 2000, Ted Cruz was known as a Texas-raised, Harvard-trained domestic policy adviser to the George W. Bush campaign. Bush was a two-term governor from a border state who was determined to fix what he saw as a broken, inhumane immigration system. Cruz helped craft the campaign's immigration policy, which called for speeding up the application process, increasing the number of work visas, and allowing the relatives of permanent residents to visit the U.S. while their applicants were pending.” [The Atlantic, [5/23/13](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/05/when-ted-cruz-helped-craft-bushs-immigration-reform-plan/276167/)] Was Only One Of Four Interns Chosen For George W Bush’s 2000 Presidential Bid **Was Only One Of Four Interns Chosen For George W Bush’s 2000 Presidential Bid.** “Denise Gitsham ‘99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George W Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)] January 2001-November 2001: Worked As An Agency Liaison At The White House **January 2001-November 2001: Worked As An Agency Liaison At The White House.** “Agency Liaison The White House, Office of Agency Liaison January 2001 – November 2001 (11 months)” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]  *NOTE: A Bush White House press release referred to Gitsham’s position as “Senior Caseworker” with the White House Office of Agency [George W. Bush White House,* [*2002*](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)*].* 2001-2002: Worked As Communications Director And Spokesperson For The White House, President’s Commission On White House Fellows **2001-2002: Worked As Communications Director And Spokesperson For The White House, President’s Commission On White House Fellows.** “Communications Director and Spokesperson The White House, President's Commission on White House Fellows 2001 – 2002 (1 year)” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]  *NOTE: The press release announcing Gitsham’s appointment referred to the position as “Public Relations Coordinator.” [George W. Bush White House,* [*2002*](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)*]* 2004-2005: Worked As Associate Director of the Office Of Intergovernmental And Public Liaison At The US Department Of Justice **2004-2005: Worked As Associate Director of the Office Of Intergovernmental And Public Liaison At The US Department Of Justice.** “Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison US DOJ 2004 – 2005 (1 year)” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)] San Diego Union Tribune: “Immigrant Women Who Plan To Have A Child In The United States Should Not Be Given Visas, Gitsham Said”; “It’s Not Hard To Pick Out A Pregnant Woman” **San Diego Union Tribune: “Immigrant Women Who Plan To Have A Child In The United States Should Not Be Given Visas, Gitsham Said.”** “Both candidates said the government needs to do a better job finding people who overstay visas, but disagreed on what should happen when immigrants who are in the country illegally start families in the United States. Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]  **Gitsham: “If We Know You’re Coming Here For That Reason, You’re Not Allowed To Come.”** “Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said. ‘If we know you’re coming here for that reason, you’re not allowed to come. It’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]  **Gitsham: “It’s Not Hard To Pick Out A Pregnant Woman.”** “Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said. ‘If we know you’re coming here for that reason, you’re not allowed to come. It’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)] 2007: Received JD From Georgetown University **2007: Received JD From Georgetown University.** “Denise Gitsham ;Title: Principal, 7 Second Strategies; Age: 37; Education: B.A. in government and legal studies with a minor in American history from Bowdoin College in Maine; one semester at Wellesley College in Massachusetts; J.D. from Georgetown University Law Centre. Work experience: Political and communications work, law and lobbying. Family: Two dogs Likes reading: Business magazines and leadership books.” [UT San Diego, [5/25/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2014/05/ut-san-diego-qa-dont-forget-your-business-strategy/)]  **2004-2007: Attended Georgetown Law School.** According to Denise Gitsham’s Linkedin, Gitsham attended Georgetown Law School from 2004-2007. [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)] Admitted To DC Bar In June 2008; As Of January 2016, On “Active” Status With “202” Area Code For Phone Number And Is Not Admitted To CA Bar **Member Of Washington, DC Bar Association; Status Active, With “202” Area Code For Phone Number.** According to the Washington DC Bar Association membership page accessed on February 16, 2016, Denise Gitsham was listed as a member. She became an active member on June 16, 2008.Gitsham held active status and listed a phone number with a “202” area code. [Washington, DC Bar Association, Denise Gitsham, Accessed [2/16/16](https://www.dcbar.org/membership/find-a-member-results.cfm)] Reported Lobbying Federal Government In 2006 Year-End Report To Year-End 2008, But Gitsham’s Linkedin Listed Her Start Date In September 2007 **Claimed She Worked At K&L Gates From September 2007 To December 2008.** According to Denise Gitsham’s Linkedin, Gitsham claimed she worked at K&L Gates as an Associate from September 2007 to December 2008.[Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed [11/05/15](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/denise-gitsham/3/b7b/349)]  **Worked As A Lobbyist From July 1, 2006 To Year-End 2008.** Denise Gitsham appeared on lobbyist database from end of 2006 till the beginning of 2009. During that time she lobbied the House and the Senate as well as the White House. She also lobbied many different departments and agencies, including Treasury, Defense, Energy, Agriculture, Homeland Security, State, Veterans Affairs, Labor, HHS, FAA, OMB, US Trade and Maritime Administration. She also lobbied the Justice Department, where she had previously worked. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]  **Claimed She Worked At Department Of Justice From 2004 To 2005.** According to Denise Gitsham’s Linkedin, Gitsham claimed she worked at the Department of Justice as the Associate Director at the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison. [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed 11/05/15]  **Appeared On The 12th Season Of The Bachelor, But Was Eliminated In The First Episode After Talking About Karl Rove When Meeting The Bachelor**  **Appeared On Season 12 Of The Bachelor.** “This campaign won’t be Gitsham’s first time in the spotlight, and her candidacy also means that Donald Trump isn’t the only Republican candidate with reality television experience on their resume. In 2008 Gitsham was a short-lived contestant on season 12 of ABC’s ‘The Bachelor’.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]  **Kicked Off The Show After Talking About Karl Rove When Meeting The Bachelor.**  “It wasn’t all roses. The Washington Post reported that she got booted from the show after telling the bachelor ‘I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s considered ‘Bush’s brain.’ Gitsham was passed up in favor of a Venice Beach hotdog vender, the daughter of soap opera star Lorenzo Lamas’s, and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half, the Post noted.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]  **Said, “ I Worked For Karl Rove.”** “It wasn’t all roses. The Washington Post reported that she got booted from the show after telling the bachelor ‘I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s considered ‘Bush’s brain.’ Gitsham was passed up in favor of a Venice Beach hotdog vender, the daughter of soap opera star Lorenzo Lamas’s, and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half, the Post noted.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]  **San Diego Union-Tribune: Passed Up In Favor Of A Venice Beach Hot Dog Vendor And A Woman Who Bit An Aluminum Can In Half.** “It wasn’t all roses. The Washington Post reported that she got booted from the show after telling the bachelor ‘I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s considered ‘Bush’s brain.’ Gitsham was passed up in favor of a Venice Beach hotdog vender, the daughter of soap opera star Lorenzo Lamas’s, and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half, the Post noted.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)] Lobbied For Sapphire Energy On Algae To Gasoline Development, Later Left K&L To Work Directly For Sapphire Energy **January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008: Lobbied For Sapphire Energy On “Support Algae To Gasoline Technology Development.”** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Treasury and the Department of Agriculture on behalf of Sapphire Energy on “Support algae to gasoline technology development; S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project” between the periods January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed 1/11/16]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury | Support algae to gasoline technology development. | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Second Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | Support algae to gasoline technology development | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Third Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project. | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $90,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project. |   [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)] Started Working For Sapphire Energy As The Director Of Corporate Affairs And Legislative Council From January 2009 To January 2013 **Started Working For Sapphire Energy As The Director Of Corporate Affairs And Legislative Council From January 2009 To January 2013.** According to Denise Gitsham’s official Linkedin page, “Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel…Sapphire Energy…January 2009 – January 2013 (4 years 1 month)” [LinkedIn, Denise Gitsham, Accessed [12/15/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]  **2012: Founded Public Relations Firm Called 7 Second Strategies**  **Co-Founded Public Relations Firm Called 7 Second Strategies In 2012 Focused On Life Science, Biotech, And Politics.**  “In 2012, Denise co-founded 7 Second Strategies (now SVN Public Relations). Her firm represents clients in cleantech, life sciences, biotech, real estate, and political sectors, and treats every client’s public relations mission like a campaign.” [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed [11/05/15](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/denise-gitsham/3/b7b/349)] March 2015: 7 Second Strategies Changed Its Name To SVN Public Relations **March 2015: 7 Second Strategies Changed Its Name To SVN Public Relations.** “Same Tenacity. New Look. 7 Second Strategies is now SVN PR! http://svnpr.com #PR” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [3/18/15](https://twitter.com/svn_pr/status/578204716586258432)] In December 19, 2015 Story Outlining Gun Positions Of Rep. Scott Peters And Other Candidates In 52nd District Race, “Gitsham Didn’t Respond To Request For Comment, And Her Campaign Manager Didn’t Make Her Available” **In December 19, 2015 Story Outlining Gun Positions Of Rep. Scott Peters And Other Candidates In 52nd District Race, “Gitsham Didn’t Respond To Request For Comment, And Her Campaign Manager Didn’t Make Her Available.”** “A Sunday story in The San Diego Union-Tribune outlined the gun positions of San Diego Rep. Scott Peters and two other candidates coveting his seat in the 52nd Congressional District, John Horst and Jacquie Atkins. But Gitsham didn’t respond to a request for comment, and her campaign manager didn't make her available. Also, she never answered questions about gun control posted to her campaign Facebook page in early November.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]  **San Diego Union-Tribune: “On Her Campaign Facebook Page, Gitsham Has Ignored Questions From Potential Voters Who Ask For Her Stance On 2nd Amendment-Related Issues.”** “The campaign manager for a third Republican in the race, Denise Gitsham, did not make the candidate available for an interview, and Gitsham did not respond to a voice message requesting comment. On her campaign Facebook page, Gitsham has ignored questions from potential voters who ask for her stance on 2nd Amendment-related issues.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/19/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/19/peters-horst-atkinson-gitsham-gun-control-second/)] San Diego Union Tribune Editorial, HEADLINE: Gitsham’s Gun Silence A Disappointment; Gitsham Eventually Responded One Day After Paper Ran Story **San Diego Union Tribune Editorial, HEADLINE: Gitsham’s Gun Silence A Disappointment.** [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]  **San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial: “In A Country Where Gun Ownership And Gun Violence Is Almost Daily,” Gitsham “Has Been Silent For Six Weeks When Asked About The Second Amendment.** “In a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost a daily — and always an emotional — discussion, congressional candidate Denise Gitsham has been silent for six weeks when asked about the Second Amendment. That's disappointing.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]  **San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial: “That’s Disappointing.”** “In a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost a daily — and always an emotional — discussion, congressional candidate Denise Gitsham has been silent for six weeks when asked about the Second Amendment. That's disappointing.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]  **December 20, 2015: When Asked Again For Position On Gun Control, Gitsham Finally Gave A Response One Day After Story Outlining Candidates’ 2nd Amendment Positions.** “On Monday, we asked her campaign for her position and to its credit, one was provided within hours. That wasn't so hard.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)] Supported Closing “Loopholes” Related To People On Terrorism Watch List And Purchases At Gun Shows And On The Internet **December 23, 2015: Supported “Closing Sensible Loopholes,” In Regard To People On Terrorism Watch List As Well As In Regard To Purchases At Gun Shows And On Internet.** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues. In a statement from her campaign, Gitsham said she supports ‘closing sensible loopholes’ related to people on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as well as firearm sales at gun shows and online without infringing on the Second Amendment.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)] San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham Did Not Provide Specifics As To How She Would Alter The Regulations And “Did Not Provide Clarification Upon Request” **San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham Did Not Provide Specifics As To How She Would Alter The Regulations And “Did Not Provide Clarification Upon Request.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues. In a statement from her campaign, Gitsham said she supports ‘closing sensible loopholes’ related to people on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as well as firearm sales at gun shows and online without infringing on the Second Amendment. Her campaign did not specify how she would like regulations changed, and did not provide further clarification upon request.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)] Said, “Background Checks Must Be Made Against A Database That Is Accurate, Comprehensive And Current” **Said, “Background Checks Must Be Made Against A Database That Is Accurate, Comprehensive And Current.”** Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. Policies that may limit firearm ownership must be narrow in order to not interfere with Second Amendment rights, and must be demonstrably effective to reduce crime, she said. Background checks must be made against a database that is accurate, comprehensive and current, she added.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)] Supported Barring People On The No-Fly List From Buying Guns, “In Theory” **Supported Barring People On The No-Fly List From Buying Guns, “In Theory.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. She also supports barring people who are on the no-fly list from buying guns ‘in theory.’ Gitsham’s concern, she said, is that the no-fly list is over-inclusive and imprecise, and it’s unclear how someone can end up on the list, nor is it clear what sort of recourse people who are erroneously on the list have to be removed.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]  **Concern For Barring People From No-Fly List From Buying Guns Was That List Was “Over-Inclusive And Imprecise.”** “She also supports barring people who are on the no-fly list from buying guns ‘in theory.’ Gitsham’s concern, she said, is that the no-fly list is over-inclusive and imprecise, and it’s unclear how someone can end up on the list, nor is it clear what sort of recourse people who are erroneously on the list have to be removed.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]  **“Unclear How Someone Can End Up On The List,” And How They Could Be Removed If They Were Somehow Erroneously Added.** “She also supports barring people who are on the no-fly list from buying guns ‘in theory.’ Gitsham’s concern, she said, is that the no-fly list is over-inclusive and imprecise, and it’s unclear how someone can end up on the list, nor is it clear what sort of recourse people who are erroneously on the list have to be removed.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)] Said, “My Support For Any Policy Proposal Would Hinge On Whether Its Passage Would Actually Reduce Gun Crime” **Said, “My Support For Any Policy Proposal Would Hinge On Whether Its Passage Would Actually Reduce Gun Crime.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. ‘My support for any policy proposal would hinge on whether its passage would actually reduce gun crime, and what the chances are of such laws being enforced. Without both, their passage misleads a public that looks to its government for real solutions,’ she said.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)] February 2016: More Than Two Months Late On Filing Candidate Financial Disclosure **House Ethics Requires Candidates Files Financial Disclosures After Raising Or Spending $5,000.** “Individuals are required to file an FD Statement once they ‘qualify’ as a candidate by raising or spending more than $5,000 in a campaign for election to the House of Representatives.” [House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, [2014](http://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/Info%20and%20Instructions.pdf)]  **October 26, 2015: Gitsham Raised More Than $5,000 In Itemized Contributions.** [FEC, Accessed 2/22/16]   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Description** | **Date** | **Amount** | | Calvin Gitsham |  | 10/26/15 | $2,700 | | Grace Gitsham |  | 10/26/15 | $2,700 | |  |  | **TOTAL** | **$5,400** |   **Candidates Who Qualify During A Non-Election Year Must File Within 30 Days, Or By May 15, Whichever Is Later.** “If you qualify during a non-election (odd-numbered) year, then you must file an FD Statement within 30 days of becoming a candidate or May 15 of that year, whichever is later. You are then required to file a second Statement on May 15 of the following year if you are still a candidate on that date. If you lose a primary election or formally withdraw, as explained below, before May 15, then you are not required to file the second Statement.” [House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, [2014](http://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/Info%20and%20Instructions.pdf)] San Diego Union-Tribune: “Over Five Months Later,” Filed Incomplete Financial Disclosure “A Day After A Reporter Asked Why The Document Had Not Been Submitted Earlier”; Paid $200 Late Fee **San Diego Union-Tribune: “Over Five Months Later,” Filed Incomplete Financial Disclosure “A Day After A Reporter Asked Why The Document Had Not Been Submitted Earlier.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office. The Republican candidate was supposed to give to the House Ethics Committee a completed Financial Disclosure Statement after her campaign raised or spent more than $5,000, a threshold she crossed on Oct. 26, 10 days before she announced campaign against incumbent Democrat Scott Peters. Over five months later, her campaign said she has filed an incomplete version of the report on March 24 — a day after a reporter asked why the document had not been submitted earlier.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]  **Gitsham Paid $200 Late Fee For Filing Her Report Late.** “’She was hoping to get the outstanding info on ... her jointly-owned condo before filing,’ said Gitsham’s campaign manager, Jason Roe. She paid a $200 fee that candidates who file late must pay, he said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]  **Campaign Manager Said She Was Waiting On “Outstanding Info” On Jointly-Owned Condo Before Filing.** “’She was hoping to get the outstanding info on ... her jointly-owned condo before filing,’ said Gitsham’s campaign manager, Jason Roe. She paid a $200 fee that candidates who file late must pay, he said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)] March 29, 2013, San Diego Union-Tribune: Had Not “Completed A Required Political Ethics Document,” Which Left “Voters Unable To See How The Former Lobbyist Makes A Living” **March 29, 2013, San Diego Union-Tribune: Had Not “Completed A Required Political Ethics Document,” Which Left Voters Unable To See How The Former Lobbyist Makes A Living.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]  **…“An Without Information That Could Help Them Decide If She Would Have Any Potential Conflicts Of Interest While In Office.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)] March 29, 2013: All Her Opponents Had Submitted Required Forms Before Gitsham **March 29, 2013: All Her Opponents Had Submitted Required Forms Before Gitsham.** “The Office of the Clerk of the House had no record of any report from Gitsham available on its website as of Tuesday afternoon, and the office did not return a call about the financial document. Online archives show that all of her opponents have submitted the required forms.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)] San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham’s Campaign Manager “Did Not Respond To Questions About Why Gitsham Did Not Ask For An Extension,” Saying, “There’s Not An Extension Process” **San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham’s Campaign Manager “Did Not Respond To Questions About Why Gitsham Did Not Ask For An Extension,” Saying, “There’s Not An Extension Process.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office…. Candidates and officeholders who are more than 30 days late are assessed a $200 fee, and they can be fined as much as $50,000 by the attorney general for deliberately withholding a report. Extensions up to 90 days are available and are regularly granted, but Gitsham did not seek extra time to submit the required paperwork. Roe did not respond to questions about why Gitsham did not ask for an extension, nor did he respond to a request for a copy of Gitsham’s statement.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]  **…But One Of Campaign Manager’s Former Clients, Carl DeMaio Received An Extension While Running For The House In 2014.** “Roe did not respond to questions about why Gitsham did not ask for an extension, nor did he respond to a request for a copy of Gitsham’s statement. ‘As I understand it, there’s not an extension process,’ Roe said. One of Gitsham’s Republican opponents, Jacquie Atkinson, received a 30-day extension and filed ahead of her new deadline. One of Roe’s former clients, Carl DeMaio, also received an extension when running for the House in 2014.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)] Gitsham: “I’m Just Ambiguously Ethnic Enough To Pass For Almost Anything, And As A Result Ended Up As A Hispanic Relations Coordinator” On Bush Campaign **Gitsham: “I’m Just Ambiguously Ethnic Enough To Pass For Almost Anything, And As A Result Ended Up As A Hispanic Relations Coordinator” On Bush Campaign.** “When she’s introducing herself to potential supporters, Denise Gitsham sometimes brings up her heritage: she’s the daughter of a Chinese mother who immigrated from Taiwan and a father from Canada who served a full career in the United States Air Force….She mentioned it when she announced her candidacy for the House of Representatives in November as her parents stood by her side, and again on Thursday evening during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland, an event for and Republican lawmakers, candidates and right-leaning causes. But when Gitsham’s background wasn’t entirely obvious the uncertainty has worked to her political advantage. It helped her get work during George W. Bush’s 2000 campaign for president, she said. ‘I’m just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything, and as a result ended up as a Hispanic coalitions coordinator,’ she said in a speech Wednesday at C-PAC.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]  **San Diego Union Tribune: Gitsham Campaign Manager Said She “Didn’t Try To Pass As Hispanic,” And That It Was “A Long-Running Joke” That She Has Been Using For Three Years.** “Jason Roe, Gitsham’s campaign manager, said his candidate didn’t try to pass as Hispanic, and she’s just continuing a long-running joke. ‘She’s making fun of herself and I think this characterization takes it way too seriously. She is no way was portraying herself as Hispanic, just joking about how she found herself doing Hispanic outreach,’ he said, adding that she’s been using the joke for at least three years.”[San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)] San Diego Tribune: Not First Time “Gitsham Discussed How She Portrayed Her Heritage To Work For Bush Campaign,” Writing In Profile How She Worked For Bush Campaign “Without A Latino Bone In My Body” **San Diego Union Tribune: Was Not First Time “Gitsham Discussed How She Portrayed Her Heritage To Work For Bush Campaign.”** “Thursday wasn’t the first time Gitsham discussed how she portrayed her heritage to work for the Bush campaign.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]  **In Profile For Disruptive Thinkers, Wrote “As A Half-Chinese 22 Year Old Without A Latino Bone In My Body,” Ran Bush’s 2000 National Hispanic Coalition.** “Thursday wasn’t the first time Gitsham discussed how she portrayed her heritage to work for the Bush campaign. ‘As a half-Chinese 22 year old without a Latino bone in my body, I created a position for myself on the Bush campaign, running President Bush’s previously non-existent National Hispanic Coalition. I figured the President would benefit from speaking directly to the Hispanic population about his vision for America’ she wrote on her profile for Disruptive Thinkers, a forum for young entrepreneurs.” **[**San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)] Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Was “San Diego’s Own Version Of Rachel Dolezal”; Rachel Dolezal Was “The Nutty White Woman Who Claimed To Be African American” **Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Was “San Diego’s Own Version Of Rachel Dolezal”; Rachel Dolezal Was “The Nutty White Woman Who Claimed To Be African American.”** “Remember Rachel Dolezal? She’s the nutty white woman who claimed to be African American. She lied so well that she even got appointed the head of the NAACP in Spokane, Washington!... Well, over the weekend, San Diego’s own version of Rachel Dolezal came to public light. Former reality show contestant Denise Gitsham is running for US Congress.” [KOGO, Carl DeMaio, [3/07/16](http://www.kogo.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/meet-san-diegos-own-rachel-dolezal-14459316/#ixzz42JEIoqJs)]  **Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Was A “Former Show Contestant Denise Gitsham Is Running For US Congress.”** “Former reality show contestant Denise Gitsham is running for US Congress. Late last week she gave a talk at one of the workshops at a conservative political conference in Washington.” [KOGO, Carl DeMaio, [3/07/16](http://www.kogo.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/meet-san-diegos-own-rachel-dolezal-14459316/#ixzz42JEIoqJs)]  **Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Told Crowd At CPAC That She Was “One Of You!” DeMaio: “Makes You Wonder What She Really Means By That.”** “She told the conservative crowd “I’m one of you!” Makes you wonder what she really means by that.” [KOGO, Carl DeMaio, [3/07/16](http://www.kogo.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/meet-san-diegos-own-rachel-dolezal-14459316/#ixzz42JEIoqJs)] Michael Smolens Column: “Gitsham’s Identity Crisis” **Michael Smolens Column: “Gitsham’s Identity Crisis.”** “Gitsham’s identity crisis Republican congressional candidate’s Denise Gitsham’s comment that her appearance was “ambiguously ethnic” — enough so to assist in landing a job in Hispanic outreach in the George W. Bush presidential campaign — sure did ricochet around the country pretty fast.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, Michael Smolens Columns, [3/13/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/13/will-stadium-convention-center-coalition-hold/)]  **Michael Smolens Column: Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Put Out Press Releases In Spanish And English.** “Not surprising, Democrats erupted in righteous indignation. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee put out releases in Spanish and English, with the former the more harsh of the two.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, Michael Smolens Columns, [3/13/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/13/will-stadium-convention-center-coalition-hold/2/?#article-copy)] Los Angeles Times: “Gitsham’s Campaign Defended The Line As A Joke” **Los Angeles Times: “Gitsham’s Campaign Defended The Line As A Joke.”** “The San Diego Union Tribune’s Joshua Stewart reports that Republican San Diego businesswoman Denise Gitsham, who is challenging Democratic Rep. Scott Peters, is catching flak over remarks she made last week about her race. Gitsham said at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland that because she is half-Chinese she is "ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything," which got her a job on George W. Bush’s 2000 campaign reaching out to Latino voters. Gitsham’s campaign defended the line as a joke.” [Los Angeles Times, [3/09/16](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-essential-politics-20160309-story.html)] San Diego Union-Tribune: Unclear What Work She Did During 2000 Bush Campaign As Campaign And Her Have “Given Conflicting Accounts” **San Diego Union-Tribune: Unclear What Work She Did During 2000 Bush Campaign As Campaign And Her Have “Given Conflicting Accounts.”** “What Gitsham did for Bush’s 2000 campaign isn’t clear as she and her campaign has given conflicting accounts. Gitsham, on her company’s website, said she ‘developed and managed a national Latino communications and outreach plan that spanned 28 states, and resulted in the highest percentage of Latino votes for a Republican candidate in the history of US presidential elections.’” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)] San Diego Union-Tribune: Campaign Manager Said She Was Unpaid Intern On 2000 Bush Campaign, “But Later Gave Different Account About Her Compensation,” Listing The Work On Her LinkedIn Page Which “Only Includes Her Paid Work” **San Diego Union-Tribune: Campaign Manager Said She Was Unpaid Intern On 2000 Bush Campaign, “But Later Gave Different Account About Her Compensation,” Listing The Work On Her LinkedIn Page Which “Only Includes Her Paid Work.”** “What Gitsham did for Bush’s 2000 campaign isn’t clear as she and her campaign has given conflicting accounts. Gitsham, on her company’s website, said she ‘developed and managed a national Latino communications and outreach plan that spanned 28 states, and resulted in the highest percentage of Latino votes for a Republican candidate in the history of US presidential elections.’ Roe said she was an unpaid intern, but Gitsham later gave a different account about her compensation. Gitsham’s LinkedIn account only includes her paid work and her profile on the business networking site lists a 17-month tenure with the Bush campaign.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]  *NOTE: After a review of Bush’s 2000 Presidential campaign’s 2000 Year-End filing with the Federal Election Commission, it was determined that she was not paid for her work with the campaign.* Said She Would “Reach Out” To Former President George W. Bush And Karl Rove To “Ask For Their Help” **Said She Would “Reach Out” To Former President George W. Bush And Karl Rove To “Ask For Their Help.”** “When the time is right, she may even call on those ex-bosses of hers for support. ‘I haven’t discussed my plans to run with either Mr. Rove or the President,’ she shared, adding that it’s certainly possible President George W. Bush wouldn’t remember her anymore. ‘It’s been so long since I worked in his administration, and was one of thousands!’ she estimated. Still, it never hurts to have friends in formerly high places. ‘Once I get off the ground, I’ll reach out to both to ask for their help,’ Gitsham said. ‘But for now, it’s nose to the grindstone working with the people of my district to garner support.’” [Roll Call, [11/09/15](http://atr.rollcall.com/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-scott-peters/)] San Diego Union-Tribune: “Direct Ties” To Rove **San Diego Union-Tribune: Had “Direct Ties To Republican Strategist Karl Rove.”**  “A San Diego business owner with direct ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove connections to his influential super PAC has entered the race against Democratic Rep. Scott Peters. Denise Gitsham is expected to announce her candidacy for California’s 52nd Congressional District this morning at an event in Little Italy.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)] Gitsham’s 7 Second Strategies Worked Publicity For “Birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books”; Listed WND As Client On Website On July 21, 2013, But Removed From Website About Four Months Later **ThinkProgress: 7 Second Strategies Worked Publicity For “Birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books.”** “More notably, The Hill reported Wednesday, Americans for Progressive Action’s spokeswoman is Sheena Tahilramani. Tahilramani served for several years as chief of staff for Karl Rove’s company and was media liaison for the Republican strategist. She now works as head of marketing and publicity for a consulting firm whose clients include birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books.” [ThinkProgress, [6/13/13](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2013/06/13/2148891/rove-protege-progressive-superpac-gomez/)]  **Sheena Tahilramani Was Listed As A Principal On 7 Second Strategies Website.** According to 7 Second Strategies website, Sheena Tahilramani was listed as a principal on 7 Second Strategies website. [7 Second Strategies, Accessed [2/17/16](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/about-us/team/)]  **July 21, 2013: Wayback Machine: WND Books Was Listed As A Client.** According to the Wayback Machine, on July 21, 2013, 7 Second Stratgies listed WND Books as a client. [Wayback Machine, 7 Second Strategies, [7/21/13](https://web.archive.org/web/20130721125234/http:/www.7secondstrategies.com/clients)]  **November 24. 2013: Wayback Machine: WND Books Not Listed As A Client.** According to 7 Second Strategies, on November 24, 2013, WND Books was not listed as a client. [Wayback Machine, 7 Second Strategies,[11/24/13](https://web.archive.org/web/20131124045356/http:/www.7secondstrategies.com/clients/)]  **January 15, 2015: WND Books Not Listed As Client On 7 Second Strategies Client Page.** According to 7 Second Strategies, WND Books is not listed as a client. [7 Second Strategies, Accessed [1/15/16](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/clients/)] 2012, Talking Points Memo: Farah’s WND “Carved Out A Niche For Itself As The Go-To Destination For” Birthers **2012, Talking Points Memo: Farah’s WND “Carved Out A Niche For Itself As The Go-To Destination For” Birthers.** “In 1998, Joseph Farah's WorldNetDaily warned the world that Bill Clinton had a mad plan to hold on to power, by exploiting panic over the Y2K bug….Farah's WorldNetDaily, now known simply as WND.com, has carved out a niche for itself as the go-to destination for Americans who doubt the legitimacy of President Barack Obama's birth certificate. But Farah, who launched the website out of his bedroom in 1997, says that despite WND's growth during the Obama era, its relentless pursuit of birth certificate stories is actually bad for business.” [Talking Points Memo, [9/10/12](http://talkingpointsmemo.com/muckraker/wnd-s-joseph-farah-insists-birtherism-is-bad-for-business)] Business Partner Tahilramani Worked For Rove At The White House And At American Crossroads As His Chief Of Staff **Business Partner Tahilramani Worked For Rove At The White House And At Rove-Founded American Crossroads.**  “She would later go to law school at Georgetown, and practiced in Washington before heading to California where she would form 7 Second Strategies, a public relations consulting firm. Her partner in the small company, Sheena Tahilramani, also worked for Rove in the White House and was later his media advisor as he founded American Crossroads, a super political action committee that supports conservative candidates but spends most of its money attacking Democrats.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)]  **Tahilramani Was Rove’s Chief Of Staff.** “In January 2013, Mindy Tucker Fletcher and I will launch a similarly disruptive government and public relations firm with Karl Rove’s former Chief of Staff, Sheena Tahilramani, and Congressman Bilbray’s former Senior Advisor, Jennifer Polk Maxon. Our media experience, understanding of the policymaking process, and strong relationships at the state, local and federal level will enable us to pivot between tactics, and move the needle on public opinion for our clients. Our ope is that we’ll have the privilege of working with some of San Diego’s most disruptive companies, and that together, we’ll redefine the term ‘business as usual.’” [Disruptive Thinkers, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)] Gitsham’s Public Relations Firm Received $10,000 From Super PAC Americans For Progressive Action, Which Was Funded By Sonoma County Winemaker John Jordan **Gitsham’s Public Relations Firm Received $10,000 From Super PAC,** **Americans For Progressive Action,** **Which Was Funded By Sonoma County Winemaker John Jordan**. “Gitsham and her public relations firm 7 Seconds Strategies worked for at least one super PAC that focused its efforts entirely on a single candidate. Federal Election Commission records show the company received $10,000 from Americans for Progressive Action, an independent expenditure committee funded exclusively by $1.7 million in contributions from Sonoma County winemaker John Jordan.” [ San Diego Union-Tribune, [1/14/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/14/gitsham-leads-gop-field-in-fundraising/)] Rove’s Former Chief Of Staff And Gitsham’s Business Partner Was Often Quoted As Spokesperson For Super PAC **Rove’s Former Chief Of Staff And Gitsham’s Business Partner Was Often Quoted As Spokesperson For Super PAC.** “Gitsham and her public relations firm 7 Seconds Strategies worked for at least one super PAC that focused its efforts entirely on a single candidate. Federal Election Commission records show the company received $10,000 from Americans for Progressive Action, an independent expenditure committee funded exclusively by $1.7 million in contributions from Sonoma County winemaker John Jordan. Sheena Tahilramani, Gitsham’s business partner and Rove’s former chief of staff, was often quoted as a spokeswoman for the super PAC.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [1/14/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/14/gitsham-leads-gop-field-in-fundraising/)] July 2013: 7 Second Strategies Client American Residential Partners Was Founded By Buffalo-Based Company Started By A Former Karl Rove Staffer **July 2013, 7 Second Strategies: American Residential Partners Was A Real Estate Investment Company That Bought And Resold Distressed And Foreclosed Single Family Properties In Southern CA.** “American Residential Partners is a real estate investment company that focuses on buying and reselling distressed and foreclosed single family properties throughout Southern California.” [7 Second Strategies, [7/11/13](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/portfolio-view/american-residential-partners/)]  **American Residential Partners Was Founded By Buffalo Company, Sinatra & Company Real Estate.** “Nick Sinatra has flown on Air Force One, discussed books with Karl Rove, and cooked braciole with ziti for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Despite those heady experiences, the thirty-one-year old realtor still maintains his Buffalo-bred demeanor: modest, quietly proud of his accomplishments, hard-working, and devoted to family, as well as the Bills and Sabres, whom he cheers on through thick and thin. If asked, he’ll share stories from his government service days, but he’s more interested—and more animated—when talking about boosting Buffalo through Sinatra & Company Real Estate in Tonawanda, whose mission is ‘to have a greater impact on the community than just profits.’…Sinatra & Company was founded in 2009….We’ve extended our real estate investment interests into Southern California via a venture called American Residential Partners.” [Buffalo Spree Magazine, [2/13](http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/February-2013/Q-A-with-Nick-Sinatra-Coming-home-to-roost/)]  **Founder Worked For Karl Rove In George W. Bush’s White House.** “Nick Sinatra has flown on Air Force One, discussed books with Karl Rove, and cooked braciole with ziti for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito….If asked, he’ll share stories from his government service days, but he’s more interested—and more animated—when talking about boosting Buffalo through Sinatra & Company Real Estate in Tonawanda, whose mission is ‘to have a greater impact on the community than just profits.’…I got my college degree in 2003, and went to work in then-Governor Pataki’s economic development office, here in town. Then I signed on as a field staffer on the Bush-Cheney campaign, and was assigned to Pennsylvania. After that, I was hired by Karl Rove, the president’s senior advisor and deputy chief of staff at the time. I was in Washington for three and a half years, doing coalition building with Catholics and Italian-Americans to support the Bush agenda.” [Buffalo Spree Magazine, [2/13](http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/February-2013/Q-A-with-Nick-Sinatra-Coming-home-to-roost/)] Said, “When I Made The Decision To Move From DC To California, I Thought I’d Never Find The Intellectually Challenging Atmosphere I Left” **Said “When I Made The Decision To Move From DC To California, I Thought I’d Never Find The Intellectually Challenging Atmosphere I Left.”** According to an interview Gitsham gave to Disruptive Thinking, “Define Disruptive Thinking: Disruptive thinking is creative thinking that happens to challenge the status quo. Gathering with a group of folks like those who attend DT unleashes our collective creativity, and enables 2+2 =5; in other words, more than the sum of our parts. … The APPEAL of DT: When I made the decision to move from DC to California, I thought I’d never find the intellectually challenging atmosphere I left. DT has given me a forum for airing my wacky ideas and learning from others whose life experiences and intellects I respect. I’ve found a place where my brain gets as much exercise as my body does, and I’m thrilled to be a part of DT.” [Disruptive Thinking, Accessed [12/02/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]  **Called Herself A “Whole Foods Republican” Who Was “Bicoastal” In Her Twitter Bio**  **Called Herself A “Whole Foods Republican” Who Was “Bicoastal” In Her Twitter Bio.**  “TWITTER BIO DU JOUR -- @DGits: ‘Whole Foods Republican. Bicoastal, but Californian to the core. Lover of sun, sand, family, friends, but most of all, Addy and Jack!!’” [Politico, [5/23/13](http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2013/05/obama-speech-will-raise-bar-for-drone-strikes-ease-moves-out-of-gitmo-wartime-commander-in-chief-meets-con-law-professor-dan-bartlett-joins-walmart-will-move-to-ark-andy-weitz-succeeds-him-010754)]  **Chaired Neel Kashkari For Governor Grassroots Leadership Team For Southern California, But Did Not 2014 General Election In State**  **Gitsham Did Not Vote In The 2014 General Election In California.** According to the Denise Gitsham’s Voter History obtained from the San Diego Registrar of Voters, Gitsham did not vote in the 2014 General Election. [Denise Gitsham, California Voter Registration Application, San Diego Registrar of Voters, Received 3/30/15]  **Chaired Neel Kashkari For Governor Grassroots Leadership Team For Southern California.**  “Neel Kashkari, a Republican running for California Governor, issued the following campaign news: The Kashkari for Governor campaign today announced its Grassroots Leadership Team with planned debate-watch parties across the state. This growing network adds to the campaign’s extensive coalition team and will be instrumental in organizing supporters throughout the state…. Grassroots Leadership Team… Southern: Denise Gitsham, Chair” [Targeted News Service, 9/03/14]  **Wrote Editorial About How The GOP Needed To Reach Out To Hispanics But Comparing The Party To Burberry Luxury Fashion Line**  **Gitsham Op-Ed: Republicans Need A Rebrand In Order To Appeal To Hispanic Voters.** “Since last November’s presidential election, the Republican Party has renewed its commitment to wooing Latinos, women and 18-to-39-year-old voters. This decision sprung from a belated realization that losing these voting blocs would threaten the GOP’s very existence. The desire to woo, however, must be accompanied by a 180-degree shift in the party’s branding strategy.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Op-Ed, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]  **Gitsham Op-Ed: Republicans Need To Rebrand In The Way Burberry Did.** “A case study and application of marketing principles gleaned from an unlikely source -- the British Burberry luxury fashion line -- could set the GOP on the right path. Until recently, the 156-year-old label was perceived as old, stodgy and passe -- much like the Republican Party today. When Angela Ahrendts joined Burberry as its CEO in 2006, she quickly set about the task of making the brand globally relevant again. Ahrendts recognized, however, that Burberry’s greatest impediment to achieving this goal was its lack of familiarity with the target growth market: luxury consumers of the future, known as ‘millennials.’” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]  **Gitsham Op-Ed: Praised Burberry From Changing Their Business In Every Possible Way.** “Ahrendts realized that connecting with these 18-to-39-year-old consumers required a complete rebranding of the venerable line. This idea was met with significant resistance and controversy; she was, after all, targeting a generation that had little knowledge of the company and its rich history. Furthermore, she risked losing Burberry’s existing customer base. Nonetheless, Ahrendts stayed the course and directed her marketing team to rebrand the company by modernizing its image. Every aspect of the brand was redesigned to appeal to the millennial consumer through generationally relevant music, movies and images. Its sales force utilized iPads in showrooms, familiarizing consumers with the company and its premier offering -- the original Burberry trench coat -- through a culturally relevant medium. Burberry also revamped its website, integrating the latest digital technology. Most important, Burberry changed its hiring practices, and today, a majority of its employees are younger than 30. Burberry’s rationale was simple: In order to understand its target consumers, it had to hire those who understood their mentality. These changes resulted in a successful rebranding of Burberry’s image, and a more than doubling of company revenue in six short years, from $1.2 billion in 2006 to $3 billion in 2012.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]  **Gitsham Op-Ed: Compared Burberry And The Republican Party Since Both Appealed To Old White Men.** “The similarities between Burberry -- once the brand of old, white men -- and the GOP -- still the party of old, white men -- are too obvious to state. Both share a similar mission and face the same challenges in a competitive marketplace. One has already figured out how to win hearts and minds, while the other has just begun asking the right questions.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]  **Gitsham Op-Ed: “I Hope The GOP Chooses The Former And Embraces The Only ‘Fashion Advice’ That Can Possibly Save The Party.”** “President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party mastered Burberry’s branding playbook long ago. Republicans took longer to realize that ‘politics as usual’ no longer worked and that nothing short of a complete image overhaul can save the GOP. Consequently, the party now stands at a crossroads, similar to the one Burberry faced in 2006. It can either rebrand itself to attract targeted voters, or stay the course and relinquish its waning power to Democrats. For the sake of our nation, I hope the GOP chooses the former and embraces the only ‘fashion advice’ that can possibly save the party.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)] SVN Public Relations Tweeted “Medicare Negotiating With Pharm Is Not The Answer” **SVN Public Relations Tweeted “Medicare Negotiating With Pharm Is Not The Answer.”** “In @thehill today: #Medicare negotiating with #pharma is not the answer by @josephgulfo <http://bit.ly/1N85ejh>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [12/04/15](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/672796571054903296)]  **Commentator On One America News Network**  **Commentator On One America News Network.**  “Denise is a California native, a graduate of Bowdoin College, and a Georgetown University Law Center alumna, licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia. She sits on the board of San Diego-based tech company, Spritzr, San Diego Startup Week, and serves as a founding board member of one of California’s twelve Innovation Hubs. She is also an adjunct curator for Summit, and a regular political commentator on One America News Network.” [SVN Public Relations, accessed [11/05/15](http://svnpr.com/)] Denise Gitsham LinkedIn: Claimed That, As Associate At K&L Gates, She “Represented Clients In The Clean Technology” Industry **Denise Gitsham LinkedIn: Claimed That, As Associate At K&L Gates, She “Represented Clients In The Clean Technology” Industry.** “Denise Gitsham is a seasoned expert in public relations, strategic communications, and government affairs…. Denise joined the K Street law firm, K&L Gates, after graduating from the Georgetown University Law Center. As an associate at the firm, she represented clients in the clean technology, nanotechnology, and biotechnology industries.” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/11/16](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)] Lobbied On Behalf Of Peabody Energy Corporation In Support Of Synthetic Natural Gas Produced From Coal **April 1, 2008-June 30, 2008: Lobbied For Peabody Energy Corporation On “Substitute Natural Gas Proposal And Alternative Minimum Tax Proposal For R&D Tax Credit.”** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, on behalf of Peabody Energy Corporation on “Substitute natural gas proposal; alternative minimum tax proposal for R&D tax credit” between the periods April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [4/01/08-6/30/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=eddb1b2e-5562-4cfa-a9e7-f9f76a38f662&filingTypeID=60)]  **July 1, 2008-September 30, 2008: Lobbied For Peabody Energy Corporation On Tax Legislation, HR 6049 And HR 3221.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, on behalf of Peabody Energy Corporation on “HR 6049, Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, provisions for CET, CTL and CCS. HR 3221, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007, provisions relating to AMT/R&D tax credits.” between the periods July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [7/01/08-9/30/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=10f236f0-c14a-418f-9274-4f38a31a1d09&filingTypeID=69)]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Peabody Energy Corporation | Second Quarter 2008 | $80,000 | US House; Senate | Substitute natural gas proposal; alternative minimum tax proposal for R&D tax credit. | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Peabody Energy Corporation | Third Quarter 2008 | $80,000 | US House; Senate | HR 6049, Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, provisions for CET, CTL and CCS.  HR 3221, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007, provisions relating to AMT/R&D tax credits. |  Peabody Energy Corporation Described Itself As The “Largest Private-Sector Coal Company In The World” **Peabody Energy Corporation Described Itself As The “Largest Private-Sector Coal Company In The World.”** “Peabody Energy (NYSE: BTU) is the world’s largest private-sector coal company and a global leader in sustainable mining and clean coal solutions. The company serves metallurgical and thermal coal customers in nearly 25 countries on six continents.” [Peabody Energy, Accessed [1/04/16](http://www.peabodyenergy.com/content/113/peabody-at-a-glance)] Lobbied In Support Of Peabody And Coalition’s Coal-To-Substitute-Natural-Gas Technology; Technology “Results In Enormous Greenhouse Gas Emissions” **Coalition Developed Federal Lobbying Effort On Climate Change, Of Which Included Pushing Coal-To-Substitute-Natural-Gas.** “The lobbying and outreach operation pushing for clean coal just got bigger, and its newest representative is not ruling out the prospect of a mandatory cap-and-trade system. A new coalition that includes more than 40 U.S. companies -- including Peabody Energy and Duke Energy Corp. -- announced it will develop a federal lobbying effort on climate change and bring new advertising to the airwaves…. The new coalition will not only establish a new federal lobbying presence but also stand behind a set of 12 principles for formulating national ‘carbon management’ legislation, which recognizes a mandatory cap-and-trade program as an option, according to Miller. A ‘big step’ for ‘America's fuel’… Still, the coalition emphasized that such a mandatory system would have to stick with the 12 principles, which include a request that any emission cuts be ;reasonable,; with an understanding that many technologies to reduce emissions are not yet commercially available.” [ClimateWire, 4/17/08]  **Coal-To-Natural Gas Plants Burned Coal To Create Natural Gas, Otherwise Known As Synthetic Natural Gas.** “SNG plants, which burn coal to create natural gas, first came under government regulation in 2010, at which point the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) put a hold on all but four proposed projects.” [ClimateWire, [10/02/13](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-push-into-synthetic-natural-gas-has-pollution-consequences/)] ClimateWire: Coal-To-Natural Gas “Results In Enormous Greenhouse Gas Emissions” **ClimateWire: Coal-To-Natural Gas “Results In Enormous Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** “China Push into Synthetic Natural Gas Has Pollution Consequences….Burning synthetic natural gas may be cleaner, but making it results in enormous greenhouse gas emissions…China is in the process of approving a new fleet of large-scale, coal-fueled synthetic natural gas (SNG) plants to be built in northwestern China and Inner Mongolia, projects that would emit seven times as much greenhouse gases as conventional natural gas plants, according to a new study out in the journal Nature Climate Change.” [ClimateWire, [10/02/13](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-push-into-synthetic-natural-gas-has-pollution-consequences/)] 2009: Newsweek Ranked Peabody Last In Rankings Of 500 Large Companies Based On Their Environmental Compliance And Policies **2009: Newsweek Ranked Peabody Last In Rankings Of 500 Large Companies Based On Their Environmental Compliance And Policies**. “On Monday, Newsweek magazine unveiled its first annual Green Rankings, the fruits of a near-Herculean endeavor: rating and ranking the environmental performance, achievements, and reputation of the S&P 500. The list, published today in a 12-page special section in the magazine as well as online, is the culmination of an 18-month journey….The bottom 10 companies — those ranked 491 through 500 — are FirstEnergy, Southern, Bunge, American Electric Power, Ameren, Consol Energy, ConAgra Foods, Allegheny Energy, NRG Energy, and . . . in last place: Peabody Energy.” [Grist, [9/22/09](http://grist.org/article/2009-09-21-inside-newsweeks-new-green-corporate-rankings/)] Lobbied For Peabody Energy While USA Today Referred To The Company As “Perhaps The Staunchest Opponent Of Stringent Regulations To Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions” **USA Today: Peabody “Perhaps The Staunchest Opponent Of Stringent Regulations To Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** “In the USA, Peabody is perhaps the staunchest opponent of stringent regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions even as stalwarts such as ExxonMobil and American Electric Power have softened their stances.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)] Peabody Contributed Millions To Ad Campaign Touting “Clean Coal” Technology Or Liquid-To-Coal Technology **Peabody Contributed Millions To Ad Campaign Touting “Clean Coal” Technology Or Liquid-To-Coal Technology.** “Far from phasing out coal, Boyce wants to expand use of ‘clean coal’ to solve the energy crisis. ‘Clean coal’ would be scrubbed free of CO2 thanks to carbon-capture technology. Peabody kicked in about $9 million this year to an ad campaign touting ‘clean coal.’ Boyce is leading a push for coal that's turned into a liquid — with part of its CO2 captured in the process — to replace gasoline for vehicles and gasified coal to supplant natural gas, though environmentalists criticize the initiatives.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)] 2008, Sierra Club Director: Peabody “The Large, Unrelenting, Unrepentant Poster Child For The Coal Industry” **2008, Sierra Club Director: Peabody “The Large, Unrelenting, Unrepentant Poster Child For The Coal Industry.”** “Peabody is ‘the large, unrelenting, unrepentant poster child for the coal industry,’ says Sierra Club director Bruce Nilles.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)] July 2007-December 31, 2008: Lobbied In Support Of Coal-To-Liquid Technology, Which “Would Produce Roughly Twice The Global Warming Emissions Of Gasoline” **July 2007-December 31, 2008: Lobbied For Accelergy Corp On Coal-To-Liquid Technology.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy on behalf of Accelergy Corp. on coal-to-liquid technology between the periods July 2007 and December 31, 2008. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Registration 2007 | n/a | n/a | Assist on federal opportunities for a Coal to liquid technology | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Year End Report 2007 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Executive agency opportunities for a coal-to-liquid technology.  Unnumbered bill, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project. | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Second Quarter 2008 | $50,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Executive agency opportunities for a coal-to-liquid technology.  Unnumbered bill, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Third Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | S 3258 and HR 7324, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project. |   [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)] Scientific American: “Liquid Coal Comes With Substantial Environmental And Economic Negatives” **Scientific American: “Liquid Coal Comes With Substantial Environmental And Economic Negatives.”** The conversion technology is well established (the Germans used it during World War II), and liquid coal can power conventional diesel cars and trucks as well as jet engines and ships. Coal industry executives contend that it can compete against gasoline if oil prices are $50 a barrel or higher. But liquid coal comes with substantial environmental and economic negatives.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)] Scientific American: Liquid Coal “Would At Worst Be Twice As Bad As Gasoline In Producing The Greenhouse Gases That Blanket The Earth And Lead To Global Warming” **Scientific American: Liquid Coal “Would At Worst Be Twice As Bad As Gasoline In Producing The Greenhouse Gases That Blanket The Earth And Lead To Global Warming.”** “The shifting positions of Bingaman and Obama underscore the tension between efforts to reduce dependence on foreign oil and to slow global warming. Liquid coal—produced when coal is converted into transportation fuel—would at best do little to rein in climate change and would at worst be twice as bad as gasoline in producing the greenhouse gases that blanket the earth and lead to warming.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]  **Scientific American The Large Amounts Of Energy Required To Liquefy It Mean That Liquid Coal Produces More Than Twice The Global Warming Emissions As Regular Gasoline And Almost Double Those Of Ordinary Diesel.”** “On the environmental side, the polluting properties of coal—starting with mining and lasting long after burning—and the large amounts of energy required to liquefy it mean that liquid coal produces more than twice the global warming emissions as regular gasoline and almost double those of ordinary diesel. As pundits have pointed out, driving a Prius on liquid coal makes it as dirty as a Hummer on regular gasoline.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)] Scientific American: “Driving A Prius On Liquid Coal Makes It As Dirty As A Hummer On Regular Gasoline” **Scientific American: “Driving A Prius On Liquid Coal Makes It As Dirty As A Hummer On Regular Gasoline.”** “As pundits have pointed out, driving a Prius on liquid coal makes it as dirty as a Hummer on regular gasoline.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)] 2008: Lobbied On Senate Energy Appropriations Bill Containing Coal-To-Liquid Incentives, Which Was Estimated To Cost $1.424 Billion Over 10 Years **2008: Lobbied On Senate Energy Appropriations Bill Containing Coal-To-Liquid Incentives.** “The Senate Wednesday night overwhelmingly passed a multibillion-dollar rescue fund for at-risk financial institutions, placing additional pressure on the House to clear the measure amid signs that opposition appears to be cracking in the lower chamber…. Business groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors and Information Technology Industry Council wrote to lawmakers announcing they were making it a ‘key vote’ in their annual scorecards. And nearly 700 companies and trade associations have written congressional leaders urging them to adopt the energy tax incentives in the Senate bill for wind, solar and other renewable sources, which could be important in gaining votes for candidates in both parties….. Rep.Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., might change his mind. ‘That is something he is taking note of and is taking under special consideration,’ a spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said it is unclear whether the rural schools funding or the renewable energy tax incentives are enough to sway Blumenauer, as he opposes the package's incentives for coal-based liquids, tar sands and oil shale. [National Journal CongressDaily, 10/02/08]  **Estimated Cost Of Coal-To-Liquid Proposal Contained In Senate Energy-Tax Bill Would Cost $1.424 Billion Over 10 Years.** “The U.S. Senate last week passed overwhelmingly an energy tax bill that includes clean-coal, biodiesel, gasification, electric-car and ‘renewables’ tax breaks….Senate version: The bill provides $1.5 billion in new tax credits for the creation of ‘advanced coal electricity projects (Section 48A) and certain coal gasification projects (Section 48B) that demonstrate the greatest potential for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology,’ the bill says….’The bill also clarifies that gasification projects producing transportation grade liquid fuels [coal-to-liquids, CTL] are eligible under Section 48B. The estimated cost of this proposal is $1.424 billion over 10 years.’” [National Journal CongressDaily, 10/02/08] Lobbied On Behalf Of Flame Retardant Producer To Fight Effort To Regulate Toxic Flame Retardants In Upholstered Furniture **July 1, 2006 To December 31, 2006: Lobbied On Behalf Of Supresta In Regards To “Oversight Of US Consumer Product Safety Commission With Respect To Upholstered Furniture.”** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission on behalf of Supresta in regard to “Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture,” between the periods July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [07/01/06-12/31/06](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=aeb00ef9-6173-46bc-bb1a-9b6986ad6aa1&filingTypeID=9)]  **July 1, 2007 To December 31, 2007: Lobbied On Behalf Of Supresta In Regards To “Oversight Of US Consumer Product Safety Commission With Respect To Upholstered Furniture,” As Well As Legislation Regarding Upholstered Furniture Flammability** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission on behalf of Supresta in regard to “Oversight of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability. Legislation to reauthorize Consumer Product Safety Commission,” between the periods July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [07/01/06-12/31/06](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=aeb00ef9-6173-46bc-bb1a-9b6986ad6aa1&filingTypeID=9)]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Supresta | Year End 2006 | $60,000 | US House; Senate; Consumer Product Safety Commission | Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Supresta | Year End 2007 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Consumer Product Safety Commission | Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability; Legislation to reauthorize consumer product safety commission |   [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)] Israeli Chemicals Ltd. Press Release: Supresta Was World’s Largest Producer Of Phosphorus Flame Retardants **Israeli Chemicals Ltd. Press Release: Supresta Was World’s Largest Producer Of Phosphorus Flame Retardants.** “Israel Chemicals Ltd. (‘ICL’) (TASE:ICL), a multinational fertilizer and specialty chemicals company, today announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire U.S.-based Supresta LLC (‘Supresta’), the world's largest producer of phosphorus-based flame retardants and other products made from phosphorus.” [Israeil Chemicals Ltd. Press Release, [6/25/07](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/icl-to-acquire-supresta-the-worlds-largest-producer-of-phosphorus-flame-retardants-58286472.html)] Lobbied CPSC On Behalf Of Supresta While Commission Answered Its Public Comments On Commission’s Preliminary Assessment Of Flame Retardant Finding Chemical It Produced Was Toxic; CPSC: Company “Suggest Changes” Which “Would Significantly Reduce TDCP’s Cancer Potency” **December 2006: Supresta’s Public Comments On CPSC Completed Draft Risk Assessment Of Flame Retardant Chemicals In Upholstered Furniture Foam Regarding Estimated Flame Retardant Exposure To Humans Were Responded To By CPSC.** “The CPSC staff completed a draft risk assessment on the use of flame retardant (FR) chemicals in upholstered furniture foam in January 2006 (Babich et al. 2006). The risk assessment was part of the January 2006 Briefing Package on Upholstered Furniture. Supresta LLC, a manufacturer of FR chemicals, submitted technical comments on the risk assessment. No other public comments were received. The staff has made appropriate revisions to the risk assessment (Babich 2006), based on comments from peer reviewers and Supresta LLC. Below are the staffs responses to the public comments submitted by Supresta LLC. Many of the comments submitted by Supresta LLC involved the factors used to estimate exposure, such as the surface area exposed and the fabric to skin transfer factor. The CPSC staff made several of the suggested changes, which reduced the estimated dermal exposure somewhat.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]  **Supresta Only Company to Submit Public Comments.** “The CPSC staff completed a draft risk assessment on the use of flame retardant (FR) chemicals in upholstered furniture foam in January 2006 (Babich et al. 2006). The risk assessment was part of the January 2006 Briefing Package on Upholstered Furniture. Supresta LLC, a manufacturer of FR chemicals, submitted technical comments on the risk assessment. No other public comments were received.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]  **CPSC Responded To Stakeholder Comments And Recommendations Regarding Flame Retardant In November And December 2006 Status Reports.** “The Commission received a variety of stakeholder comments and recommendations following the release of the staff's January 2006 briefing package. The staff responded to a number of these comments, regarding testing, economic and FR chemical issues in the November and December 2006 status reports.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, [11/20/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88331/ufflamm.pdf)]  **Draft Risk Assessment Was A “Preliminary Assessment Of The Potential Health Risks Associated” With Use Of Flame Retardant Chemicals In Upholstered Furniture.** “The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff developed a draft performance. standard to address the hazards associated with fires involving residential upholstered furniture. Manufacturers are likely to treat some products with flame retardant (FR) chemicals if the draft standard is adopted. The CPSC staff previously assessed the potential health risks associated with the use of FR chemicals in upholstered furniture cover fabrics. In this report, the CPSC staff presents a preliminary assessment of the potential health risks associated with the use of selected FR chemicals in upholstered furniture foam.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]  **2006 Data: Supresta Manufactured Chemicals Containing TDCP.** According to the National Institute of Health Toxicology Data Network, Supresta manufactured TDCP or Tri-Phosphate. The data was based off 2006 information from the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Inventory Update Reporting.” [National Institute of Health, Toxicology Data Network, 2006 Data, Last Reviewed [6/17/13](http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/search/a?dbs+hsdb:@term+@DOCNO+8112)]  **2008: Supresta President And Chief Executive Officer Said He “Was Not A Toxicologist,” And Was Not “Really Qualified To Answer The Questions,” As To Chemical’s Harmfulness.** “A flame retardant that was taken out of children’s pajamas more than 30 years ago after it was found to cause cancer is being used with increasing regularity in furniture, paint — even baby carriers and bassinets — and manufacturers are under no obligation to let the public know about it. The chemical, known as chlorinated Tris, one of the three most commonly used flame retardants, is considered harmful by several international and national health and regulatory agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the World Health Organization and the Consumer Product Safety Commission…. A company called Supresta, based in Ardsley, N.Y., bought the division that makes chlorinated Tris. Supresta is now owned by Israel Chemical Limited. Richard Hooper, Supresta's president and chief executive officer, said no one at the company's American facility worked for AkzoNobel when the company submitted its description of the chemical to the EPA in 2001. He said he was not a toxicologist and, therefore, not ‘really qualified to answer the questions.’ He said he was not able to find anyone who could remember anything about the company's submission to the EPA seven years ago.” [Journal Sentinel, [7/13/08](http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/29483109.html)] Chicago Tribune: “World Health Organization, The National Cancer Institute, National Research Council And CPSC Identified TDCP As A Cancer Risk” **Chicago Tribune: “World Health Organization, The National Cancer Institute, National Research Council And CPSC Identified TDCP As A Cancer Risk.”** “There are several kinds of flame retardants used in foam. Chemical manufacturers have said chlorinated tris is safe, but the Tribune chose to test for tris because the science showing potential harm is well documented. The World Health Organization, the National Cancer Institute, the National Research Council and the safety commission have identified TDCPP as a cancer risk. Safety commission researchers in 2006 cautioned that adding TDCPP to upholstered furniture could expose children in their first two years of life to a cancer risk seven times higher than what most scientists and regulators consider acceptable.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/28/12](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-12-28/news/ct-met-flames-test-mattress-20121228_1_tdcpp-heather-stapleton-chlorinated-tris/2)]  **California’s Requirement That Upholstery Fabric Be Resistant To Smoldering Cigarettes Eliminated Need For Flame Retardants.** “Many leading furniture retailers say they already have stopped adding flame retardants to the foam cushions of upholstered furniture. Any that do must attach a label required under a California law prompted by the Tribune investigation. California officials also revamped the state's flammability standards to require upholstery fabric to resist smoldering cigarettes, the leading cause of furniture fires. Trade groups for furniture makers say the changes eliminated the need for flame retardants targeted by the safety commission petition.” [Chicago Tribune, [9/25/15](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/ct-flame-retardants-toxic-chemicals-met-20150925-story.html)] CPSC: “TDCP Is A Probable Human Carcinogen” **CPSC: “TDCP Is A Probable Human Carcinogen.” “**Response: The staff agrees that TDCP is only weakly genotoxic. However, this does not alter our conclusion that TDCP is a probable human carcinogen, as defined in the CPSC chronic hazard guidelines (CPSC 1992). Increased incidence or decreased time to occurrence of spontaneously occurring tumors is generally regarded as evidence of a carcinogenic effect (CPSC 1992).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)] In Public Comments, Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Statement That TDCP Was “A Probable Human Carcinogen” Saying It “Should Be Deleted” **Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Statement That TDCP Was “A Probable Human Carcinogen” Saying It “Should Be Deleted.”** “Comment: TDCP - Genotoxicity/Carcinogenicity… In that same paragraph, the statement that TDCP is a probable human carcinogen should be deleted, based on a lack of genotoxicity in vivo and a lack of a significant incidence of malignant tumors in any tissue. The exacerbation in the incidence of normally occurring benign tumors late in life should not be interpreted as carcinogenic activity. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that TDCP is a probable human carcinogen.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)] In Assessment, CPSC Staff Tested Foam Treated With Tris Phosphate (TDCP), Which Is Also Known As Chlorinated Tris **In Assessment, CPSC Staff Tested Foam Treated With Tris Phosphate (TDCP).** “FR-treated foam samples that were available to the CPSC staff for testing included those with three different FR chemicals or mixtures that could be used to meet the draft standard: melamine (108-78-1); tris(l,3-dichloro-2-propy1)phosphate (TDCP) (13674-87-8); and FiremasterTM 550 (FM-550TM). FM-550TM is a mixture containing triphenyl phosphate (TPP) (1 145-86-6), phenol isopropylated phosphate (PIP) (68937-41-7), and octyl tetrabromobenzoate (OTB).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]  **Tris Phosphate Was Made Up Of 1,3 Dichloro-2-Propyl.** “FR-treated foam samples that were available to the CPSC staff for testing included those with three different FR chemicals or mixtures that could be used to meet the draft standard: melamine (108-78-1); tris(l,3-dichloro-2-propy1)phosphate (TDCP) (13674-87-8); and FiremasterTM 550 (FM-550TM). FM-550TM is a mixture containing triphenyl phosphate (TPP) (1 145-86-6), phenol isopropylated phosphate (PIP) (68937-41-7), and octyl tetrabromobenzoate (OTB).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)] Supresta Suggested Changes To Product Safety Commission’s Measurement Of Flame Retardant Chemical Which Would Have “Significantly” Reduced It’s “Cancer Potency” **Supresta Suggested Changes To Product Safety Commission’s Measurement Of Flame Retardant Chemical Which Would Have “Significantly” Reduced It’s “Cancer Potency.”** “Many of the comments submitted by Supresta LLC involved the factors used to estimate exposure, such as the surface area exposed and the fabric to skin transfer factor. The CPSC staff made several of the suggested changes, which reduced the estimated dermal exposure somewhat. Supresta also commented on the staffs methods for assessing the dose response of TDCP, and suggested changes that would significantly reduce TDCP's cancer potency. The staff disagreed with these comments and did not make the suggested changes. As a result of the changes made in response to the public and peer review comments, the relative contribution of inhalation to total exposure increased. However, the overall conclusions of the risk assessment did not change…. Comment: ‘The draft CPSC report compares the health risks associated with two commercial flame retardant products, tris(l,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCP) and FiremasterTM 550 (FM-550) which consists of a mixture of triphenyl phosphate (TPP), isopropylated triaryl phosphate (ITP), and a proprietary brominated aryl phosphate ester (BAEs).’ \*” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)] Supresta Submitted Public Comment Disagreeing With CPSC’s Assertion That TDCP Was “Toxic” **Supresta Submitted Public Comment Disagreeing With CPSC’s Assertion That Flame Retardant TDCP Was “Toxic.”** “Tris(l,3.Dichloro. 2.Propyl) Phosphate (TDCP) ….Comment: ‘On page 3 of the draft report, the first paragraph under Hazard Identification states "TDCP is acutely toxic by oral administration." This implies that TDCP's oral LD50 is significantly different from that of ITP, melamine, and other flame retardants. The oral LD50 for almost all of the phosphate ester flame retardants is above 2000 mgkg, indicating low acute oral toxicity. In a 1999 CPSC review of TDCP, Ferrante listed rat acute oral LD50 values of 2.83 gkg (Celanese study), 3.6 gkg (Stauffer study) and 2.36 gkg (CPSC study) (1). An acute oral LD50 test conducted in 1985 in full GLP compliance provides a TDCP oral LD50 of 2.36 g/kg (2). I thus suggest CPSC change the ‘ acutely toxic" language for TDCP.’ Response: As stated by the comrnenter, TDCP has an oral LDso less than 5,000 mgkg. Therefore, it is ‘toxic,’ as defined by Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) regulations. 16 CFR 1500.3 (c)(l).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)] Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Assertion That Flame Retardant TDCP Contained “Reproductive Toxicity”; CPSC Clarified That Retardant Was Found To Have “General Organ Toxicity” And Not “Reproductive Toxicity” As It Had Negative Effect On Rat Testes **Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Assertion That Flame Retardant TDCP Contained “Reproductive Toxicity; CPSC Clarified That Retardant Was Found To Have “General Organ Toxicity” And Not “Reproductive Toxicity” As It Had Negative Effect On Rat Testes.** “Tris(l,3.Dichloro. 2.Propyl) Phosphate (TDCP) …Comment: ‘On page 3, TDCP is alleged to have reproductive toxicity and is "considered probably toxic to humans" based solely on changes observed in the testes of aging rats in a chronic cancer bioassay. I believe the available data do not support classification as a possible reproductive toxin. In a GLP-compliant fertility study, male rabbits received daily doses of up to 200 mglkglday for 12 weeks prior to mating (3,4).’ Response: The AD1 was based on histopathological effects in the testes, not reproductive function. This is better described as general organ toxicity, rather than reproductive toxicity. This is the same endpoint used by the NRC subcommittee (NRC 2000). The testicular effects were seen in a chronic study in rats, while the reproductive study was of short duration and in a different species. The revised risk assessment explains this point more clearly.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)] 2007: Lobbied CPSC On Behalf Of Supresta Potentially On Commission Staff Released Report On Upholstered Furniture Flammability Which Found That Flammability Rule Would Not Require Flame Retardants In Furniture **2007 CPSC: “Regulatory Alternatives For Upholstered Furniture Flammability” By CPSC Staff: “CSPC Flammability Rule Would Be A Performance Standard, Would Not Specify Or Require Any,” Flame Retardants.** “CPSC staff CPSC staff’s objective: reduce fire risk s objective: reduce fire risk without imposing chemical risks without imposing chemical risks… CPSC flammability rule would be a CPSC flammability rule would be a performance standard, would not specify performance standard, would not specify or require any FRs or require any FRs” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Regulatory Alternatives for Upholstered Furniture Flammability, CPSC Staff Briefing, [12/06/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88325/altufflamm.pdf)]  **2007 CPSC: “Regulatory Alternatives For Upholstered Furniture Flammability” By CPSC Staff: Under 2007 Alternative Draft Standard, “Manufacturers & Importers Would Likely Choose Options That Do Not Involve” Flame Retardants In Fabrics. “**Under 2007 alternative draft standard, Under 2007 alternative draft standard, manufacturers & importers would likely choose manufacturers & importers would likely choose options that do not involve FR additive use in options that do not involve FR additive use in fabrics or filling materials fabrics or filling materials” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Regulatory Alternatives for Upholstered Furniture Flammability, CPSC Staff Briefing, [12/06/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88325/altufflamm.pdf)]  **CPSC Staff Conclusions: “Staff’s Alternative Draft Would Require No FR Additives.”** “CPSC Staff Conclusions… Increased fire safety can be achieved without posing appreciable chemical without posing appreciable chemical-related health or environmental risks related health or environmental risks… Staff ’s 2007 alternative draft would require no s 2007 alternative draft would require no FR additives; mattress FR additives; mattress-technology FR barriers technology FR barriers could be used” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Regulatory Alternatives for Upholstered Furniture Flammability, CPSC Staff Briefing, [12/06/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88325/altufflamm.pdf)] Chicago Tribune: Flame Retardants Were “Linked To Cancer, Neurological Deficits, Developmental Problems And Impaired Fertility” **Chicago Tribune: Flame Retardants Were “Linked To Cancer, Neurological Deficits, Developmental Problems And Impaired Fertility.”** “Before California lawmakers last year, the noted burn surgeon drew gasps from the crowd as he described a 7-week-old baby girl who was burned in a fire started by a candle while she lay on a pillow that lacked flame retardant chemicals. ‘Now this is a tiny little person, no bigger than my Italian greyhound at home,’ said Heimbach, gesturing to approximate the baby's size. ‘Half of her body was severely burned. She ultimately died after about three weeks of pain and misery in the hospital.’… Records show there was no dangerous pillow or candle fire. The baby he described didn't exist…. Heimbach is not just a prominent burn doctor. He is a star witness for the manufacturers of flame retardants. His testimony, the Tribune found, is part of a decades-long campaign of deception that has loaded the furniture and electronics in American homes with pounds of toxic chemicals linked to cancer, neurological deficits, developmental problems and impaired fertility. The tactics started with Big Tobacco, which wanted to shift focus away from cigarettes as the cause of fire deaths, and continued as chemical companies worked to preserve a lucrative market for their products, according to a Tribune review of thousands of government, scientific and internal industry documents.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/06/12](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-flame-retardants-20120506-story.html)] New York Times, 2012: “More Disturbingly, A Recent Study Of Toddlers In The United States At Duke University Found Flame Retardants In The Blood Of Every Child Tested” **New York Times, 2012: “More Disturbingly, A Recent Study Of Toddlers In The United States At Duke University Found Flame Retardants In The Blood Of Every Child Tested.”** “Since 1975, an obscure California agency called the Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation has mandated that the foam inside upholstered furniture be able to withstand exposure to a small flame, like a candle or cigarette lighter, for 12 seconds without igniting. … he state’s size makes it impractical for furniture makers to keep separate inventories for different markets, so about 80 percent of the home furniture and most of the upholstered office furniture sold in the United States complies with California’s regulation. ‘We live in a foam-filled world, and a lot of the foam is filled with these chemicals,’ Blum says. … Most disturbingly, a recent study of toddlers in the United States conducted by researchers at Duke University found flame retardants in the blood of every child they tested.” [New York Times, [9/09/12](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/magazine/arlene-blums-crusade-against-household-toxins.html)] Chicago Tribune: “Chemical Industry Has Manipulated Scientific Findings To Promote The Widespread Use Of Flame Retardants And Downplay The Health Risks” **Chicago Tribune: “Chemical Industry Has Maniupulated Scientific Findings To Promote The Widespread Use Of Flame Retardants And Downplay The Health Risks.”** “The misuse of Babrauskas' work is but one example of how the chemical industry has manipulated scientific findings to promote the widespread use of flame retardants and downplay the health risks, a Tribune investigation shows. The industry has twisted research results, ignored findings that run counter to its aims and passed off biased, industry-funded reports as rigorous science.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/09/12](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-flames-science-20120509-story.html)] Chicago Tribune: “People Might Be Willing To Accept The Health Risks If The Flame Retardants Packed Into Sofas And Easy Chairs Worked As Promised. But They Don’t” **Chicago Tribune: “People Might Be Willing To Accept The Health Risks If The Flame Retardants Packed Into Sofas And Easy Chairs Worked As Promised. But They Don’t.”** “People might be willing to accept the health risks if the flame retardants packed into sofas and easy chairs worked as promised. But they don't. The chemical industry often points to a government study from the 1980s as proof that flame retardants save lives. But the study's lead author, Vytenis Babrauskas, said in an interview that the industry has grossly distorted his findings and that the amount of retardants used in household furniture doesn't work. ‘The fire just laughs at it,’ he said.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/06/12](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-flame-retardants-20120506-story.html)] Employed As Lobbyist At K&L Gates While Firm Was Reported To Hope To “Share A Cut Of Its Clients Earmark Success” **Summary:**  *From January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008, as a registered lobbyist at K&L Gates, Denise Gitsham lobbied the US House and the US Senate on behalf of Nanosonix on night vision technology. According to the Washington Post, over 16 days in March 2008, the company started operations, hired K&L Gates and won the help of Democratic Rep. Visclosky in seeking a $2.4 million earmark for research into night vision goggles. The NanoSonix situation was a small part of a K&L Gates scheme in which they would use their relationship with the Democratic Rep. as a marketing tool to woo prospective clients. According to an internal letter obtained by the Washington Post by a potential client of the lobbying firm, K&L Gates “hoped to share a cut of its clients’ earmarks,” even offering “a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee,’ in which the client would pay 7.5% of the earmark total to the lobbying firm on top of the $6,500 retainer. The lobbyist mentioned as offering the letter, was listed on the First Quarter 2008 lobbying disclosure along with Gitsham. 15 tech firms which employed K&L Gates as its lobbyist received over $44 million in earmarks which were supported or sponsored by the Democratic Congressman in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Federal investigators would investigate Visclosky’s earmarks and whether a member of his staff tried to raise campaign money by promising earmarks. A Washington Post review revealed that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky’s support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the DCCC.*  **Supporting Research:** January 1, 2008-March 31, 2008: Lobbied For Nanosonix On Night Vision Technology **January 1, 2008-March 31, 2008: Lobbied For Nanosonix On Night Vision Technology.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham lobbied the US House and US Senate on behalf of Nanosonix on night vision technology between the periods January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [1/01/08-3/31/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=ff69b7da-dbe7-4361-9abb-f3bf7a5ec6db&filingTypeID=51)]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | NanoSonix | Registration 2008 | n/a | n/a | Defense | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | NanoSonix | First Quarter 2008 | n/a | US House; Senate | Unnumbered bill, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2009, Title IV; issues relating to Night Vision Technology development.  S 3258, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2009, Biological and Environmental Research; issues relating to development of imaging technologies. |  March 2008: NanoSonix Employed K&L Gates, Which Then Used Its Close Relations With Democratic Rep. Visclosky To Award The Company $2.4 Million In Earmarks **March 2008: NanoSonix Employed K&L Gates, Which Then Used Its Close Relations With Democratic Rep. Visclosky To Award The Company $2.4 Million In Earmarks.** “It takes a while for most start-up companies to gain the confidence of a U.S. congressman and the promise of federal funds. But last year, a small Illinois company accomplished its goal in 16 days with the help of Rep. Peter J. Visclosky, a little-known Indiana Democrat who sits on the House committee that funds the Pentagon. In rapid succession, the three-employee technology firm, NanoSonix, filed its incorporation papers in Skokie, Ill., and hired a Washington lobbying firm, K&L Gates, which boasted to clients of its close relationship with Visclosky. A week later, Visclosky wrote a letter of support for a $2.4 million earmark for NanoSonix from the House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee….The congressman sponsored or supported at least $44 million in earmarks in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for more than 15 technology firms that had hired K&L Gates as lobbyists.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **Washington Post: “Over 16 Days In March 2008, It Started Operations, Hired The Lobbying Firm And Won Visclosky’s Help Seeking $2.4 Million For Research” Into Night Vision Goggles.** “The NanoSonix earmarks were unusual for such a fledgling company, and founder Murdock acknowledged in an interview that he moved hurriedly to protect future patents and obtain federal funds. Over 16 days in March 2008, it started operations, hired the lobbying firm and won Visclosky's help seeking $2.4 million for research to see whether a polymer might have improved night-vision goggles.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **Washington Post: “NanoSonix Earmarks Were Unusual For Such A Fledgling Company.”** “The NanoSonix earmarks were unusual for such a fledgling company, and founder Murdock acknowledged in an interview that he moved hurriedly to protect future patents and obtain federal funds. Over 16 days in March 2008, it started operations, hired the lobbying firm and won Visclosky's help seeking $2.4 million for research to see whether a polymer might have improved night-vision goggles.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)] K&L Gates Used Relationship With Rep. Visclosky As Marketing Tool To Prospective Clients   **K&L Gates Used Relationship With Rep. Visclosky As Marketing Tool.** “K&L Gates used its relationship with Visclosky as a marketing tool, a document obtained by The Washington Post reveals. ‘We also have a very good relationship with Representative Peter Visclosky, chairman of the House Energy and Water appropriations subcommittee and third ranking member on the defense appropriations committee,’ lobbyist Edward C. Olivares, a former Army Special Forces officer, wrote to a potential client in early 2007, soon after Democrats took control of the House. ‘We can ensure that Mr. Visclosky has visibility of this important project when funding is debated.’” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **Democratic Rep. Had A “Pattern Of Help For K&L Gates Clients.”** “Much of the public focus in the investigation has been on PMA Group, a former lobbying powerhouse that won $299 million in earmarks in the past two years from the defense panel -- $34 million of it directly from Visclosky. Visclosky's pattern of help for K&L Gates clients has not been previously disclosed. A Post review shows that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky's support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the House Democratic campaign committee since 2005.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)] Washington Post: “K&L Gates Hoped To Share A Cut Of Its Clients’ Earmark Success,” Offering “A Menu Of Pricing Options, Including A ‘Success Fee’”; K&L Gates Lobbyist Oliveras Offered List To Clients **Washington Post: “K&L Gates Hoped To Share A Cut Of Its Clients’ Earmark Success,” Offering “A Menu Of Pricing Options, Including A ‘Success Fee.’; K&L Gates Lobbyist Olivares Offered List To Clients**. “The firm signed clients at nanotechnology trade conferences and told them that it had found a committed supporter in Visclosky, who was then gaining seniority on the Appropriations subcommittee that controls the Pentagon budget. According to an internal letter given to The Post by a potential client, K&L Gates hoped to share a cut of its clients’ earmark success. K&L’s Olivares offered a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee’ in which the client would pay 7.5 percent of its earmark haul to K&L Gates, on top of a $6,500 monthly retainer.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **“Client Would Pay 7.5 Percent Of Earmark Haul To K&L Gates, On Top Of $6,500 Monthly Retainer.”** “According to an internal letter given to The Post by a potential client, K&L Gates hoped to share a cut of its clients' earmark success. K&L's Olivares offered a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee’ in which the client would pay 7.5 percent of its earmark haul to K&L Gates, on top of a $6,500 monthly retainer.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **Denise Gitsham Was Listed As A Lobbyist Along With Edward Olivares On K&L Gates First Quarter 2008 Lobbying Disclosure; NanoSonix Was Listed As The Client.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham was listed as a lobbyist along with Edward Olivares on K&L Gates First Quarter 2008 lobbying disclosure. Olivares was listed as the Government Affairs Counselor. [1/01/08-3/31/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=ff69b7da-dbe7-4361-9abb-f3bf7a5ec6db&filingTypeID=51)] 15 Tech Firms Which Employed K&L Gates As Its Lobbyist Received Over $44 Million In Earmarks Supported Or Sponsored By The Congressman In Fiscal Years 2008 And 2009 **15 Tech Firms Which Employed K&L Gates As Its Lobbyist Received Over $44 Million In Earmarks Supported Or Sponsored By The Congressman In Fiscal Years 2008 And 2009.** “’I understand how this can look from the outside,’ NanoSonix chief executive Sean Murdock said in an interview, describing his company's rush to get research funding to develop night-vision goggles. ‘My belief was we had to pursue government funding if this technology was going to see the light of day.’ Murdock's company was not the only one to find a winning formula in pursuit of federal earmarks through Visclosky. The congressman sponsored or supported at least $44 million in earmarks in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for more than 15 technology firms that had hired K&L Gates as lobbyists. None of the companies operated in Visclosky's home state, but nearly all of them donated to Visclosky's campaign just before or soon after receiving the promise of federal money.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **Washington Post: K&L Gates Signed Clients At Nanotechnology Trade Conferences, Telling Them It Had A “Committed Supporter In Visclosky.”** “The alliance in 2003 hired the predecessor firm to K&L Gates, Preston Gates, which was then rebuilding its lobbying shop after the departure of rainmaker Jack Abramoff, who went to prison in a federal influence-peddling scandal. The firm became K&L Gates as part of a 2006 merger, and its lobbying revenue is on pace to hit nearly $20 million this year. The firm signed clients at nanotechnology trade conferences and told them that it had found a committed supporter in Visclosky, who was then gaining seniority on the Appropriations subcommittee that controls the Pentagon budget.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)] Washington Post: “Several Firms Said That Signing K&L Gates Helped Them Gain Access They Had Long Been Denied By Federal Agencies” **Washington Post: “Several Firms Said That Signing K&L Gates Helped Them Gain Access They Had Long Been Denied By Federal Agencies.”** “Several firms said that signing K&L Gates helped them gain the access they had long been denied by federal agencies.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)] Federal Investigators Investigated Visclosky’s Earmarks And Whether A Member Of His Staff Tried To Raise Campaign Money By Promising Earmarks **Federal Investigators Investigated Visclosky’s Earmarks And Whether A Member Of His Staff Tried To Raise Campaign Money By Promising Earmarks.** “Federal investigators are scrutinizing Visclosky's earmarks and whether a member of his staff tried to raise campaign money by promising funding. The Post recently reported that the Justice Department probe is examining the role played by Visclosky's recently departed chief of staff, Charles Brimmer, in negotiating with lobbyists and companies to solicit campaign donations. Brimmer's attorney declined to comment.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)] Washington Post: Visclosky’s Pay-To-Play Scheme With K&L Gates Involved Contributing Money To Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee **Washington Post: “Review Shows That The K&L Gates Clients Winning Visclosky’s Support, Along With Their Lobbyists And Investors, Donated Almost $200,000 To Visclosky And An Additional $130,000 To The House Democratic Campaign Committee.”** “A Post review shows that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky's support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the House Democratic campaign committee since 2005. The donations often came in clusters, around the time Visclosky's committee was crafting its annual earmarks, which are added to the budget by committee members and do not go through the competitive or approval processes required for most government contracts.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]  **As Visclosky Moved Nanosix Earmark Forward, Company Founder, Wife And Executives From NanoBusiness Alliance Wrote $21,700 In Campaign Checks To Congressman And DCCC.** “The NanoSonix earmarks were unusual for such a fledgling company, and founder Murdock acknowledged in an interview that he moved hurriedly to protect future patents and obtain federal funds. Over 16 days in March 2008, it started operations, hired the lobbying firm and won Visclosky's help seeking $2.4 million for research to see whether a polymer might have improved night-vision goggles. As Visclosky's committee moved the earmark forward, Murdock, his wife and executives from the NanoBusiness Alliance wrote $21,700 in campaign checks to the congressman and the DCCC. Murdock said he could not recall whether K&L Gates suggested the donations.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)] Lobbied For Sapphire Energy On Algae To Gasoline Development, Later Left K&L To Work Directly For Sapphire Energy **January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008: Lobbied For Sapphire Energy On “Support Algae To Gasoline Technology Development.”** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Treasury and the Department of Agriculture on behalf of Sapphire Energy on “Support algae to gasoline technology development; S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project” between the periods January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed 1/11/16]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury | Support algae to gasoline technology development. | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Second Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | Support algae to gasoline technology development | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Third Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project. | | Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $90,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project. |   [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)] Started Working For Sapphire Energy As The Director Of Corporate Affairs And Legislative Council From January 2009 To January 2013 **Started Working For Sapphire Energy As The Director Of Corporate Affairs And Legislative Council From January 2009 To January 2013.** According to Denise Gitsham’s official Linkedin page, “Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel…Sapphire Energy…January 2009 – January 2013 (4 years 1 month)” [Linkedin, Denise Gitsham, Accessed [12/15/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]  **Called For DC To Be More Focused On Budget Cuts**  **Called For DC To Be More Focused On Budget Cuts.**  “Some politicians seem to have forgotten this elementary truth on their way to Washington. The rules don’t magically change in D.C., but many act and legislate as if they do. The truth is, there will never be enough money in the world to give everyone what they want. Nonetheless, our elected officials aren’t prioritizing spending with the limited resources we have – a rule that everyone, whether business owner or private citizen, must abide by. It’s time for new leadership to step in, take the China-backed credit card out of Washington’s hands, and restore budgetary discipline in our nation’s capitol. #AmericanProsperity” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)] 2009: Sapphire Energy Received $50 Million In Stimulus Act Funding To Build New Mexico Algae Production Facility From US Department Of Energy Of 2009; Received Over $100 Million In Federal Funds Overall **Sapphire Energy Received $50 Million In Funding For New Mexico Algae Production Company From US Department Of Energy; Received Over $100 Million In Federal Funds Overall.** “Sapphire Energy will receive $104.5 million in federal funding to build a commercial scale, algae-based biofuel operation near Columbus in southern New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Energy awarded $50 million in stimulus money for the project, and the U.S. Department of Agricultural approved a $54.5 million loan guarantee under the Biorefinery Assistance Program, which was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill.” [Albuquerque Business Journal [11/30/09](http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2009/11/30/daily50.html)]  **Construction On Algae Production Facility Began In June 2011.** “Sapphire Energy, Inc., one of the world leaders in algae-based green crude oil production, today announced the first phase of its Green Crude Farm, the world’s first commercial demonstration algae-to-energy facility, is now operational. Construction of this first phase, which began on June 1, 2011, was completed on time and on budget. When completed, the facility will produce 1.5 million gallons per year of crude oil and consist of approximately 300 acres of algae cultivation ponds and processing facilities. By reaching this key milestone, Sapphire Energy is on target to make algae-based Green Crude a viable alternative fuel solution capable of significantly reducing the nation’s need for foreign crude oil, which will serve as the blueprint for scalable algae biofuel facilities globally.” [Sapphire Energy Press Release, Accessed [12/15/15](http://www.mveda.com/blog/sapphire-energys-commercial-demonstration-algae-to-energy-facility-now-operational/)]  *NOTE: According to USASpending.gov, Sapphire Energy received over $70 million in federal funds during Gitsham’s tenure with the company. A table of the funds is outlined in a table in the appendix labeled “Federal Funding-Sapphire Energy.”* Listed Securing $100 Million In Federal Funding For Sapphire As Accomplishment In 7 Second Strategies Biography **Listed Securing $100 Million In Federal Funding For Sapphire As Accomplishment In 7 Second Strategies Biography.** “Prior to founding 7 Second Strategies, Denise worked in both Washington DC and San Diego as Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel at Sapphire Energy, the world’s leading algae-based biofuel company. During her tenure at Sapphire, she helped lead industry efforts to establish a national interest in algae, which resulted in $100 million in federal funding for Sapphire Energy, multi-year programmatic funding for algae-based fuel technologies at DOE, and a $1.01/gallon production tax credit for algae-based fuel.” [7 Second Strategies, Accessed [2/16/16](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/about-us/team/)] August 2008: Presented Proposal To City Of Las Cruces To Build On 10 Acres Of Land; City Also Gave Company Additional 90 Acres Of Land, With A Value Of $1.35 Million **August 2008: Presented Proposal To City Of Las Cruces To Build On 10 Acres Of Land.** “Also at Monday's meeting, the council is expected to receive a presentation from Sapphire Energy, a company that wants to develop high octane gasoline through algae. Sapphire's proposal to the city includes purchasing 10 acres at the West Mesa Industrial Park; creating 30 jobs that would pay about $34,000 a year — or 120 percent of the median average income of Las Cruces residents; and the company would invest $6 million in construction at the industrial park.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/02/08]  **Facility Would Eventually Grow To A Thousand Acres.** “Southern New Mexico and the El Paso area have drawn interest from companies hoping to create biofuel from algae. Now Sapphire Energy of San Diego, Calif., hopes to build a facility on the West Mesa Industrial Park in Las Cruces that could eventually grow to thousands of acres. Sapphire Energy plans to grow algae to produce a renewable source of fuel from which gasoline and jet fuel can be made…. A proposed ordinance and economic development project is on the Las Cruces City Council's agenda today that calls for Sapphire to buy 10 acres of land in the West Mesa Industrial Park at market value. Sapphire would create 30 jobs at 120 percent of the average salary for the area and would invest $6 million in the industrial park. After that, the city would convey 90 acres surrounding the original site to the company — with a value of $1.35 million — at no additional cost. The company reports in its business plan to the city that it could eventually use about 2,000 acres for a commercial test plant.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/03/08]  **City Also Gave Company Additional 90 Acres Of Land, With A Value Of $1.35 Million.** “Sapphire would create 30 jobs at 120 percent of the average salary for the area and would invest $6 million in the industrial park. After that, the city would convey 90 acres surrounding the original site to the company — with a value of $1.35 million — at no additional cost. The company reports in its business plan to the city that it could eventually use about 2,000 acres for a commercial test plant.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/03/08] 2011-2013: Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received More Than 97 Percent Of Its Funding From Public Sources **In 2013, Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received 99.87 Percent Of Its Funding From Public Sources.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, 99.87% of its funding was public in 2013. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2014](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201406_990.pdf?_ga=1.194702312.436966761.1449175619)]  **In 2012, Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received 97.86 Percent Of Its Funding From Public Sources.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, 98.86of its funding was public in 2012. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.228845529.436966761.1449175619)]  **In 2011, 97.23 Percent Of Chico Economic Planning Corporation’s 97.23 Funding Was Public, Compared To 96.23 Percent In 2010.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2011 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, 97.23% of its funding was public in 2011, compared to 96.23% in 2010. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)] 2013: Biofuels Digest Named Sapphire Energy’s Green Crude Farm In New Mexico Its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award Winner **2013: Biofuels Digest Named Sapphire Energy’s Green Crude Farm In New Mexico Its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award Winner.** “Biofuels Digest said the market for the aviation fuel could total 60 billion gallons annually. The journal also named Sapphire Energy's Green Crude Farm its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award winner. In August 2012, Sapphire Energy launched the first phase of its Green Crude Farm in Columbus. By growing algae on a massive scale, the company hopes to turn it into crude oil. Sapphire opened its farm in August 2012, and plans to cultivate 300 acres of algae.” [Albuquerque Business First Journal, 1/07/13] Praised Sapphire Energy For Working Against Big Oil **Praised Sapphire Energy For Working Against Big Oil.** “The company I moved to San Diego to work for, Sapphire Energy, is enormously disruptive to Big Oil’s monopoly on our transportation fuel economy. Sapphire produces algae-based crude oil that is molecularly identical to the fossil-based crude we refine our transportation fuels from today. With global energy demands on the rise, and geopolitical instability in the Middle East an ever-looming threat, America can no longer afford to remain dependent on foreign oil. Sapphire offers a significant and impactful way for our nation to strengthen our national, energy, and economic security, and incidentally disrupts Big Oil’s chokehold on our energy portfolio.” [Disruptive Thinkers, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)] “Led Multi-Industry Public-Private Association Focused On Establishing Domestic Renewable Crude Industry, Called The 2020 Inflection Point Coalition” **“Led Multi-Industry Public-Private Association Focused On Establishing Domestic Renewable Crude Industry, Called The 2020 Inflection Point Coalition.”** “She also led a multi-industry public-private association focused on establishing a domestic renewable crude industry, called the 2020 Inflection Point Coalition. In both capacities, Gitsham developed strategic communications plans that facilitated a steady stream of media coverage for algae at the national, state and local level. She also served as an algae industry spokesperson on Capitol Hill.” [San Diego Business Journal, [11/17/14](http://www.cbjonline.com/a3sdbj/resources/supplements/PDF/20141117_WWMB.pdf)] Said, “We Are A Nation Of Laws,” In Regard To Undocumented Children Crossing Border And Opposed Reclassifying Them As Refugees **Said, “We Are A Nation Of Laws,” In Regard To Undocumented Children Crossing Border.** JEFF OLSEN: Well, you know, I don’t know much about the bill, but I do know that there are women and children in harms way who are coming to us for help and you can show me the child that Jesus would turn back away from the border and send back into harms way then you might convince me that that would be the right thing to do, but until you can show me that kid, that terrified kid escaping from harms way who should go back into that scenario then I can’t really be a part of that. RICK AMATO: Denise Gitsham, what’s wrong with that argument? DENISE GITSHAM: Well, you know, I actually think it’s a great argument and its one that Republicans obviously, if you really listen to the mainstream Republican response right now, everyone is saying the exact same. There’s not one Republican legislator whose saying we should send these kids back in an inhumane way or in any way shape or form treat them differently from other people. All that we’re saying is that we are still a nation of laws, so if you would like to change the laws, there’s a way to do that and its just not by reclassifying them as refugees. [Rick Amato Show, 5:50-6:25, [7/15/14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZB3iGxtLs)] Said Situation With Undocumented Children Opened Way For Terrorists To Enter Country **Said Situation With Undocumented Children Opened Way For Terrorists To Enter Country.** GITSHAM: I really don’t know. It’s actually not politically smart to not talk about enforcing the laws of this nation. I actually think it erodes our credibility….But if there was some sort of sanity that we could bring to this issue, it would talk about both sides, it would talk about ensuring the integrity of our nation and protecting them from really now –I just read about this-there’s a whole group of border patrol agents that are acting as babysitters instead of doing their job and if I were a terrorist, of a terrorist mindset, I would think that’s the key to America. [Rick Amato Show . 8:07-8:25, [7/15/14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZB3iGxtLs)] Supported American SAFE Act, Which Would Have Made It More Difficult For Syrian And Iraq Refugees To Come To The United States **Supported American SAFE Act, Which Would Have Made It More Difficult For Syrian And Iraq Refugees To Come To The United States.** “Rep. Scott Peters' vote to make it tougher for Syrian and Iraqi refugees to come to the United States deprives his Republican election opponents of a big line of attack. Peters was among the 47 Democrats in the House who joined Republicans on Thursday to pass the American SAFE Act, which requires the heads of the FBI, Homeland Security and National Intelligence to certify that those refugees allowed in pose no security threat…. Regardless, the campaign benefits are obvious. One or both of his Republican opponents, Denise Gitsham and Jacquie Atkinson, almost certainly would have criticized Peters for a vote against the bill. Gitsham said Peters' vote for the measure ‘is a welcome, if sharp, departure from his prior voting record,’ according to KPBS.” [San Diego tribune, 11/20/15]  **Called For Securing The Border, Cracking Down On Human Trafficking And A Guest Worker Visa Program As The Way To Fix Immigration**  **Called For Securing The Border, Cracking Down On Human Trafficking And A Guest Worker Visa Program As The Way To Fix Immigration.**  “As a border region, San Diegans must take a lead on fixing this problem – first by securing our borders, second by cracking down on cross-border human trafficking, and third by implementing a market-based, guest worker visa policy. Our economy demands a free-market answer to our labor needs; one that respects American workers, while making room for those who enter legally. Above all, our treatment of immigrants – regardless of their status – should be marked with the same dignity and respect we extend to our own citizens. In our efforts to uphold the law, we must never forget that ultimately, it is our generosity, empathy and compassion that makes our nation truly great. #JusticeandCompassion” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)] 2011-2013: Director Or Individual Trustee Of Publicly-Funded Chico Economic Planning Corporation **2011-2013: Listed As A Director Or Individual Trustee Of Chico Economic Planning Corporation; Averaged One Hour Of Work Per Week And Received No Compensation.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2011-2013 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, Denise Gitsham was listed as a Director, averaging 1 hour of work per week on the group and received no compensation. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed 2011-2013] 2011: Director Or Individual Trustee Of Publicly-Funded Chico Economic Planning Corporation While It Made Effort “To Take Advantage Of The Stimulus Package Developed By” Obama Admin **2011: Listed As A Director Or Individual Trustee Of Chico Economic Planning Corporation; Averaged One Hour Of Work Per Week And Received No Compensation.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2011-2013 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, Denise Gitsham was listed as a Director, averaging 1 hour of work per week on the group and received no compensation. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed 2011-2013]  **2011: Listed As A Director Or Individual Trustee Of Chico Economic Planning Corporation; Averaged One Hour Of Work Per Week And Received No Compensation.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2011 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, Denise Gitsham was listed as a Director, averaging 1 hour of work per week on the group and received no compensation. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)]    **2011: Program Service Of Planning Corporation Included Effort “To Take Advantage Of The Stimulus Package Developed By The Obama Administration.** “Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments….4b Economic Development Services-Worked with specific business growth clusters including technology, food manufacturing and light/laser technology in addition, expanded our efforts in health care including physician recruitment and development of an understanding of what we can do to assist medical facilities to take advantage of the stimulus package developed by the Obama Administration.” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)] May 2009: Sapphire Urged US Senators To Add Algae-Based Fuel To Cap-And-Trade Legislation **May 2009: Sapphire Urged US Senators To Add Algae-Based Fuel To Cap-And-Trade Legislation.** “Cynthia J. Warner, president of Sapphire Energy, today testified before the full U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Hearing on ‘Business Opportunities and Climate Policy’ to ensure that upcoming Cap and Trade legislation includes a proper ‘carbon accounting’ for emerging and proven algae-based fuel. Warner encouraged Senators to adopt policies that would incentivize industrial emitters of CO2, like coal-burning electric power generators, to collect and transport their CO2 to companies like Sapphire Energy whose process turns industrial waste and greenhouse gases (GHG) into low carbon gasoline, diesel and jet fuels. Recycling carbon in an economically beneficial way not only generates green electricity, but offsets the need for new hydrocarbon-based crude oil and reduces overall GHG emissions into the atmosphere.” [Sapphire Energy Press Release, [5/19/09](http://www.sapphireenergy.com/press-article/67380-sapphire-energy-urges-senators-to-add)] Said California Cap-And-Trade Bill “Strengthens California’s Legacy,” In Developing Environmental And Energy Policies **Said California Cap-And-Trade Bill “Strengthens California’s Legacy,” In Developing Environmental And Energy Policies.** According to Gitsham’s testimony in the California State Senate on behalf of the Advanced Biofuels Association, “Chairman DeSaulnier and Members of the Committee, I am Denise Gitsham, Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel for Sapphire Energy, headquartered in San Diego. I am testifying today on behalf of the Advanced Biofuels Association. … AB32 has set bold and aggressive GHG emissions reduction targets for the transportation fuels industry, which we all strive to meet and exceed. The Federal Government and other states have looked to California for leadership in developing environmental and energy policies. AB32 strengthens California's legacy in this realm.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]  **New York Times: California’s Cap-And-Trade Bill Called For Reducing California’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions To 1990 Levels By 2020.** “The cap-and-trade plan, which calls for reducing California’s greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, sets a ceiling on climate-warming emissions by the industrial, electricity, transportation and other sectors that will gradually be lowered over time. Companies will be allocated emissions allowances, and as they progress in cutting their emissions, they can sell their unneeded credits to other polluters.” [New York Times, [5/30/11](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/30/science/earth/30climate.html?_r=0)] But Had Concerns Over Bill’s Regulation Of Carbon Produced By Biofuel Projects **Had Concerns Over Cap-And-Trade Bill’s Regulation Of Carbon Produced By Biofuel Projects.** “However, the ABFA does have concerns regarding certain elements of AB32’s implementation. Specifically, California’s protracted technical discussions regarding modifications to lifecycle carbon intensity values have introduced crippling uncertainty into our industry. This uncertainty limits the private investment we need in order to commercialize. Consequently, we urge you to establish mechanisms to stabilize the LCFS compliance market. Such an approach could involve, for example: Establishing alternative compliance mechanisms that reward investments in qualified low-carbon advanced biofuel projects, and Establishing grandfather or other provisions that protect a low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]  **Supported The Establishment Of Alternative Compliance Procedures For The Biofuel Industry In Regard To California Cap-And-Trade Law.** “Consequently, we urge you to establish mechanisms to stabilize the LCFS compliance market. Such an approach could involve, for example: Establishing alternative compliance mechanisms that reward investments in qualified low-carbon advanced biofuel projects, and Establishing grandfather or other provisions that protect a low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11] Supported Protecting “Low Carbon Fuel’s Carbon Intensity Score From The Volatility Of Ever-Evolving Academic Models” **Supported Protecting “Low Carbon Fuel’s Carbon Intensity Score From The Volatility Of Ever-Evolving Academic Models.”** “Consequently, we urge you to establish mechanisms to stabilize the LCFS compliance market. Such an approach could involve, for example: Establishing alternative compliance mechanisms that reward investments in qualified low-carbon advanced biofuel projects, and Establishing grandfather or other provisions that protect a low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11] SVN Public Relations Called John Jordan Opinion Article “Great Piece,” In Which He Described Cap-And-Trade As Contributing To Obama’s “Political Demise” **SVN Public Relations Tweeted That John Jordan Opinion Article On Fox News Was A “Great Piece.”** “Another great piece by John Jordan on @foxopinion: Obama’s political demise gives GOP chance to woo Democratic voters <http://fxn.ws/1dh9tq3>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter Account, [1/03/14](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/419174729447002113)]  **John Jordan Opinion, Fox News: Pushing Cap-And-Trade Contributed To Obama’s “Political Demise.”** “Obama’s political demise gives GOP chance to woo Democratic voters…For five years, the Democratic Party has remained uncharacteristically united in its political support for President Obama. From universal health care, to gay marriage, to cap-and-trade, Democrats of all stripes have put their own political careers on the line to help this president win big, hoping that his success would bolster theirs.” [Fox News, John Jordan Opinion, [1/03/14](http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/01/03/obamas-political-demise-gives-gop-chance-to-woo-democratic-voters.html)] For Further Information We encourage questions, comments or requests for further information about this report.  If there is information missing that should be included, or something that doesn’t appear to be correct, let us know and we’ll do our best to track it down, and if necessary, correct it.  Please feel free to contact us **(202) 863-1500**. Disclaimer By accepting this report, you are accepting responsibility for all information and analysis included. Therefore, it is your responsibility to verify all claims against the original documentation before you make use of it.  Make sure you understand the facts behind our conclusions before making any specific charges against anyone.  Double-check the original documentation from which we have drawn our conclusions before incorporating these findings into direct mail, radio, television, or any statements from your campaign.  Call our office if you are unclear about anything. |

Methodology

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| **DATABASE OR SEARCH AREA** | **OFFICES, DATABASES TERMS, & DATES SEARCHED** | **OUTSTANDING** |
| **Personal** | | |
| News Coverage – Nexis | All News: “Denise /2 Gitsham” | NOTHING |
| News Coverage – Newsbank | Denise Gitsham | NOTHING |
| News Coverage – Other |  | Nothing |
| Real Property History (Ownership, Assessment, and Tax Payments) | County, Arlington   * Register of Deeds (2006– 2013)   District of Columbia   * Register of Deeds (2008-2013) | -Arlington County property documents outstanding  -Del Mar Joint Ownership condo rental records outstanding |
| Personal Property (e.g., boat) | No Personal Property Found |  |
| Voter Registration & History | - Voter Registration and History in San Diego  -DC Voter Registration History  - Arlington County Voter History  -Solano County Voter Registration |  |
| Legal – Bankruptcy, Judgments, Liens (Federal & State) | Nexis search-None found  San Diego Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  District of Columbia Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  Arlington General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Alexandria General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Norfolk, MA Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Cumberland County, ME Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None Found)  Travis County, TX Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None Found) |  |
| Legal – Civil Cases (Federal, State, & Local) | Nexis search and PACER search-None found  San Diego Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  District of Columbia Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  Arlington General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Alexandria General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Norfolk, MA Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Cumberland County, ME Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None Found)  Travis County, TX Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None Found) |  |
| Legal – Criminal Cases (Federal, State, & Local) | Nexis search and PACER search-None found  San Diego Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  District of Columbia Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  Arlington General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Alexandria General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Norfolk, MA Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Cumberland County, ME Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None Found)  Travis County, TX Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None Found) |  |
| Legal – Law Enforcement Interactions (State & Local) | Arlington County Criminal Records  Brunswick, ME Criminal Records  Cumberland County Sheriff Records  DC Metro Police Criminal Records  San Diego County Sheriff  Virginia State Police  Sagadohac County, ME Criminal records  Norfolk County, MA Criminal Records |  |
| Marriage & Divorce Records | None |  |
| Spousal & Notable Family Records | No search done |  |
| Google Search | “Denise Gitsham”  “Denise Gitsham and Rove”  “Denise Gitsham and Hispanic Coordinator” |  |
| Media – YouTube | “Denise Gitsham” |  |
| Media – Internet TV Archives |  |  |
| Social Media Presence (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.) | Personal: <https://www.facebook.com/dgitsham1>  <https://www.pinterest.com/dgitsham/boards/> |  |
| Published Materials | A Recent Decision: Fernandez-Vargas v. Gonzales,” Georgetown Immigration Law Journal, Denise Gitsham, [[2006](http://articleworks.cadmus.com/geolaw/zs900406.html)] |  |
| **Political (Federal, State, & Local)** |  |  |
| Campaign Finance | CQ Moneyline: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D  Maplight for California disbursements: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D  Expenditures by campaigns made to her or her public relations firms  2000 Bush-Cheney Inc. Year-End report to FEC | Further research- search disbursements from 2000 Bush campaign for Gitsham |
| Personal Contributions | Federal Election Commission: Gitsham, Denise  Follow the Money: Denise Gitsham |  |
| Current & Archived Campaign Websites | Wayback machine did not have captures of campaign site |  |
| **Professional – Legislative Office (Federal, State, & Local)** |  | |
| Legislative Journals | New Mexico Legislature-any mentions of Denise Gitsham and Sapphire, K&L Gates, including other lobbying clients |  |
| Minutes (City Council) | Any mentions of Sapphire Energy considering to build Algae plant in San Diego  Any mentions of Gitsham in San Diego City  Any mentions of Denise Gitsham and Chico Economic Development Corp in City of Chico council minutes |  |
| Privately-Funded Travel |  | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House  FOIA in to Department of Justice while Gitsham worked there |
| Official (Including Foreign) Travel |  | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House |
| Per Diems and Reimbursements | FOIA into City of Chico to see if Gitsham received anything while Director or Trustee of Chico Economic Development Corp | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House  FOIA in to Department of Justice while Gitsham worked there |
| Schedules |  | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House  FOIA in to Department of Justice while Gitsham worked there |
| Correspondence |  | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House  FOIA in to Department of Justice while Gitsham worked there |
| Gifts |  | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House  FOIA in to Department of Justice while Gitsham worked there |
| Per Diems |  | FOIA in to Bush Presidential Library while Gitsham worked at White House  FOIA in to Department of Justice while Gitsham worked there |
| Earmarks (State and Old Federal) | Search of federal earmarks any of Gitsham’s lobbying clients received while she lobbied for them |  |
| Interest Group Ratings, Scorecards, & Surveys | None done on her |  |
| Lobbying Disclosures (Federal, State, & Foreign Agents) | Gitsham, Denise |  |
| Staff Revolving Door Records | Opensecrets |  |
| Current & Archived Campaign Websites |  |  |
| **Professional – Business** | | |
| Professional Licenses | Washington, DC Bar Member [admitted [6/16/08](https://www.dcbar.org/membership/find-a-member-results.cfm)] |  |
| Property History |  |  |
| State & Federal Court Records | Nexis search and PACER search-None found  San Diego Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  District of Columbia Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise; 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D (None Found)  Arlington General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Alexandria General District Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found)  Norfolk, MA Superior Court: Gitsham, Denise (None found) |  |
| Corporate Filings – Secretary of State |  |  |
| Business News Search | Google: “7 Second Strategies”; “SVN Public Relations”; “Vitamin D Public Relations”  Nexis news search: 7 Second Strategies; SVN Public Relations; Vitamin D Public Relations |  |
| Business Google Search | “Denise Gitsham Sapphire”  “Denise Gitsham Chico Economic Development Corp” |  |
| Business Social Media |  |  |
| Building Code Violations |  |  |
| Business Taxes |  | FOIA outstanding to CA Secretary of State for Vitamin D Public Relations |
| Farm Subsidies |  |  |
| Government Contracts or Grants (Federal, State, & Local) |  |  |
| Government Subsidies (Federal, State, & Local) |  |  |
| SEC Filings | None |  |
| Better Business Bureau | None found |  |
| Enviro Enforcement Records |  |  |
| Workplace Safety Violations (OSHA on federal level) | None found |  |
| Trade Adjustment Assistance | None found on Sapphire  None found on 7 Second Strategies  None found on SVN Public Relations |  |
| Current Website | Search of all clients |  |
| Archived Website | Used Wayback machine to look at all archives of public relations firm website |  |
| Immigration (ICE) |  |  |
| Trade Assistance |  |  |
| Consumer Complaints |  |  |
| Building Code Violations |  |  |
| Health Code Violations |  |  |
| 990 Filings (non-profit) | Chico Economic planning corporation 990 filings (Gitsham served as Individual trustee from 2011-2013) |  |
| Official Military Personnel File |  |  |

Key Moments on Video

### “Ambiguously Ethnic”

**Gitsham: “I’m Just Ambiguously Ethnic Enough To Pass For Almost Anything**. GITSHAM: “I’m just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything, and as a result, ended up as the Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator.” [CPAC speech, American Conservative Union, [1:19 - 1:29](https://youtu.be/EqfS31LaOk4?t=79), [3/03/16](https://youtu.be/EqfS31LaOk4?t=79)]

### To CPAC Audience: “I Am One Of You”

**To CPAC Audience: “I Am One Of You.”** “Good evening, my name is Denise Gitsham, and it’s an honor to be here tonight with you all. By way of background, I’m half-Chinese, 38-years-old, a native Californian, the daughter of immigrants, and an attorney who worked at a renewable energy company prior to launching my own tech-focused PR firm. I’m also a graduate of one of the most liberal law schools in the nation, Georgetown, and attended Bowdoin College and Hillary Clinton’s alma mater, Wellesley. And now you’re probably wondering whether security has been notified, and whether a Code Pink incident is about to go down. So let me put your hearts at ease. I am one of you, I love my country, thank God that I live in it, and committed to promoting our core principles, because I believe that they are the reason that America remains a shinning city on the hill.” [CPAC speech, American Conservative Union, [0:09](https://youtu.be/EqfS31LaOk4?t=9)]

### Gitsham: “Sarah Palin Was The Cute Guy’s Girl”

**Gitsham: “Sarah Palin Was The Cute Guy’s Girl.”** GITSHAM: Sarah Palin was the cute guy’s girl. She wanted to sling guns—and I’m not saying Joni Ernst wasn’t like that, but if you notice she really emphasized being a mother. For Neel Kashkari for example, he came out said I’m a Hindu. [The Rick Amato Show, [3:45-4:00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VTJyYQZX_w)]

*NOTE: As of March 2016, this show is no longer posted online and may be unretrievable.*

### Did Not Believe Sarah Palin Was Authentic

**Did Not Believe Sarah Palin Was Authentic.”** RICK AMATO: How was Palin not authentic? I’m not getting that. GITSHAM: I think Palin was version 1.0 for the first time we had a woman on the stage in a national election, and we didn’t know what to think of her. But we thought she was cute and she was articulate enough and she was compelling as a mom, but the standard was much lower for her is what it was. RICK AMATO: Let me put it in my own words to make sure I’m interpreting this right, she didn’t embrace who she was. GITSHAM: I’m not sure that she fully did and I also think that she tried to play a little too cute and I think you didn’t see much of that. [The Rick Amato Show, [4:18-4:40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VTJyYQZX_w)]

*NOTE: As of March 2016, this show is no longer posted online and may be unretrievable.*

### “It Was A Mistake That President Bush Made When He Didn’t Go On The Ground In Katrina”

**“It Was A Mistake That President Bush Made When He Didn’t Go On The Ground In Katrina.”** GITSHAM: I think that a President, again, specifically with foreign policy, needs to show up wherever there’s a crisis and I think that if you express humanitarian concern for children, I think you really need to be there to see what’s happening at the border and to listen to the people. That’s your job as a President. And it was a mistake that President Bush made when he didn’t go on the ground in Katrina. I hate to equivocate the two, but I really think there’s a lot of parallels between the two. [The Rick Amato Show, [3:30-4:10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VTJyYQZX_w)]

*NOTE: As of March 2016, this show is no longer posted online and may be unretrievable.*

**Said Washington, DC Was “Land Of Milk And Honey.”** GITSHAM: I find it interesting when politicians who have been in office, whether you were in the Senate, been in the presidency for this long, call something that becomes politically expedient unpatriotic when you had an opportunity to do something about it all along. So maybe it’s my cynicism from being in Washington as long as I was, but I really am always—CARL SEWING: You got out! You got to San Diego, congratulations. GITSHAM: I escaped the land of milk and honey. Thank god. CRAIG SEWING: You’ll have to explain to me what milk and honey means…. GITSHAM: It’s heaven. It’s perfect. [Rick Amato Show, 7:00-7:33, [7/15/14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZB3iGxtLs)]

**Said, “We Are A Nation Of Laws,” In Regard To Undocumented Children Crossing Border.** “Jeff Olsen: Well, you know, I don’t know much about the bill, but I do know that there are women and children in harms way who are coming to us for help and you can show me the child that Jesus would turn back away from the border and send back into harms way then you might convince me that that would be the right thing to do, but until you can show me that kid, that terrified kid escaping from harms way who should go back into that scenario then I can’t really be a part of that. Rick Amato: Denise Gitsham, what’s wrong with that argument? Well, you know, I actually think it’s a great argument and its one that Republicans obviously, if you really listen to the mainstream Republican response right now, everyone is saying the exact same. There’s not one Republican legislator whose saying we should send these kids back in an inhumane way or in any way shape or form treat them differently from other people. All that we’re saying is that we are still a nation of laws, so if you would like to change the laws, there’s a way to do that and its just not by reclassifying them as refugees. [Rick Amato Show, 5:50-6:25, [7/15/14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZB3iGxtLs)]

**Said Situation With Undocumented Children Opened Way For Terrorists To Enter Country.** GITSHAM: I really don’t know. It’s actually not politically smart to not talk about enforcing the laws of this nation. I actually think it erodes our credibility….But if there was some sort of sanity that we could bring to this issue, it would talk about both sides, it would talk about ensuring the integrity of our nation and protecting them from really now –I just read about this-there’s a whole group of border patrol agents that are acting as babysitters instead of doing their job and if I were a terrorist, of a terrorist mindset, I would think that’s the key to America. [Rick Amato Show, 8:07-8:25, [7/15/14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZB3iGxtLs)]

Biography

**This section provides background information on Denise Gitsham’s personal life, including education, personal finances, criminal and civil record, and other areas. Searches were via Google News, Newsbank, as well asa number of other online resources, including Lexis-Nexis.**

### Birth Date

Denise Gitsham was born April 20, 1977. [Various]

### Education

**Studied Government, History And Chinese While Pursuing Undergraduate Degree At Bowdoin**. “Denise Gitsham '99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George VV Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)]

**Ran For Bowdoin Senior Class Vice President, Writing “Give ME The Responsibility Of Delivering The Best Senior Pub Nights.”** “’Get ready to party like its nineteen-ninety-nine, kids!’ As your vice-president, I will be singly focused on attaining one goal: making sure OUR senior year will be the ONLY ONE you’ll want to remember. I KNOW THE ROPES. I’ve been your president once before. I’ve worked closely in numerous occasions with faculty and adminsrators, and I ALWAYS GET THE JOB DONE…. Give ME the responsibility of delivering the best senior pub nights.” [Bowdoin Oreint, 9/18/98]

**Spent Semester Abroad In Beijing While Studying At Bowdoin, Where She Worked At The British Embassy.** “Denise Gitsham '99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George VV Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)]

**Attended Wellesley College In Massachusetts For One Semester.** “Denise Gitsham ;Title: Principal, 7 Second Strategies; Age: 37; Education: B.A. in government and legal studies with a minor in American history from Bowdoin College in Maine; one semester at Wellesley College in Massachusetts; J.D. from Georgetown University Law Centre. Work experience: Political and communications work, law and lobbying. Family: Two dogs Likes reading: Business magazines and leadership books.” [UT San Diego, [5/25/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2014/05/ut-san-diego-qa-dont-forget-your-business-strategy/)]

**Received JD From Georgetown University.** “Denise Gitsham ;Title: Principal, 7 Second Strategies; Age: 37; Education: B.A. in government and legal studies with a minor in American history from Bowdoin College in Maine; one semester at Wellesley College in Massachusetts; J.D. from Georgetown University Law Centre. Work experience: Political and communications work, law and lobbying. Family: Two dogs Likes reading: Business magazines and leadership books.” [UT San Diego, [5/25/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2014/05/ut-san-diego-qa-dont-forget-your-business-strategy/)]

### Religion

**Favorite Bible Verse Was Luke 12:48- “To Whom Much Is Given, Much Will Be Required.”** “Denise’s earliest memory is of her father telling her she could be whatever she wanted to be, because she was born in a land of freedom and opportunity. Those words, coupled with her favorite Bible verse, Luke 12:48 – ‘to whom much is given, much will be required’ – compel Denise to make the most of every opportunity presented to her, and every chance to give back to the country she loves.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

### Career

The following provides a brief overview of Gitsham’s professional career.

**Political**

* Hispanic Outreach Coordinator-Bush Presidential Campaign (2000)

**Government**

* Senior Caseworker, White House Office of Agency Liaison (1/01-11/01)Claimed she served as Agency Liaison
* Public Relations Coordinator -White House, President’s Commission on White House Fellows (2001-2002); Claimed she served as Communications Director and Spokesperson
* Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison- US Department of Justice (2004-2005)

**Professional**

* Associate- K&L Gates (9/06-12/08)
* Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel, Sapphire Energy (1/09-1/13)
* Co-Founder and Principal, 7 Second Strategies (2012-2015)
  + Principal, SVN Public Relations(2015 – Present)

*NOTE: 7 Second Strategies became SVN Public Relations.*

**Organization**

* Founding Board Member of one of California’s twelve Innovation Hubs
* Board Member, Spritzr (San Diego-based tech company)
* 2012: Associated with Algae Biomass Organization
* Director or Individual Trustee -Chico Economic Development Corporation (also known as Innovate NorthState)

**No Criminal And Traffic Violation Record**

As of November 2011, Gitsham is not associated with any criminal or traffic violations. [Nexis Criminal Records search, accessed, 11/09/15; Nexis Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens search, accessed 11/09/15; San Diego Superior Court, District of Columbia Superior Court, Arlington General District Court, Alexandria General District Court, Norfolk, MA Superior Court, Cumberland, ME Superior Court, Travis County, TX Superior Court]

*NOTE: No criminal records were found via public records requests to the various places in which Gitsham has lived.*

**No Evidence Of Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens**

As of November 2015, Gitsham is not associated with any bankruptcy, judgments, or liens. [Nexis Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens search, accessed 11/09/15; San Diego Superior Court, District of Columbia Superior Court, Arlington General District Court, Alexandria General District Court, Norfolk, MA Superior Court, Cumberland, ME Superior Court, Travis County, TX Superior Court]

### Voting History

**Denise Gitsham Was Registered To Vote In San Diego In June 2012 And November 2012 And June 2014 And November 2014.** [Denise Gitsham, California Voter Registration Application, San Diego Registrar of Voters, Received 3/30/15]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Election** | **Voted** | **Party Registered** |
| 11/04/14 | Gubernatorial General | No | Republican |
| 6/03/14 | Gubernatorial Primary | Yes | Republican |
| 11/06/12 | Presidential General | Yes | Republican |
| 6/05/12 | Presidential Primary | Yes | Republican |

**Gitsham Did Not Vote In The 2014 General Election In California.** According to the Denise Gitsham’s Voter History obtained from the San Diego Registrar of Voters, Gitsham did not vote in the 2014 General Election. [Denise Gitsham, California Voter Registration Application, San Diego Registrar of Voters, Received 3/30/15]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Election** | **Voted** | **Party Registered** |
| 11/02/99 | Consolidated Districts Election | Y | Republican |
| 11/03/98 | General Election | N | Republican |
| 6/02/98 | Primary Election | Y | Republican |
| 4/14/98 | “Mello-Roos” | N | Republican |
| 11/04/97 | Consolidated Districts Election | N | Republican |
| 11/05/96 | Presidential General Election | N | Republican |

**Gitsham Registered To Vote In California As a Republican On March 26, 1996, Using Bowdoin College, ME As A Mailing Address.** According to the Denise Gitsham’s Voter History obtained from the Solano County Registrar of Voters, Gitsham registered to vote as a Republican on March 26, 1996, using Bowdoin College, ME as a mailing address. [Denise Gitsham, California Voter Registration Application, Solano County Registrar of Voters, Received 3/26/96]

**Gitsham Was Registered To Vote In Arlington, Virginia, But Her Registration Was Canceled On April 12, 2013; Virginia Only Maintains Voting History For Public Inspection For Past Two Years.** According to the Arlington County, Virginia Director of Elections, Denise Gitsham was “formerly registered” to vote in Arlington, but her record was cancelled due to a change of address. Her voting history is not available as Virginia only maintains voting history and records for public inspection for the past two years so no additional information is available. [Arlington County, Virginia, Office of Electoral Board and Voter Registration, Received 2/29/16]

**Canceled Her Solano County Voter Registration On July 3, 2012.** According to the Denise Gitsham’s Voter History obtained from the Solano County Registrar of Voters, Gitsham canceled her Solano County voter registration on July 3, 2012. [Denise Gitsham, California Voter Registration Application, Solano County Registrar of Voters, Received 7/03/12]

**Gitsham Last Voted In California In November 1999.** According to the Denise Gitsham’s Voter History obtained from the Solano County Registrar of Voters, Gitsham last voted in California in the November 2, 1999 Consolidated Districts election. [Denise Gitsham, California Voter Registration Application, Solano County Registrar of Voters, Received 3/26/96]

Personal Finance

**A review of Denise Gitsham’s Personal Financial Disclosure statement is below. Gitsham was five months late in filing, paying a $200 late fee in the process.**

### San Diego Union-Tribune: “Over Five Months Later,” Filed Incomplete Financial Disclosure “A Day After A Reporter Asked Why The Document Had Not Been Submitted Earlier”; Paid $200 Late Fee

**San Diego Union-Tribune: “Over Five Months Later,” Filed Incomplete Financial Disclosure “A Day After A Reporter Asked Why The Document Had Not Been Submitted Earlier.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office. The Republican candidate was supposed to give to the House Ethics Committee a completed Financial Disclosure Statement after her campaign raised or spent more than $5,000, a threshold she crossed on Oct. 26, 10 days before she announced campaign against incumbent Democrat Scott Peters. Over five months later, her campaign said she has filed an incomplete version of the report on March 24 — a day after a reporter asked why the document had not been submitted earlier.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

**Gitsham Paid $200 Late Fee For Filing Her Report Late.** “’She was hoping to get the outstanding info on ... her jointly-owned condo before filing,’ said Gitsham’s campaign manager, Jason Roe. She paid a $200 fee that candidates who file late must pay, he said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

**Campaign Manager Said She Was Waiting On “Outstanding Info” On Jointly-Owned Condo Before Filing.** “’She was hoping to get the outstanding info on ... her jointly-owned condo before filing,’ said Gitsham’s campaign manager, Jason Roe. She paid a $200 fee that candidates who file late must pay, he said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

### March 29, 2013, San Diego Union-Tribune: Had Not “Completed A Required Political Ethics Document,” Which Left “Voters Unable To See How The Former Lobbyist Makes A Living”

**March 29, 2013, San Diego Union-Tribune: Had Not “Completed A Required Political Ethics Document,” Which Left Voters Unable To See How The Former Lobbyist Makes A Living.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

**…“An Without Information That Could Help Them Decide If She Would Have Any Potential Conflicts Of Interest While In Office.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

### March 29, 2013: All Her Opponents Had Submitted Required Forms Before Gitsham

**March 29, 2013: All Her Opponents Had Submitted Required Forms Before Gitsham.** “The Office of the Clerk of the House had no record of any report from Gitsham available on its website as of Tuesday afternoon, and the office did not return a call about the financial document. Online archives show that all of her opponents have submitted the required forms.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham’s Campaign Manager “Did Not Respond To Questions About Why Gitsham Did Not Ask For An Extension,” Saying, “There’s Not An Extension Process”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham’s Campaign Manager “Did Not Respond To Questions About Why Gitsham Did Not Ask For An Extension,” Saying, “There’s Not An Extension Process.”** “Congressional candidate Denise Gitsham hasn’t completed a required political ethics document, leaving voters unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living and without information that could help them decide if she would have any potential financial conflicts of interest while in office…. Candidates and officeholders who are more than 30 days late are assessed a $200 fee, and they can be fined as much as $50,000 by the attorney general for deliberately withholding a report. Extensions up to 90 days are available and are regularly granted, but Gitsham did not seek extra time to submit the required paperwork. Roe did not respond to questions about why Gitsham did not ask for an extension, nor did he respond to a request for a copy of Gitsham’s statement.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

**…But One Of Campaign Manager’s Former Clients, Carl DeMaio Received An Extension While Running For The House In 2014.** “Roe did not respond to questions about why Gitsham did not ask for an extension, nor did he respond to a request for a copy of Gitsham’s statement. ‘As I understand it, there’s not an extension process,’ Roe said. One of Gitsham’s Republican opponents, Jacquie Atkinson, received a 30-day extension and filed ahead of her new deadline. One of Roe’s former clients, Carl DeMaio, also received an extension when running for the House in 2014.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/29/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/29/denishe-gitsham-misses-ethics-report/)]

### Reported Between $332,006 And $1,180,000 In Assets And $130,004 And $300,000 In Unearned Income Between 2015 And 2014

**Reported Between $332,006 And $1,180,000 In Assets And $130,004 And $300,000 In Unearned Income Between 2015 And 2014.** Between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015, Gitsham reported assets valued between $567,004 and $730,000 and reported between $130,004 and $300,000 off those assets. [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, [2015](http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2015/9108510.pdf)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Asset** | **Owner** | **Value of Asset** | **Type of Income** | **Amount of Income (date range)** | **Amount of Income (previous year)** |
| Rental Property-Del Mar, CA | Joint | $500,001-$1,000,000 | Rent | $15,001-$50,000 | $15,001-$50,000 |
| Roto IRA-Vanguard 500 Index | N/A | $1,001-$15,000 | Tax-Deferred | None | None |
| IRA-First Allies | N/A | $50,000-$100,000 | Tax Deferred | None | Noen |
| 7 Second Strategies PR Firm, Pasadena, CA | Joint | $1,001-$15,000 | Partnership Income | $50,001-$100,000 | $50,001-$100,000 |
| Thrift Savings Plan | N/A | $15,001-$50,000 | None | None | No box checked |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **N/A** | **N/A** |

[Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

### Reported $60,957 In Income In 2015, And $72,948 In Income In 2014

**Reported $60,957 In Income In 2015, And $72,948 In Income In 2014.**  Gitsham reported $60,957 in income in 2015, and $72,948 in income during 2014. [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Type** | **2015 Income** | **2014 Income** |
| 7 Second Strategies (DBA SVN Public Relations) | Salary | $19,907 | $25,338 |
|  | S-Corp Income | $39,550 | $47,610 |
| Vitamin D Public Relations | LLC Income | $1,500 | N/A |
| **Total** |  | **$60,957** | **$72,948** |

                                                                                     [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

### Reported Between $125,003 And $315,000 In Liabilities

**Reported Between $1,050,002 And $5,100,000 In Liabilities On Her Personal Financial Disclosure Covering 2015.** Gitsham listed between $1,050,002 and $5,100,000 in liabilities, including between $1,000,001 and $5,000,000 owed on a mortgage on “Del Mar Rental Property.” [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Creditor** | **Owner** | **Date Incurred** | **Type of Liability** | **Amount of Liability** |
| Mg Great Lakes/Private Loans | N/A | 9/04 | Student Loan | $50,001-$100,000 |
| Bank of America | Joint | 9/12 | Mortgage on Del Mar Rental Property | $1,000,001-$5,000,000 |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **$1,050,002 -$5,100,000** |

                                                                                     [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

### Reported Holding Position Of Principal/Co-owner Of 7 Second Strategies And Sat On Board Of Share Fair Nation And Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation

**Reported Holding Position Of Principal/Co-owner Of 7 Second Strategies And Sat On Board Of Share Fair Nation And Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation.** On her federal personal financial disclosure, Gitsham listed holding the position of Principal/Co-Owner of 7 Second Strategies (DBA SVN Public Relations) and sat on the boards of Share Fair Nation and Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation.  [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name of Organization** |
| Principal/Co-Owner | 7 Second Strategies, LLC (DBA SVN Public Relations) |
| Board Member | Share Fair Nation |
| Board Member | Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation |

### Did Not Report Any Agreements On Her Personal Financial Disclosure

**Did Not Report Any Agreements On Her Personal Financial Disclosure.**  On her federal personal financial disclosure, Gitsham listed “N/A” on her Schedule F, regarding agreements.  [Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Form, 2015]

### Reported Multiple Sources Of Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 In 2015

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Nam and City/State** | **Brief Description Of Duties** |
| Deepflight, Hawkes Ocean Technology | Richmond, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Pareto Bio Technologies | Emeryville, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| American Coastal Properties | Irvine, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Take Lessons | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| John Jordan | Healdsburg, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Fit Athletic Club | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Hard Tech Labs | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Asembio A.G. | Santiago, Chile | Public Relations Consulting |
| Digit[…] | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| The Standish Foundation | Austin, TX | Public Relations Consulting |
| Zeeto | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| Canter Companies | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| A Better LA | Los Angeles, CA | N/A |
| San Diego SWAT Team | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| Partnership for a New American Economy | Washington, DC | N/A |
| Grasswalkers | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| Dr. Henry Cloud | Beverley Hills, CA | N/A |
| World News Daily | N/A | N/A |
| Suzanne Venker | N/A | N/A |
| MTV Books | New York, NY | N/A |
| Clean Spark | Poway, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| One San Diego | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| L2HP | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Lankford & Associates | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Joseph Gulfo | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Sinatra & Company Real Estate | Buffalo, NY | Public Relations Consulting |
| Origo | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| VikPik | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Jim Schreiber | Greenwich, CT | Public Relations Consulting |
| Post Hill Press | New York, NY | Public Relations Consulting |
| Watkins Landmark Construction | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Armentum Partners | San Francisco, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Triton Algae Innovation | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Simm & Schuster | New York, NY | Public Relations Consulting |

Personal Information

**This section provides personal information on Denise Gitsham’s personal life, including their home address, property information and any information collected on her family members.**

Residence

750 W Fir St Unit 302 San Diego, CA 92101-2203:

721 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014-3007 San Diego County

[VAN, Accessed 2/22/15]

Family

**Mother Is A Chinese Immigrant And Father Is A Canadian Immigrant.**  “Denise’s mother, a Chinese immigrant who fled communism, and her father, a Canadian immigrant who served 20 years in the United States Air Force, instilled in her a deep appreciation of the blessings associated with being American.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress website, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

**Cited Her Father And Her Favorite Bible Verse For Why She Needs To Give Back To America.** “Denise’s earliest memory is of her father telling her she could be whatever she wanted to be, because she was born in a land of freedom and opportunity. Those words, coupled with her favorite Bible verse, Luke 12:48 – ‘to whom much is given, much will be required’ – compel Denise to make the most of every opportunity presented to her, and every chance to give back to the country she loves.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

**Fluent In Mandarin.** “Denise is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and an accomplished classical pianist, as well as a runner and triathlete.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress website, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

**Said Father Was A Sergeant In US Air Force During Vietnam, With Extended Family Ties To Military.** “Military service is a tradition in my family. My father served in the Vietnam War as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, my Chinese grandfather was a two-star General who fought against Mao's communist regime, my Welsh grandfather was gassed in France while serving in the Gloucestershire Imperial Cavalry in World War I, my uncle was torpedoed in the English Channel while serving in the Canadian Navy in World War II, my cousin is a Naval officer currently based in Hawaii, and many dear friends are active duty members of the USMC and Navy, who've deployed countless times to Afghanistan and Iraq since 9/11.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress website, [11/11/15](https://www.facebook.com/deniseforcongress/photos/a.1674805182767505.1073741827.1671544763093547/1676700385911318/?type=1&theater)]

**Said Chinese Grandfather Was A Two-Star General Who Fought Against Mao’s Communist Regime.** “Military service is a tradition in my family. My father served in the Vietnam War as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, my Chinese grandfather was a two-star General who fought against Mao's communist regime, my Welsh grandfather was gassed in France while serving in the Gloucestershire Imperial Cavalry in World War I, my uncle was torpedoed in the English Channel while serving in the Canadian Navy in World War II, my cousin is a Naval officer currently based in Hawaii, and many dear friends are active duty members of the USMC and Navy, who've deployed countless times to Afghanistan and Iraq since 9/11.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress website, [11/11/15](https://www.facebook.com/deniseforcongress/photos/a.1674805182767505.1073741827.1671544763093547/1676700385911318/?type=1&theater)]

**Said She Had Cousin Who Was Naval Officer Based In Hawaii.** “Military service is a tradition in my family. My father served in the Vietnam War as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, my Chinese grandfather was a two-star General who fought against Mao's communist regime, my Welsh grandfather was gassed in France while serving in the Gloucestershire Imperial Cavalry in World War I, my uncle was torpedoed in the English Channel while serving in the Canadian Navy in World War II, my cousin is a Naval officer currently based in Hawaii, and many dear friends are active duty members of the USMC and Navy, who've deployed countless times to Afghanistan and Iraq since 9/11.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress website, [11/11/15](https://www.facebook.com/deniseforcongress/photos/a.1674805182767505.1073741827.1671544763093547/1676700385911318/?type=1&theater)]

Other Potential Relationships

**Thanked By Nathaniel Fick In His Book For Being “With Him From The Beginning To The End.”** “Writing a book is no more solitary than fighting a war. I thanks Bradley Thayer, Jeremy Jospeh, Craig Nerenberg, and Frank Russell for planting the idea. Eric Hammel encouraged it, and my agent, EJ McCarthy, made it real. Callie Rucker Oettinger has been a tireless advocate. Honest readers sharpened the draft in countless ways. Thank you to Austin Whitman, Andrew Hilton, Mark Holtz, Abby Joseph, Johnathan May, Evan Wright, Margaret Angell, Andy Carroll, Mike Hodgins, Al Stam, and Andy Colyer. Finally, Denise Gitsham was with me from the beinning to the end. Thank you.” [One Bullet Away, Nathaniel Fick, pg 272, [2005](https://books.google.com/books?id=sna0YEcco7wC&pg=PT400&lpg=PT400&dq=nathaniel+fick+denise+gitsham&source=bl&ots=MLsFTox8AG&sig=qMTty9JLAPmzdv2j1mk7Okcnph4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwikzqKAi8DJAhVLdD4KHUTLAgoQ6AEIITAB#v=onepage&q=nathaniel%20fick%20denise%20gitsham&f=false)]

**Fick Spoke At The 2008 Democratic National Convention.** “The network channels (ABC, CBS, NBC) will offer nightly prime-time coverage of the convention from 7 to 8 p.m. The cable news channels (MSNBC, CNN, Fox) will broadcast live from Denver and offer round-the-clock- coverage….American Voices Program Roy Gross, Monica Early, Wes Moore, Janet Lynn Monacco, Nate Fick, Teresa Asenap, Pamela Cash-Roper, Barney Smith” [Los Angeles Times, [8/28/08](http://www.latimes.com/la-na-demssked28-2008aug28-story.html)]

**Daily Kos, HEADLINE: Nathaniel Fick-Another Fighting Dem?** [Daily Kos, [11/16/05](http://www.dailykos.com/story/2005/11/16/165511/-)]

**Andrew Carroll, Author Of Book “Behind The Lines” Thanked Gitsham For Introducing Him To Nate Fick.** “Most importantly, there would be no Legacy Project if it were not for the tens of thousands of people who have sent us letters (and now emails) of great personal significance…. These are mostly correspondences that were picked up after a battle by either comrades or enemy troops and eventually made their way to archives and museums in nations other than the fallen soldier’s homeland.) Here we go:…Nate Fick, a US Marine who was one of the first combatants to share with me his letters from Iraq (and I am also indebted to Denise Gitsham for introducing me to Nate);” [Behind The Lines, Andrew Carroll, published [2005](http://www.book-ebooks.com/products/reading-epub/product-id/4046968/title/Behind%2BThe%2BLines.html)]

*NOTE: It is not known what kind of relationship Gitsham had with Fick.*

Personal Finance

### March 2016: More Than Two Months Late On Filing Candidate Financial Disclosure

**House Ethics Requires Candidates Files Financial Disclosures After Raising Or Spending $5,000.** “Individuals are required to file an FD Statement once they ‘qualify’ as a candidate by raising or spending more than $5,000 in a campaign for election to the House of Representatives.” [House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, [2014](http://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/Info%20and%20Instructions.pdf)]

**Claimed To Have Raised $100,000 In The First Week Of Her Candidacy.** “San Diego businesswoman Denise Gitsham, who is challenging Rep. Scott Peters (D-San Diego) in the 52nd congressional district. Gitsham, who owns a public relations firm, worked for Karl Rove during then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush’s 2000 presidential campaign and later worked in the Bush administration, announced her candidacy two weeks ago. Her campaign bragged on Facebook it raised $100,000 in the first week. In 2014, Peters defeated Republican businessman Carl DeMaio 52% to 48%.” [Los Angeles Times, [11/19/15](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-essential-politics-html-20151119-htmlstory.html)]

**October 26, 2015: Gitsham Raised More Than $5,000 In Itemized Contributions.** [FEC, Accessed 2/22/16]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** | **Date** | **Amount** |
| Calvin Gitsham |  | 10/26/15 | $2,700 |
| Grace Gitsham |  | 10/26/15 | $2,700 |
|  |  | **TOTAL** | **$5,400** |

**Candidates Who Qualify During A Non-Election Year Must File Within 30 Days, Or By May 15, Whichever Is Later.** “If you qualify during a non-election (odd-numbered) year, then you must file an FD Statement within 30 days of becoming a candidate or May 15 of that year, whichever is later. You are then required to file a second Statement on May 15 of the following year if you are still a candidate on that date. If you lose a primary election or formally withdraw, as explained below, before May 15, then you are not required to file the second Statement.” [House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, [2014](http://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/Info%20and%20Instructions.pdf)]

Property Ownership & Tax Payment History

San Diego Residency

### As Of October 23, 2015: Gitsham May Have Lived At 721 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014

**Gitsham Listed 721 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014 On 2015 Contribution To Rep. Thomas Price.** According to Rep. Thomas Price’s Itemized Contributions filed with the Federal Election Commission, Gitsham listed the address 721 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014 on an October 23, 2015 contribution to Rep. Thomas Price. Gitsham contributed $250. [FEC, [10/23/15](http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?201601299004896854)]

*Note: A FOIA is outstanding for records regarding property.*

### VAN: Gitsham May Have Lived At 750 W Fir St Unit 302 San Diego, CA 92101-2203

**VAN: Gitsham’s Address Associated With Her Voter File Was 750 W Fir St Unit 302 San Diego, CA 92101-2203.** According to VAN, Gitsham’s address associated with her voter file was 750 W Fir St Unit 302 San Diego, CA 92101-2203. [VAN, Accessed 2/22/16]

### Gitsham Letter To The Editor, San Diego Union-Tribune: Disagreed With Criticism Of Broadstone Little Italy Building, Referring To It As “Our Building”

**Gitsham Letter To The Editor, San Diego Union-Tribune: Disagreed With Criticism Of Broadstone Little Italy Building, Referring To It As “Our Building.”** “I was surprised at the recent bestowing of an ‘Onion’ to Broadstone Little Italy, (‘Orchids, Onions: OMG,’ Oct. 3). I can't speak to Broadstone's architectural virtues, but as someone who appreciates beauty and luxury, I appreciate the careful attention to detail that characterizes every aspect of our building. It takes actually walking through our front doors to appreciate Broadstone's beauty. So while our building may be frowned upon by architectural elites, it's certainly won over residents, like me, who enjoy every moment in our Little Italy oasis. Denise Gitsham Little Italy” [San Diego Union Tribune, Gitsham LTE, 10/08/14]

*Note: We have no evidence that Gitsham lived at this address.*

2008 – 2013: 1829 S Street NW, Washington, DC (Condo)

### August 2008: Purchased Condo At 1829 S St NW, Washington, DC For $463,000 From Thomas A. Starshark; Sold In November 2013 For $565,000

**August 6, 2008: Thomas A. Starshak Transferred Deed To 1829 S St NW Unit 3, Washington, DC To Denise Gitsham For $463,000.** On August 6, 2007, Thomas A. Starshark transferred deed of ownership of 1829 S St. NW, Washington DC, 20009 to Denise Gitsham for $463,000. [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Deed between Thomas A. Starshark and Denise Gitsham, Recording Date 8/14/08]

**August 6, 2008: Borrowed $416,700 From Preferred Mortgage Group, Inc.** On August 8, 2006, Denise Gitsham took out $416,700 Deed of Trust from Preferred Mortgage Group, Inc to buy property located at1829 S St NW Unit 3, Washington, DC 2009. She is listed as the sole owner of the property. Julia Hughes was listed as the trustee. [DC Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Denise Gitsham Deed of Trust, Document #2008087514, Recording Date 8/14/08]

**November 18, 2008: Deed Of Trust Was Released.** On November 18, 2008, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. issued a “Deed of Release” To Denise Gitshma’s August 6, 2008 Deed of Trust, which was originally worth $416,700. “By a deed of trust in the originally amount of $416,700.00 and Dated:08/06/08 Recorded: 08/14/08 as Instrument #:2008087514 in Book: Page: in the Recorder’s office in and for the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, convey to Julia R. Hughes trustee, for as Lender for certain real estate, to secure the payment of certain note or notes in said deed described and set forth: and whereas, said deed of trust and note or notes has or have been fully paid and satisfied. Now therefore, the undersigned, present holder and legal owner of said deed of trust and note or notes, does hereby remise, release, and quitclaim unto the present owners of said property, all of the real estate in said deed of trust described, situated in the County of and State of to-wit” [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Gitsham Deed of Release, Recorded Date 11/19/08]

**October 10, 2008: Borrowed $417,000From Quicken Loans Inc.** On October 10, 2008, Denise Gitsham borrowed $417,000 using a Deed of Trust. Quicken Loans was listed as the Lender, while the Trustee was listed as Michael Lyon. [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Denise Gitsham Deed of Trust, Recording Date 10/22/08]

**Deed Of Trust Included Rider With “’Covenants’ Of The ‘Condominium Project’ Of DuPont Circle.”** Denise Gitsham’s Deed of Trust signed on October 10, 2008 included a Condominium Rider covering 1829 S St NW Apt 3, Washington, DC 20009. The rider amends the Deed of Trust to include the “covenants” of the “Condominium Project” of DuPont Circle. [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Denise Gitsham Deed of Trust, Condominium Rider, Recording Date 10/22/08]

**October 10, 2008: Deed Of Trust Was Released.** “KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS: That DAWN PECK, Vice-President representing MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SSYSTEMS, INC. (“MERS”), does hereby certify and acknowledge, under penalties of perjury, that the promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage/deed of trust made by DENISE G GITSHAM to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC (“MERS”)/MICHAEL LYON, mortgage/trustee(s), Dated: 10/10/2008 Recorded: 10/22/2008 as Instrument No. 200810976, among the Land Records of the District of Columbia, which encumbers the real property described herein, has been fully paid and that MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. (“MERS”) was, at the time of satisfaction, the holder of the promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness and the lien of said mortgage/deed of trust is hereby release. The property encumbered by said mortgage/deed of trust is described as follows: Property Address: 1829 S ST NW APT 3, Washington, DC 20009.” [Office of Tax and Revnue, Recorder of Deeds, Gitsham Certification of Satisfaction, Document #200810976, Recorded Date 7/02/09]

**September 30, 2010: Borrowed $434,792 From Quicken Loans.** On September 30, 2010, Denise Gitsham borrowed $434.792 using a Deed of Trust. Quicken Loans was listed as the Lender, while the Trustee was listed as Michael Lyon. [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Denise Gitsham Deed of Trust, Recording Date 1/05/2011]

**Deed Of Trust Included Rider With “’Covenants’ Of The ‘Condominium Project’ Of DuPont Circle.”** Denise Gitsham’s Deed of Trust signed on September 30, 2009 included a Condominium Rider covering 1829 S St NW Apt 3, Washington, DC 20009. The rider amends the Deed of Trust to include the “covenants” of the “Condominium Project” of DuPont Circle. [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Denise Gitsham Deed of Trust, Recording Date 1/05/2011]

**November 22, 2013: Deed Of Trust Was Released.** “”Certificate of Satisfaction…That, Dawn Smith, Assistant Secretary, representing Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors, and assigns does hereby certify and acknowledge, under penalties of perjury, that the Note or other evidence of indebtedness secured by that certain Mortgage/Deed of Trust made by DENISE G. GITSHAM, A SINGLE WOMAN, to Michael Lyon, as Trustee, dated Spetember 30, 2010, and filed for record on January 5, 2011, Document No. 2011001474, among the Land Records of the District of Columbia which encumbers the real property as described as: …Commonly known as: 1829 S ST NW APT 3, WASHINGTON, DC 20009.” [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Gitsham Certification of Satisfaction, Document #2011001474, Recorded Date 11/27/13]

**November 15, 2013: Sold Condo To Jeffrey C. O’Neill And Raffaela Perra For $565,000.** On November 15, 2013, Denise Gitsham sold the property located at 1829 S St NW, Washington, DC 20009 to Jeffrey C. O’Neill and Raffaela Perra, a husband and wife for $565,000. Witnessing fee was $10. A notary public named Nancy Holt located in Sonoma County certified the transfer of the deed. [Office of Tax and Revenue, Recorder of Deeds, Deed, Recorded Date 11/29/13]

### Property Tax Payment History

**1829 St NE Washington, DC 20009**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Payment Date** | **Tax Collected** | **Interest Collected** | **Penalty Collected** | **Total Paid** |
| 2013 | 9/15/13 | $1,771.10 | $0 | $0 | $1,771.10 |
| 2013 | 3/31/13 | $1,668.10 | $0 | $0 | $1,668.10 |
| 2012 | 9/15/12 | $1,814.15 | $0 | $0 | $1,814.15 |
| 2012 | 3/31/12 | $1,713.15 | $0 | $0 | $1,713.15 |
| 2011 | 9/15/11 | $1,275.41 | $0 | $0 | $1,275.41 |
| 2010 | 10/18/10 | $1,971.17 | $0 | $0 | $1,971.17 |
| 2010 | 9/15/10 | $1,765.49 | $0 | $0 | $1,765.49 |
| 2010 | 3/31/10 | $1,669.49 | $0 | $0 | $1,669.49 |
| 2009 | 9/15/09 | $1,860.48 | $0 | $0 | $1,860.48 |
| 2009 | 3/31/09 | $1,764.48 | $0 | $0 | $1,764.48 |
| 2008 | 9/16/08 | $1,057.27 | $0 | $0 | $1,057.27 |
| 2008 | 3/31/08 | $965.27 | $0 | $0 | $965.27 |

[District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue, accessed [11/23/15](https://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP_Transactions.jsp?op_ssl=0132%20%20%20%202019)]

2004 – 2013: 4241 35th Street South, No. B1, Arlington, VA (Condo)

**2004: Purchased Condo In Arlington With Elizabeth Harvey For $326,000; Sold “Partial Interest” In Condo For $152,050 In December 2007 And Sold Remaining Interest For $343,000 In 2013**

**2004: Ann H. And Daniel Clay Lovett Sold Condo At 4241 35th Street South, No. B1 In Arlington, VA, To Elizabeth A. Harvey And Gitsham For $326,000.** “The following home sales were recently recorded in Alexandria and supplied to The Washington Post by the Alexandria Department of Real Estate Assessments… 35TH ST. S., 4241, No. B1-Ann H. and Daniel Clay Lovett to Elizabeth A. Harvey and Denise G. Gitsham, $326,000.” [Washington Post, 12/02/04]

**December 5, 2007: Sold “Partial Interest” In Condo For $152,050 To Unknown Buyer.** According to Arlington County property search, Denise Gitsham sold “Partial Interest” in 4241 35th St. S B1 Arlington, VA 22206 on December 5, 2007 for $152,050 unknown buyer. [Arlington County Property Search, Deed Bk/Pg#4154/0361, Accessed [11/23/15](https://propertysearch.arlingtonva.us/Home/Sales?lrsn=49462)]

*NOTE: Outstanding FOIA concerning Buyer Of Gitsham’s “Partial interest” in condo.*

**2013: Sold Remaining Interest In Condo For $343,000 To Michael Tenkate.** “These listings were provided by Lender Processing Services. For information about other residential real estate transactions… 35th St. S.,4241, No. B1-Denise G. Gitsham to Michael Tenkate, $343,000.” [Washington Post, 2/21/13]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Payment Date** | **Tax Collected** | **Interest Collected** | **Penalty Collected** | **Total Paid** |
| 2013 | 10/05/13 | $1,479.31 | $0 | $0 | $1,479.31 |
| 2013 | 6/15/13 | $1,479.31 | $0 | $0 | $1,479.31 |
| 2012 | 10/05/12 | $1,588.06 | $0 | $0 | $1,588.06 |
| 2012 | 6/15/12 | $1,588.06 | $0 | $0 | $1,588.06 |
| 2011 | 10/05/11 | $1,566.80 | $0 | $0 | $1,566.80 |
| 2011 | 6/15/11 | $1,566.80 | $0 | $0 | $1,566.80 |
| 2010 | 10/05/10 | $1,566.80 | $0 | $0 | $1,566.80 |
| 2010 | 6/15/10 | $1,566.80 | $0 | $0 | $1,566.80 |
| 2009 | 10/05/09 | $1,496.68 | $0 | $0 | $1,496.68 |
| 2009 | 6/15/09 | $1,496.68 | $0 | $0 | $1,496.68 |
| 2008 | 10/05/08 | $1,471.69 | $0 | $0 | $1,471.69 |
| 2008 | 6/15/08 | $1,471.69 | $0 | $0 | $1,471.69 |
| 2007 | 10/05/07 | $1,243.76 | $0 | $0 | $1,243.76 |
| 2007 | 6/15/07 | $1,243.76 | $0 | $0 | $1,243.76 |
| 2006 | 10/05/06 | $1,309.20 | $0 | $0 | $1,309.20 |
| 2006 | 6/15/06 | $1,309.20 | $0 | $0 | $1,309.20 |

[Arlington County Property Search, accessed [11/23/15](https://propertysearch.arlingtonva.us/Home/TaxBalances?lrsn=49462)]

*NOTE: FOIA outstanding to Arlington County for all records related to property.*

Political Career

**This section provides an overview of Denise Gitsham’s political career, from 2000 to present.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Significant Findings**   * *Worked on Hispanic outreach on President Bush’s 2000 presidential campaign; gave conflicting accounts as to compensation, but never paid* * *Claimed she developed Hispanic outreach plan* * *Wrote op-ed about how the GOP needed to reach out to Hispanics, comparing the party to Burberry luxury fashion line reaching out to younger clientele* * *Campaign manager previously had “falling out” with 2014 Republican congressional candidate Carl DeMaio* * *2009: Donated $500 to Sen. Barbara Boxer* |

**Worked On President Bush’s 2000 Campaign On Hispanic Outreach; Assigned To Position By Karl Rove**

**Worked As National Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator In Austin, Texas, For 2000 Bush Presidential Campaign.** “We are pleased to announce that Denise Gitsham joined our staff in December as the PCWHF’s Public Relations Coordinator. Some of you may have met Denise at the Alumni Association reception last October and I hope you will join me in welcoming her on board. Denise’s political career began in 1999, working on then-Governor Bush’s presidential campaign as the National Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator in Austin, Texas. She moved to Washington to serve as public liaison for the Presidential Inaugural Committee and was subsequently appointed to the position of Senior Caseworker in the White House Office of Agency Liaison.” [George W. Bush White house, [2002](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)]

**Bragged That, As A Non-Hispanic, She Created A Hispanic Outreach Position For Herself On The Bush Campaign And “Had To Help A Lot Of Old White Men Think And Act Disruptively To Make It Happen.”** “I am naturally drawn to creative thinkers, who look for ways to do things differently, and better. As a half-Chinese 22 year old without a Latino bone in my body, I created a position for myself on the Bush campaign, running President Bush’s previously non-existent National Hispanic Coalition. I figured the President would benefit from speaking directly to the Hispanic population about his vision for America. On election day, our efforts paid off, but I had to help a lot of old white men think and act disrputively to make it happen. That experience was my first in being ‘disruptive’ – and from that point on, it became my M.O.” [Disruptive Thinkers, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]

**Was Only One Of Four Interns Chosen For George W Bush’s 2000 Presidential Bid.** “Denise Gitsham '99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George VV Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)]

**Alex Ray Column: Karl Rove Assigned Gitsham To Implement The Hispanic Outreach Strategy Authored By Rove’s “Good Friend” Warren Tichenor.** “The leader of this small group was Warren Tichenor of Texas whose family owns the largest Hispanic radio network in the country. Its holdings include 47 stations in Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada and Illinois and an Internet company that promotes Hispanic businesses. Tichenor is relatively new to politics, first getting involved in 1997 in Texas. He became good friends with Bush’s political guru, Karl Rove, and when the Texas governor decided to seek the White House, Tichenor volunteered to help. He was the principle author of the campaign’s 33-point Hispanic strategy. To implement the strategy, Rove assigned a young Californian, Denise Gitsham, who was fresh out of Maine’s Bowdoin College and was helping to raise money in the high technology community for then-Governor Bush. I feel very proud of the fact that I helped Ms. Gitsham get into the campaign in the first place. An old friend, who is chairman of the History & Government Department at Bowdoin, called to ask if I could intercede for what he described as probably the brightest student he had ever taught. Although not Latino, Denise became the Bush campaign’s Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator, implementing the strategy that Tichenor had authored. Fifteen hours a day became the norm for the young woman who had never before been involved in a campaign, but would not accept the “it can’t be done” song that permeates campaigns.” [The Star Democrat, Alex Ray Column, [3/25/01](http://stardem.newspapers.com/newspage/115859543/)]

### Referred To Bush’s 2000 Presidential Campaign As “Unprecedented”

**Referred To Bush’s 2000 Presidential Campaign As “Unprecedented.”** “Denise founded SVN PR on the basis of her expertise and experience working in public relations, strategic communications, and government affairs. From developing and executing unprecedented wins in the 2000 presidential campaign, to working in the White House, to representing innovative companies like Tesla and Sapphire Energy in Washington, D.C. and California, Denise loves to win big and has the track record to prove it.” [SVN Public Relations, Wayback Machine, [2/07/15](https://web.archive.org/web/20150207061038/http:/svnpr.com/)]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: Unclear What Work She Did During 2000 Bush Campaign As Campaign And Her Have “Given Conflicting Accounts”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Unclear What Work She Did During 2000 Bush Campaign As Campaign And Her Have “Given Conflicting Accounts.”** “What Gitsham did for Bush’s 2000 campaign isn’t clear as she and her campaign has given conflicting accounts. Gitsham, on her company’s website, said she ‘developed and managed a national Latino communications and outreach plan that spanned 28 states, and resulted in the highest percentage of Latino votes for a Republican candidate in the history of US presidential elections.’” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: Campaign Manager Said She Was Unpaid Intern On 2000 Bush Campaign, “But Later Gave Different Account About Her Compensation,” Listing The Work On Her LinkedIn Page Which “Only Includes Her Paid Work”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Campaign Manager Said She Was Unpaid Intern On 2000 Bush Campaign, “But Later Gave Different Account About Her Compensation,” Listing The Work On Her LinkedIn Page Which “Only Includes Her Paid Work.”** “What Gitsham did for Bush’s 2000 campaign isn’t clear as she and her campaign has given conflicting accounts. Gitsham, on her company’s website, said she ‘developed and managed a national Latino communications and outreach plan that spanned 28 states, and resulted in the highest percentage of Latino votes for a Republican candidate in the history of US presidential elections.’ Roe said she was an unpaid intern, but Gitsham later gave a different account about her compensation. Gitsham’s LinkedIn account only includes her paid work and her profile on the business networking site lists a 17-month tenure with the Bush campaign.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

*NOTE: After a review of Bush’s 2000 Presidential campaign’s 2000 Year-End filing with the Federal Election Commission, it was determined that she was not paid for her work with the campaign.*

### Claimed She “Developed” Hispanic Outreach Plan

**7 Second Strategies Bio: Claimed She “Developed And Managed A National Latino Communications And Outreach Plan That Spanned 28 States.”** “Denise is a seasoned expert in public relations, strategic communications, and government affairs. Denise’s media expertise and advocacy skills were established during the 2000 presidential campaign, when she developed and managed a national Latino communications and outreach plan that spanned 28 states, and resulted in the highest percentage of Latino votes for a Republican candidate in the history of US presidential elections. “ [7 Second strategies, Accessed [2/19/16](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/about-us/team/)]

**As Part Of “Latino Strategy” In 2000, Bush Talked Up Immigration Reform.** “Difficult as it is to imagine, Latinos actually may have a reason to miss President Bush when he's gone. No, not because he accomplished the ‘Latino strategy’ that his advisors touted when he was running for president in 2000 -- passing comprehensive immigration reform and putting a Mexican American on the Supreme Court -- but because he brought more attention to the Latino electorate than any major American politician before or since…. In 2000, Bush got a respectable 35% of the national Latino vote by running as a softer, kinder Republican who (unlike Gerald Ford) knew to take off the corn husk before biting into a tamale. That year, he talked up immigration reform.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/24/07](http://articles.latimes.com/2007/sep/24/opinion/oe-rodriguez24)]

**Won 35% Of Latino Vote In 2000.** “In 2000, Bush got a respectable 35% of the national Latino vote by running as a softer, kinder Republican who (unlike Gerald Ford) knew to take off the corn husk before biting into a tamale. That year, he talked up immigration reform.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/24/07](http://articles.latimes.com/2007/sep/24/opinion/oe-rodriguez24)]

**Ted Cruz Helped Draft Bush Campaign’s Immigration Policy.** “In 2000, Ted Cruz was known as a Texas-raised, Harvard-trained domestic policy adviser to the George W. Bush campaign. Bush was a two-term governor from a border state who was determined to fix what he saw as a broken, inhumane immigration system. Cruz helped craft the campaign's immigration policy, which called for speeding up the application process, increasing the number of work visas, and allowing the relatives of permanent residents to visit the U.S. while their applicants were pending.” [The Atlantic, [5/23/13](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/05/when-ted-cruz-helped-craft-bushs-immigration-reform-plan/276167/)]

### Political Columnist Alex Ray Helped Gitsham Get Hired By Bush’s 2000 Presidential Campaign

**Political Columnist Alex Ray Helped Gitsham Get Hired By Bush’s 2000 Presidential Campaign.** “The leader of this small group was Warren Tichenor of Texas whose family owns the largest Hispanic radio network in the country. Its holdings include 47 stations in Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada and Illinois and an Internet company that promotes Hispanic businesses. Tichenor is relatively new to politics, first getting involved in 1997 in Texas. He became good friends with Bush’s political guru, Karl Rove, and when the Texas governor decided to seek the White House, Tichenor volunteered to help. He was the principle author of the campaign’s 33-point Hispanic strategy. To implement the strategy, Rove assigned a young Californian, Denise Gitsham, who was fresh out of Maine’s Bowdoin College and was helping to raise money in the high technology community for then-Governor Bush. I feel very proud of the fact that I helped Ms. Gitsham get into the campaign in the first place. An old friend, who is chairman of the History & Government Department at Bowdoin, called to ask if I could intercede for what he described as probably the brightest student he had ever taught. Although not Latino, Denise became the Bush campaign’s Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator, implementing the strategy that Tichenor had authored. Fifteen hours a day became the norm for the young woman who had never before been involved in a campaign, but would not accept the “it can’t be done” song that permeates campaigns.” [The Star Democrat, Alex Ray Column, [3/25/01](http://stardem.newspapers.com/newspage/115859543/)]

**Chairman Of History & Government Department At Bowdoin Recommended Gitsham To Alex Ray.** “I feel very proud of the fact that I helped Ms. Gitsham get into the campaign in the first place. An old friend, who is chairman of the History & Government Department at Bowdoin, called to ask if I could intercede for what he described as probably the brightest student he had ever taught.” [The Star Democrat, Alex Ray Column, [3/25/01](http://stardem.newspapers.com/newspage/115859543/)]

### Prior To Being Hired By The 2000 Bush Campaign, Gitsham Was Helping Raise Money From The High-Tech Community For Then-Governor Bush

**Prior To Being Hired By The 2000 Bush Campaign, Gitsham Was Helping Raise Money From The High-Tech Community For Then-Governor Bush.** “To implement the strategy, Rove assigned a young Californian, Denise Gitsham, who was fresh out of Maine’s Bowdoin College and was helping to raise money in the high technology community for then-Governor Bush. I feel very proud of the fact that I helped Ms. Gitsham get into the campaign in the first place. An old friend, who is chairman of the History & Government Department at Bowdoin, called to ask if I could intercede for what he described as probably the brightest student he had ever taught. Although not Latino, Denise became the Bush campaign’s Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator, implementing the strategy that Tichenor had authored. Fifteen hours a day became the norm for the young woman who had never before been involved in a campaign, but would not accept the “it can’t be done” song that permeates campaigns.” [The Star Democrat, Alex Ray Column, [3/25/01](http://stardem.newspapers.com/newspage/115859543/)]

### Offered Intern Job For Elizabeth Dole Campaign

**Offered Intern Job For Elizabeth Dole Campaign.** “Denise Gitsham '99 has been appointed one of only four interns to help George VV Bush in his bid for the White House Gitsham studied government, history and Chinese while at Bowdoin She also spent a semester abroad in Beijing, where she landed a job working with the British embassy Coming out of college she had two other campaign offers, including one for the Liddy Dole campaign” [Bowdoin Orient News, [9/10/99](https://archive.org/stream/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000/Bowdoin_Orient_v.131_no.1-24_1999-2000_djvu.txt)]

**Wrote Editorial About How The GOP Needed To Reach Out To Hispanics But Comparing The Party To Burberry Luxury Fashion Line**

**Gitsham Op-Ed: Republicans Need A Rebrand In Order To Appeal To Hispanic Voters.** “Since last November’s presidential election, the Republican Party has renewed its commitment to wooing Latinos, women and 18-to-39-year-old voters. This decision sprung from a belated realization that losing these voting blocs would threaten the GOP’s very existence. The desire to woo, however, must be accompanied by a 180-degree shift in the party’s branding strategy.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Op-Ed, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]

**Gitsham Op-Ed: Republicans Need To Rebrand In The Way Burberry Did.** “A case study and application of marketing principles gleaned from an unlikely source -- the British Burberry luxury fashion line -- could set the GOP on the right path. Until recently, the 156-year-old label was perceived as old, stodgy and passe -- much like the Republican Party today. When Angela Ahrendts joined Burberry as its CEO in 2006, she quickly set about the task of making the brand globally relevant again. Ahrendts recognized, however, that Burberry’s greatest impediment to achieving this goal was its lack of familiarity with the target growth market: luxury consumers of the future, known as ‘millennials.’” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]

**Gitsham Op-Ed: Praised Burberry From Changing Their Business In Every Possible Way.** “Ahrendts realized that connecting with these 18-to-39-year-old consumers required a complete rebranding of the venerable line. This idea was met with significant resistance and controversy; she was, after all, targeting a generation that had little knowledge of the company and its rich history. Furthermore, she risked losing Burberry’s existing customer base. Nonetheless, Ahrendts stayed the course and directed her marketing team to rebrand the company by modernizing its image. Every aspect of the brand was redesigned to appeal to the millennial consumer through generationally relevant music, movies and images. Its sales force utilized iPads in showrooms, familiarizing consumers with the company and its premier offering -- the original Burberry trench coat -- through a culturally relevant medium. Burberry also revamped its website, integrating the latest digital technology. Most important, Burberry changed its hiring practices, and today, a majority of its employees are younger than 30. Burberry’s rationale was simple: In order to understand its target consumers, it had to hire those who understood their mentality. These changes resulted in a successful rebranding of Burberry’s image, and a more than doubling of company revenue in six short years, from $1.2 billion in 2006 to $3 billion in 2012.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]

**Gitsham Op-Ed: Compared Burberry And The Republican Party Since Both Appealed To Old White Men.** “The similarities between Burberry -- once the brand of old, white men -- and the GOP -- still the party of old, white men -- are too obvious to state. Both share a similar mission and face the same challenges in a competitive marketplace. One has already figured out how to win hearts and minds, while the other has just begun asking the right questions.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]

**Gitsham Op-Ed: “I Hope The GOP Chooses The Former And Embraces The Only ‘Fashion Advice’ That Can Possibly Save The Party.”** “President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party mastered Burberry’s branding playbook long ago. Republicans took longer to realize that ‘politics as usual’ no longer worked and that nothing short of a complete image overhaul can save the GOP. Consequently, the party now stands at a crossroads, similar to the one Burberry faced in 2006. It can either rebrand itself to attract targeted voters, or stay the course and relinquish its waning power to Democrats. For the sake of our nation, I hope the GOP chooses the former and embraces the only ‘fashion advice’ that can possibly save the party.” [Politico, Denise Gitsham Column, [1/31/13](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/fashion-reveals-how-to-update-grand-old-brand-087028)]

**Chaired Neel Kashkari For Governor Grassroots Leadership Team For Southern California**

**Chaired Neel Kashkari For Governor Grassroots Leadership Team For Southern California.**  “Neel Kashkari, a Republican running for California Governor, issued the following campaign news: The Kashkari for Governor campaign today announced its Grassroots Leadership Team with planned debate-watch parties across the state. This growing network adds to the campaign’s extensive coalition team and will be instrumental in organizing supporters throughout the state…. Grassroots Leadership Team… Southern: Denise Gitsham, Chair” [Targeted News Service, 9/03/14]

**Attended Fundraiser For Mayoral Candidate Nathan Fletcher**

**Attended Fundraiser For Mayoral Candidate Nathan Fletcher.**  “I spy: Pretty faces in the crowd at the Hard Rock Hotel Wednesday night for Nathan Fletcher’s mayoral campaign fundraiser: Navy doctor and Ironman Andy Baldwin, former star of ABC’s ‘The Bachelor’ (2007 season) and ‘Bachelor’ contestant Denise Gitsham (2002). Both, it appears, still single.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 12/16/11]

**Deleted Personal Twitter Before Announcing Run For Congress**

**Deleted Her Personal Twitter Account Before Making Congressional Announcement.** “Claire Trageser ‏@clairetrageser 1h1 hour ago Looks like Denise Gitsham deleted her twitter account @dgits. Not sure what her new account is.” [Twitter, [11/05/15](https://twitter.com/clairetrageser/status/662374677092810752)]

### Gitsham’s Campaign Manager Is Jason Cabel Roe

**Gitsham’s Campaign Manager Is Jason Cabel Roe.** “The campaign manager for Gitsham, a small-business owner, said the addition of a third GOP candidate doesn't have significant impact on their strategy. ‘I don't think it changes much for Denise. This is about the candidates making the case for why they'd be the best to represent San Diego in Congress, and Denise will continue to make her case, just as Mr. Horst will make his,’ Jason Cabel Roe said in a statement.” [San Diego Tribune, 11/20/15]

**Roe Had “Falling Out” With Carl DeMaio.** “Gitsham is represented by Jason Roe, who ran DeMaio's San Diego mayoral campaign in 2012 but then had a falling out with him, according to a report by Voice of San Diego.” [KPBS, [11/05/15](http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/nov/05/another-republican-steps-challenge-rep-scott-peter/)]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: In Announcing Congressional Candidacy, “Gitsham Made No References To Running As A Republican”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: In Announcing Congressional Candidacy, “Gitsham Made No References To Running As A Republican.”** “A San Diego business owner with ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove and connections to his influential super PAC has entered the race against Democratic Rep. Scott Peters….In her prepared remarks, Gitsham made no references to running as a Republican - she said the omission was inadvertent - nor did she speak about her time working in the White House during the administration of George W. Bush. She also did not mention that she once worked for Rove, or her business partner's ties to Rove's super PAC.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 11/06/15]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: In Announcing Congressional Candidacy, Did Not “Speak About Her Time Working” In George W Bush’s White House

**San Diego Union-Tribune: In Announcing Congressional Candidacy, Did not “Speak About Her Time Working” In George W Bush’s White House.** ““A San Diego business owner with ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove and connections to his influential super PAC has entered the race against Democratic Rep. Scott Peters….In her prepared remarks, Gitsham made no references to running as a Republican - she said the omission was inadvertent - nor did she speak about her time working in the White House during the administration of George W. Bush. She also did not mention that she once worked for Rove, or her business partner's ties to Rove's super PAC.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 11/06/15]

### San Diego City Councilman Mark Kersey Attended Gitsham’s Campaign Announcement

**San Diego City Councilman Mark Kersey Attended Gitsham’s Campaign Announcement.** “Tony Krvaric, chairman of the San Diego County Republican Party, was at Gitsham's announcement Thursday, as was San Diego City Councilman Mark Kersey, a Republican.” [KPBS, [11/05/15](http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/nov/05/another-republican-steps-challenge-rep-scott-peter/)]

**Political Donations**

According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, Gitsham has given $350 to state-level candidates, including one Democrat.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee** | **Party** | **Amount** |
| 2/17/2014 | Benjamin Samuel Sorensen (Florida House) | D | $250 |
| 4/21/2013 | George P Bush (TX Land Commissioner) | R | $100 |
| 2007 | Jill Holtzman Vogel | R | $250 |
|  |  | **Total** | **$600** |

[National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/09/15]

According to FEC, Gitsham has given $6,000 to federal political candidates, including $500 to Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Candidate** | **Party** | **Amount** |
| 10/23/2015 | Thomas Price (Congress) | R | $250 |
| 7/26/2015 | Jeb Bush | R | $2,700 |
| 9/30/2014 | William Taylor Griffin (Congress) | R | ($500) |
| 12/30/2013 | William Taylor Griffin (Congress) | R | $500 |
| 10/31/2013 | William Taylor Griffin (Congress) | R | $500 |
| 10/18/2012 | Brian Philip Bilbray (Congress) | R | $250 |
| 5/9/2011 | Maverick PAC |  | $300 |
| 9/24/2010 | Brian Philip Bilbray (Congress) | R | $500 |
| 11/12/2009 | Barbara Boxer (Senate) | D | $500 |
| 4/25/2008 | Trust PAC Team Republicans for Utilizing Sensible Tactics |  | $250 |
| 4/25/2008 | Trust PAC | R | $250 |
|  |  | **Total** | **$6,000** |

[FEC, accessed 2/22/16]

### Endorsements For Congress

**Former San Diego Regional Chamber Of Commerce CEOs Jessie Knight, Jr. And Ruben Barrelles Endorsed Gitsham.** “Entrepreneur and former White House aide Denise Gitsham has picked up endorsements from two local business leaders and another city council member in her bid to unseat Democratic Rep. Scott Peters. Over the past two days, former San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce CEOs Jessie Knight Jr. and Ruben Barrales, and City Councilman Chris Cate, have added their endorsements of Gitsham, a Republican who is making her first run for elected office.” [Times of San Diego, [12/22/15](http://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2015/12/22/3-top-local-republicans-endorse-gitsham-for-congress/)]

**Knight, Jr. Was A Former CEO Of San Diego Gas & Electric.** ““Denise has spent her entire career supporting pro-growth policies,” said Knight, former CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric.” [Times of San Diego, [12/22/15](http://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2015/12/22/3-top-local-republicans-endorse-gitsham-for-congress/)]

**City Councilman Chris Cate Endorsed Gitsham.** “Over the past two days, former San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce CEOs Jessie Knight Jr. and Ruben Barrales, and City Councilman Chris Cate, have added their endorsements of Gitsham, a Republican who is making her first run for elected office.” [Times of San Diego, [12/22/15](http://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2015/12/22/3-top-local-republicans-endorse-gitsham-for-congress/)]

**City Councilmember Scott Sherman Endorsed Gitsham.** “Entrepreneur and former White House aide Denise Gitsham has picked up endorsements from two local business leaders and another city council member in her bid to unseat Democratic Rep. Scott Peters….Cate added his support to that of council members Scott Sherman and Mark Kersey. Though the council is a non-partisan office, all three men are Republicans.” [Times of San Diego, [12/22/15](http://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2015/12/22/3-top-local-republicans-endorse-gitsham-for-congress/)]

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Government Career

|  |
| --- |
| **Significant Findings**   * *As law clerk on US Senate Judiciary Committee, worked for Sen. Arlen Spector on Chief Justice Roberts’ confirmation* * *2001: Served as a Senior Caseworker in the White House Office of Agency Liaison* * *2001-2002: Served as Communications Director and spokesperson for the White House Fellows program under George W. Bush* * *2004-2005:Worked as an Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison at the US Department of Justice* |

**Following her work on the Bush campaign in 2000, Gitsham was hired in 2001 as a Senior Caseworker at the White House Office of Agency Liaison. She would continue her work in the Bush White House, taking a job in December 2001 as the Communications Director and Spokesperson for the White House Fellows program where she would work until the end of 2002. From 2004 to 2005, Gitsham worked as an Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison at the US Department of Justice. Additionally, while in law school, she was a law clerk on the US Senate Judiciary Committee where she worked for Senator Arlen Spector on Chief Justice Roberts’ confirmation.**

### 2001: Served As Senior Caseworker In The White House Office Of Agency Liaison

**Served As Senior Caseworker In The White House Office Of Agency Liaison.** “We are pleased to announce that Denise Gitsham joined our staff in December as the PCWHF’s Public Relations Coordinator. Some of you may have met Denise at the Alumni Association reception last October and I hope you will join me in welcoming her on board. Denise’s political career began in 1999, working on then-Governor Bush’s presidential campaign as the National Hispanic Coalitions Coordinator in Austin, Texas. She moved to Washington to serve as public liaison for the Presidential Inaugural Committee and was subsequently appointed to the position of Senior Caseworker in the White House Office of Agency Liaison.” [George W. Bush White house, [2002](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)]

**January 2001-November 2001: Worked As An Agency Liaison At The White House.** “Agency Liaison The White House, Office of Agency Liaison January 2001 – November 2001 (11 months)” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]

**Gitsham Earned $29,000 As A Senior Caseworker.** “Below is the complete list of White House salaries under President Bush, sorted alphabetically by staff members' last names. (The list has also been sorted by salary, highest to lowest.) …Gitsham, Denise G. Caseworker $29,000” [Washington Post, Accessed [2/23/16](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/onpolitics/transcripts/whitehousesalaries.htm)]

*NOTE: FOIA to George W. Bush Presidential Library sent on December 11, 2015 is outstanding.*

*NOTE: A Bush White House press release referred to Gitsham’s position as “Senior Caseworker” with the White House Office of Agency [George W. Bush White House,* [*2002*](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)*].*

**2001-2002: Served As A Spokesperson For The White House Fellows Program Under George W Bush**

**2002: Served As A Spokesperson For The White House Fellows Program.** “Hothan, 37, and a resident of Floral Park, learned last month that President George W. Bush had appointed him to take part in the nation’s most prestigious public service program. Hothan is still working as a police department captain in Internal Affairs but is preparing to move to Washington, D.C., where he will remain a year to work with one of four cabinet members. Established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964 to get leaders from around the country more involved in higher levels of government, the Fellows program has served as a springboard for figures such as Secretary of State Colin Powell, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin and Sen. Samuel Brownback (R-Kan)…. ‘We try to take the agency’s top choice and match it with the Fellow’s top choice [of assignments],’ said Denise Gitsham, a spokeswoman for the Fellows program. Hothan’s area of concentration in the Office of Management and Budget will be homeland security, according to Gitsham.” [Newsday, 8/23/02]

**2001-2002: Worked As Communications Director And Spokesperson For The White House, President’s Commission On White House Fellows.** “Communications Director and Spokesperson The White House, President's Commission on White House Fellows 2001 – 2002 (1 year)” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]

*NOTE: The press release announcing Gitsham’s appointment referred to the position as “Public Relations Coordinator.” [George W. Bush White House,* [*2002*](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/fellows/news/text/winter2002_03.html)*]*

### Worked As Associated Director of the Office Of Intergovernmental And Public Liaison At The US Department Of Justice

**Worked As Associated Director of the Office Of Intergovernmental And Public Liaison At The US Department Of Justice.** “Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison US DOJ 2004 – 2005 (1 year)” )” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/12/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]

*NOTE: FOIA was sent in on December 11, 2015 and is outstanding.*

### Was A Law Clerk On US Senate Judiciary Committee, Working For Sen. Arlen Spector On Chief Justice Roberts’ Confirmation

**Was A Law Clerk On US Senate Judiciary Committee, Working For Sen. Arlen Spector On Chief Justice Roberts’ Confirmation.** “Denise Gitsham, the latest Republican to declare for the congressional seat currently held by California Democrat Scott Peters, is committed to standing on her own two feet — for now….“I was a law clerk on Senate Judiciary, working for Sen. Specter (when he was Chairman) on Chief Justice Roberts’ confirmation,” Gitsham related via email of the once-in-a-lifetime experience.” [Roll Call, [11/09/15](http://atr.rollcall.com/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-scott-peters/)]

Lobbying Career

|  |
| --- |
| **Significant Findings**   * *July 2006 to December 31, 2008: worked at lobbying firm, K&L Gates, lobbying Congress and the Bush Administration* * *Passed the bar in Washington, DC in 2008* |

**According to Gitsham’s lobbyist filing disclosures, she worked as a lobbyist with K&L Gates from July 1, 2006 until the end of 2008, lobbying Congress and the Bush Administration. Additionally, Gitsham passed the bar in Washington, DC in 2008.**

*NOTE: This section contains general research regarding Gitsham’s lobbying career that are not related to a specific issue section. Research pertaining to a specific topic (i.e., Environment) are located in the corresponding issue chapters.*

**Worked At K&L Gates, A Lobbying Firm, Lobbying Congress And The Bush Administration Seven Months After Working In The Administration**

**Claimed She Worked At K&L Gates From September 2007 To December 2008.** According to Denise Gitsham’s Linkedin, Gitsham claimed she worked at K&L Gates as an Associate from September 2007 to December 2008**.** [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed [11/05/15](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/denise-gitsham/3/b7b/349)]

**… But Reported On Official Lobbying Forms Working As A Lobbyist From July 1, 2006 To 2009.** Denise Gitsham appeared on lobbyist database from end of 2006 till the beginning of 2009. During that time she lobbied the House and the Senate as well as the White House. She also lobbied many different departments and agencies, including Treasury, Defense, Energy, Agriculture, Homeland Security, State, Veterans Affairs, Labor, HHS, FAA, OMB, US Trade and Maritime Administration. She also lobbied the Justice Department, where she had previously worked. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**K&L Gates Was Recognized As One Of The Ten Best Lobbying Firms In DC When Gitsham Worked There.**  “The international law firm Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP (K&L Gates) has been named one of the top 10 lobbying practices in the country for the second consecutive year in the annual survey of the 50 highest-grossing lobbying practices by Washington, D.C., legal publication Legal Times. The 2008 Influence 50 Report, released by the Legal Times this week, ranks K&L Gates sixth among the nation’s law firms and lobbying shops in revenue from lobbying work in 2007.” [K&L Gates, [3/18/08](http://www.klgates.com/kl-gates-again-recognized-as-one-of-leading-lobbying-firms-03-18-2008/)]

**Claimed She Worked At Department Of Justice From 2004 To 2005.** According to Denise Gitsham’s Linkedin, Gitsham claimed she worked at the Department of Justice as the Associate Director at the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison. [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed 11/05/15]

### After Leaving K&L Gates, Worked At The Director Of Corporate Affairs For Sapphire Energy

**After Leaving K&L Gates, Worked At The Director Of Corporate Affairs For Sapphire Energy.** “Denise also worked in both Washington DC and San Diego as Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel at Sapphire Energy, the world’s leading algae-based biofuel company. During her tenure at Sapphire, she led industry efforts to establish a national interest in algae, as well as a public-private association focused on establishing a domestic renewable crude industry.” [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed [11/05/15](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/denise-gitsham/3/b7b/349)]

**Sapphire Energy Created A Plant, While Gitsham Worked There, That Converted Algae Into Biofuel.** “Raymond Murdock, 24, recently moved from Phoenix to Silver City in August and has been looking for work ever since, he said. He said he’s looking for something in the agriculture, education, wellness or sustainability realm, and stopped at the Sapphire Energy booth to see what they had available. The company, based in San Diego, is hiring for a new plant under construction in Columbus, where they will convert algae into biofuel, said Denise Gitsham, the company’s director of corporate affairs and legislative counsel.” [Silver City Sun-News, 11/11/11]

**Sapphire Created The Largest Algae Development Facility.**  “It was a fair question: Is there any place else in the desert where more algae can be found than Sapphire Energy’s research and development facility at the West Mesa Industrial Park. Denise Gitsham, Sapphire’s director of corporate affairs and legislative council, didn’t pause with the answer. ‘No,’ Gitsham said. ‘There are algae farms, particularly in California, but not for this kind of purpose.’ Gitsham and Bryn Davis, New Mexico operations manager for Sapphire, led U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., on a tour Tuesday of the company’s West Mesa facility. Davis mused that the tour was a crash course in ‘Algae 101,’ as Udall and others who tagged along got a quick overview of Sapphire’s work to convert algae into biofuel.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/17/10]

**Praised Sapphire Energy For Working Against Big Oil.** “The company I moved to San Diego to work for, Sapphire Energy, is enormously disruptive to Big Oil’s monopoly on our transportation fuel economy. Sapphire produces algae-based crude oil that is molecularly identical to the fossil-based crude we refine our transportation fuels from today. With global energy demands on the rise, and geopolitical instability in the Middle East an ever-looming threat, America can no longer afford to remain dependent on foreign oil. Sapphire offers a significant and impactful way for our nation to strengthen our national, energy, and economic security, and incidentally disrupts Big Oil’s chokehold on our energy portfolio.” [Disruptive Thinkers, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]

**Passed The Bar In Washington DC**

**Passed The Bar In Washington DC.**  “Denise is a California native, a graduate of Bowdoin College, and a Georgetown University Law Center almuna, licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia.” [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed [11/05/15](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/denise-gitsham/3/b7b/349)]

… Toxic Chemical Company

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Lobbied Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on behalf of flame retardant company Supresta while CPSC staff answered company’s public comments disputing the finding of chemical, TDCP, it produced to be toxic* * *In comments Supresta submitted to CPSC concerning toxicity of chemical it produced,* *company* *disputed commission’s measurement of flame retardant TDCP’s “cancer potency” in upholstered furniture; National Cancer Institute, WHO identified TDCP as “cancer risk”* * *While lobbying CPSC on behalf of Supresta, commission stated “TDCP is a probable human carcinogen,” a statement which the company believed “should be deleted”* * *Lobbied on behalf of flame retardant manufacturer on bill reauthorizing Consumer Products Safety Commission(CPSC) while provision was being considered in bill to pre-empt state laws such as the one passed by California banning “controversial flame retardant”* *PBDE* * *Lobbied for company that produced one of main types of flame retardant PBDE, which became more toxic to humans and the environment as it degraded* * *Lobbied on behalf of flame retardant producer concerning oversight of CPSC “with respect to upholstered furniture flammability,” while CPSC staff recommended that flame retardants were not required* * *Lobbied CPSC on behalf of flame retardant producer concerning commission’s oversight of upholstered furniture flammability, while commission staff wrote that flame retardants posed “appreciable chemical-related health or environmental risks”* |

**Gitsham lobbied on behalf of a chemical manufacturer that downplayed the toxicity and cancer potency of a chemical it produced. From July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006, Gitsham lobbied on behalf of Supresta regarding oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) “with respect to upholstered furniture flammability” while the commission considered Supresta’s public comments on the commission’s report finding that a chemical it produced, TDCP, was potentially toxic. The report was released in January 2006 by commission staff, assessing flame retardant chemicals and its potential toxic effects on humans, specifically testing the toxicity of foam treated with the Supresta-produced TDCP to find if it was toxic. The commission would find the chemical to be “toxic,” among other things. Although Gitsham lobbied on flame retardant chemicals for Supresta in front of the CPSC during this period, it is not known whether Gitsham specifically contributed to the aforementioned public comments.**

**Following the release of the report, Supresta was the only chemical company to submit public comments on the commission’s assessment. The commission released and publicly responded to the comments in December 2006, while Gitsham reported lobbying for the company on the commission’s oversight of flame retardants in upholstered furniture. According to the commission, in the public comments, the company suggested changes to the commission’s measurement of flame retardant chemical, TDCP, which would have “significantly” reduced its “cancer potency.” Furthermore, the company disputed the CPSC’s assertion that TDCP was “toxic” and that it was “a probable human carcinogen” writing that the sentence “should be deleted.” The company disputed these findings despite the World Health Organization, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Research Council identifying the chemical as a “cancer risk.”**

**Additionally, Supresta took issue with the commission’s finding that TDCP contained “reproductive toxicity.” The commission then clarified that the retardant was found to have “general organ toxicity” and not “reproductive toxicity” as it had a negative effect on rat testes. However, after extensive research, a date could not be found as to when Supresta actually submitted the comments to the commission so it is not clear whether Gitsham lobbied on behalf of the company on this exact issue.**

**The toxicity of flame retardants has been well-established in recent years, with the Chicago Tribune publishing a five part series on flame retardants and the chemical industry. The newspaper wrote in one installment wrote that the chemicals were “linked to cancer, neurological deficits, developmental problems and impaired fertility.” The Chicago Tribune continued that “people might be willing to accept the health risks if the flame retardants packed into sofas and easy chairs worked as promised. But they don’t.”**

### Lobbied On Behalf Of Flame Retardant Producer To Fight Effort To Regulate Toxic Flame Retardants In Upholstered Furniture

**July 1, 2006 To December 31, 2006: Lobbied On Behalf Of Supresta In Regards To “Oversight Of US Consumer Product Safety Commission With Respect To Upholstered Furniture.”** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission on behalf of Supresta in regard to “Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture,” between the periods July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [07/01/06-12/31/06](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=aeb00ef9-6173-46bc-bb1a-9b6986ad6aa1&filingTypeID=9)]

**July 1, 2007 To December 31, 2007: Lobbied On Behalf Of Supresta In Regards To “Oversight Of US Consumer Product Safety Commission With Respect To Upholstered Furniture,” As Well As Legislation Regarding Upholstered Furniture Flammability** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission on behalf of Supresta in regard to “Oversight of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability. Legislation to reauthorize Consumer Product Safety Commission,” between the periods July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [07/01/06-12/31/06](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=aeb00ef9-6173-46bc-bb1a-9b6986ad6aa1&filingTypeID=9)]

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| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Supresta | Year End 2006 | $60,000 | US House; Senate; Consumer Product Safety Commission | Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Supresta | Year End 2007 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Consumer Product Safety Commission | Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability; Legislation to reauthorize consumer product safety commission |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

### Israeli Chemicals Ltd. Press Release: Supresta Was World’s Largest Producer Of Phosphorus Flame Retardants

**Israeli Chemicals Ltd. Press Release: Supresta Was World’s Largest Producer Of Phosphorus Flame Retardants.** “Israel Chemicals Ltd. (‘ICL’) (TASE:ICL), a multinational fertilizer and specialty chemicals company, today announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire U.S.-based Supresta LLC (‘Supresta’), the world's largest producer of phosphorus-based flame retardants and other products made from phosphorus.” [Israel Chemicals Ltd. Press Release, [6/25/07](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/icl-to-acquire-supresta-the-worlds-largest-producer-of-phosphorus-flame-retardants-58286472.html)]

### Lobbied CPSC On Behalf Of Supresta While Commission Answered Its Public Comments On Commission’s Preliminary Assessment Of Flame Retardant Finding Chemical It Produced Was Toxic; CPSC: Company “Suggest Changes” Which “Would Significantly Reduce TDCP’s Cancer Potency”

*Gitsham lobbied CPSC on behalf of Supresta potentially while it downplayed CPSC staff finding that chemical it produced was toxic. A FOIA was sent into the Commission to determine the date the public comments were submitted by Supresta and no records were found.*

**December 2006: Supresta’s Public Comments On CPSC Completed Draft Risk Assessment Of Flame Retardant Chemicals In Upholstered Furniture Foam Regarding Estimated Flame Retardant Exposure To Humans Were Responded To By CPSC.** “The CPSC staff completed a draft risk assessment on the use of flame retardant (FR) chemicals in upholstered furniture foam in January 2006 (Babich et al. 2006). The risk assessment was part of the January 2006 Briefing Package on Upholstered Furniture. Supresta LLC, a manufacturer of FR chemicals, submitted technical comments on the risk assessment. No other public comments were received. The staff has made appropriate revisions to the risk assessment (Babich 2006), based on comments from peer reviewers and Supresta LLC. Below are the staffs responses to the public comments submitted by Supresta LLC. Many of the comments submitted by Supresta LLC involved the factors used to estimate exposure, such as the surface area exposed and the fabric to skin transfer factor. The CPSC staff made several of the suggested changes, which reduced the estimated dermal exposure somewhat.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

**Supresta Only Company to Submit Public Comments.** “The CPSC staff completed a draft risk assessment on the use of flame retardant (FR) chemicals in upholstered furniture foam in January 2006 (Babich et al. 2006). The risk assessment was part of the January 2006 Briefing Package on Upholstered Furniture. Supresta LLC, a manufacturer of FR chemicals, submitted technical comments on the risk assessment. No other public comments were received.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

**CPSC Responded To Stakeholder Comments And Recommendations Regarding Flame Retardant In November And December 2006 Status Reports.** “The Commission received a variety of stakeholder comments and recommendations following the release of the staff's January 2006 briefing package. The staff responded to a number of these comments, regarding testing, economic and FR chemical issues in the November and December 2006 status reports.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, [11/20/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88331/ufflamm.pdf)]

**Draft Risk Assessment Was A “Preliminary Assessment Of The Potential Health Risks Associated” With Use Of Flame Retardant Chemicals In Upholstered Furniture.** “The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff developed a draft performance. standard to address the hazards associated with fires involving residential upholstered furniture. Manufacturers are likely to treat some products with flame retardant (FR) chemicals if the draft standard is adopted. The CPSC staff previously assessed the potential health risks associated with the use of FR chemicals in upholstered furniture cover fabrics. In this report, the CPSC staff presents a preliminary assessment of the potential health risks associated with the use of selected FR chemicals in upholstered furniture foam.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

**2006 Data: Supresta Manufactured Chemicals Containing TDCP.** According to the National Institute of Health Toxicology Data Network, Supresta manufactured TDCP or Tri-Phosphate. The data was based off 2006 information from the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Inventory Update Reporting.” [National Institute of Health, Toxicology Data Network, 2006 Data, Last Reviewed [6/17/13](http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/search/a?dbs+hsdb:@term+@DOCNO+8112)]

**2008: Supresta President And Chief Executive Officer Said He “Was Not A Toxicologist,” And Was Not “Really Qualified To Answer The Questions,” As To Chemical’s Harmfulness.** “A flame retardant that was taken out of children’s pajamas more than 30 years ago after it was found to cause cancer is being used with increasing regularity in furniture, paint — even baby carriers and bassinets — and manufacturers are under no obligation to let the public know about it. The chemical, known as chlorinated Tris, one of the three most commonly used flame retardants, is considered harmful by several international and national health and regulatory agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the World Health Organization and the Consumer Product Safety Commission…. A company called Supresta, based in Ardsley, N.Y., bought the division that makes chlorinated Tris. Supresta is now owned by Israel Chemical Limited. Richard Hooper, Supresta's president and chief executive officer, said no one at the company's American facility worked for AkzoNobel when the company submitted its description of the chemical to the EPA in 2001. He said he was not a toxicologist and, therefore, not ‘really qualified to answer the questions.’ He said he was not able to find anyone who could remember anything about the company's submission to the EPA seven years ago.” [Journal Sentinel, [7/13/08](http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/29483109.html)]

### Chicago Tribune: “World Health Organization, The National Cancer Institute, National Research Council And CPSC Identified TDCP As A Cancer Risk”

**Chicago Tribune: “World Health Organization, The National Cancer Institute, National Research Council And CPSC Identified TDCP As A Cancer Risk.”** “There are several kinds of flame retardants used in foam. Chemical manufacturers have said chlorinated tris is safe, but the Tribune chose to test for tris because the science showing potential harm is well documented. The World Health Organization, the National Cancer Institute, the National Research Council and the safety commission have identified TDCPP as a cancer risk. Safety commission researchers in 2006 cautioned that adding TDCPP to upholstered furniture could expose children in their first two years of life to a cancer risk seven times higher than what most scientists and regulators consider acceptable.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/28/12](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-12-28/news/ct-met-flames-test-mattress-20121228_1_tdcpp-heather-stapleton-chlorinated-tris/2)]

**California’s Requirement That Upholstery Fabric Be Resistant To Smoldering Cigarettes Eliminated Need For Flame Retardants.** “Many leading furniture retailers say they already have stopped adding flame retardants to the foam cushions of upholstered furniture. Any that do must attach a label required under a California law prompted by the Tribune investigation. California officials also revamped the state's flammability standards to require upholstery fabric to resist smoldering cigarettes, the leading cause of furniture fires. Trade groups for furniture makers say the changes eliminated the need for flame retardants targeted by the safety commission petition.” [Chicago Tribune, [9/25/15](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/ct-flame-retardants-toxic-chemicals-met-20150925-story.html)]

### CPSC: “TDCP Is A Probable Human Carcinogen”

**CPSC: “TDCP Is A Probable Human Carcinogen.” “**Response: The staff agrees that TDCP is only weakly genotoxic. However, this does not alter our conclusion that TDCP is a probable human carcinogen, as defined in the CPSC chronic hazard guidelines (CPSC 1992). Increased incidence or decreased time to occurrence of spontaneously occurring tumors is generally regarded as evidence of a carcinogenic effect (CPSC 1992).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### In Public Comments, Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Statement That TDCP Was “A Probable Human Carcinogen” Saying It “Should Be Deleted”

**Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Statement That TDCP Was “A Probable Human Carcinogen” Saying It “Should Be Deleted.”** “Comment: TDCP - Genotoxicity/Carcinogenicity… In that same paragraph, the statement that TDCP is a probable human carcinogen should be deleted, based on a lack of genotoxicity in vivo and a lack of a significant incidence of malignant tumors in any tissue. The exacerbation in the incidence of normally occurring benign tumors late in life should not be interpreted as carcinogenic activity. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that TDCP is a probable human carcinogen.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### In Assessment, CPSC Staff Tested Foam Treated With Tris Phosphate (TDCP), Which Is Also Known As Chlorinated Tris

**In Assessment, CPSC Staff Tested Foam Treated With Tris Phosphate (TDCP).** “FR-treated foam samples that were available to the CPSC staff for testing included those with three different FR chemicals or mixtures that could be used to meet the draft standard: melamine (108-78-1); tris(l,3-dichloro-2-propy1)phosphate (TDCP) (13674-87-8); and FiremasterTM 550 (FM-550TM). FM-550TM is a mixture containing triphenyl phosphate (TPP) (1 145-86-6), phenol isopropylated phosphate (PIP) (68937-41-7), and octyl tetrabromobenzoate (OTB).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

**Tris Phosphate Was Made Up Of 1,3 Dichloro-2-Propyl.** “FR-treated foam samples that were available to the CPSC staff for testing included those with three different FR chemicals or mixtures that could be used to meet the draft standard: melamine (108-78-1); tris(l,3-dichloro-2-propy1)phosphate (TDCP) (13674-87-8); and FiremasterTM 550 (FM-550TM). FM-550TM is a mixture containing triphenyl phosphate (TPP) (1 145-86-6), phenol isopropylated phosphate (PIP) (68937-41-7), and octyl tetrabromobenzoate (OTB).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### 2011, Los Angeles Times: California Passed Law Placing Chemical On List Of “Cancer-Causing Chemicals”

**2011, Los Angeles Times: California Passed Law Placing Chemical On List Of “Cancer-Causing Chemicals.”** “A state science panel voted Wednesday to place a commonly used flame retardant on California's Proposition 65 list of cancer-causing chemicals. The action does not ban chlorinated Tris (TDCPP), which is found in foam furniture cushions, auto seats and a variety of baby products, but it will require warning labels that the products contain carcinogens.” [Los Angeles Times, [10/12/11](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/10/flame-retardant-prop-65-listing-.html)]

### Supresta Suggested Changes To Product Safety Commission’s Measurement Of Flame Retardant Chemical Which Would Have “Significantly” Reduced It’s “Cancer Potency”

**Supresta Suggested Changes To Product Safety Commission’s Measurement Of Flame Retardant Chemical Which Would Have “Significantly” Reduced It’s “Cancer Potency.”** “Many of the comments submitted by Supresta LLC involved the factors used to estimate exposure, such as the surface area exposed and the fabric to skin transfer factor. The CPSC staff made several of the suggested changes, which reduced the estimated dermal exposure somewhat. Supresta also commented on the staffs methods for assessing the dose response of TDCP, and suggested changes that would significantly reduce TDCP's cancer potency. The staff disagreed with these comments and did not make the suggested changes. As a result of the changes made in response to the public and peer review comments, the relative contribution of inhalation to total exposure increased. However, the overall conclusions of the risk assessment did not change…. Comment: ‘The draft CPSC report compares the health risks associated with two commercial flame retardant products, tris(l,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCP) and FiremasterTM 550 (FM-550) which consists of a mixture of triphenyl phosphate (TPP), isopropylated triaryl phosphate (ITP), and a proprietary brominated aryl phosphate ester (BAEs).’ \*” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### Supresta Submitted Public Comment Disagreeing With CPSC’s Assertion That TDCP Was “Toxic”

**Supresta Submitted Public Comment Disagreeing With CPSC’s Assertion That Flame Retardant TDCP Was “Toxic.”** “Tris(l,3.Dichloro. 2.Propyl) Phosphate (TDCP) ….Comment: ‘On page 3 of the draft report, the first paragraph under Hazard Identification states "TDCP is acutely toxic by oral administration." This implies that TDCP's oral LD50 is significantly different from that of ITP, melamine, and other flame retardants. The oral LD50 for almost all of the phosphate ester flame retardants is above 2000 mgkg, indicating low acute oral toxicity. In a 1999 CPSC review of TDCP, Ferrante listed rat acute oral LD50 values of 2.83 gkg (Celanese study), 3.6 gkg (Stauffer study) and 2.36 gkg (CPSC study) (1). An acute oral LD50 test conducted in 1985 in full GLP compliance provides a TDCP oral LD50 of 2.36 g/kg (2). I thus suggest CPSC change the ‘ acutely toxic" language for TDCP.’ Response: As stated by the comrnenter, TDCP has an oral LDso less than 5,000 mgkg. Therefore, it is ‘toxic,’ as defined by Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) regulations. 16 CFR 1500.3 (c)(l).” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Assertion That Flame Retardant TDCP Contained “Reproductive Toxicity”; CPSC Clarified That Retardant Was Found To Have “General Organ Toxicity” And Not “Reproductive Toxicity” As It Had Negative Effect On Rat Testes

**Supresta Disputed CPSC’s Assertion That Flame Retardant TDCP Contained “Reproductive Toxicity; CPSC Clarified That Retardant Was Found To Have “General Organ Toxicity” And Not “Reproductive Toxicity” As It Had Negative Effect On Rat Testes.** “Tris(l,3.Dichloro. 2.Propyl) Phosphate (TDCP) …Comment: ‘On page 3, TDCP is alleged to have reproductive toxicity and is "considered probably toxic to humans" based solely on changes observed in the testes of aging rats in a chronic cancer bioassay. I believe the available data do not support classification as a possible reproductive toxin. In a GLP-compliant fertility study, male rabbits received daily doses of up to 200 mglkglday for 12 weeks prior to mating (3,4).’ Response: The AD1 was based on histopathological effects in the testes, not reproductive function. This is better described as general organ toxicity, rather than reproductive toxicity. This is the same endpoint used by the NRC subcommittee (NRC 2000). The testicular effects were seen in a chronic study in rats, while the reproductive study was of short duration and in a different species. The revised risk assessment explains this point more clearly.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### 2007: Lobbied CPSC On Behalf Of Supresta Potentially On Commission Staff Released Report On Upholstered Furniture Flammability Which Found That Flammability Rule Would Not Require Flame Retardants In Furniture

**2007 CPSC: “Regulatory Alternatives For Upholstered Furniture Flammability” By CPSC Staff: “CSPC Flammability Rule Would Be A Performance Standard, Would Not Specify Or Require Any,” Flame Retardants.** “CPSC staff CPSC staff’s objective: reduce fire risk s objective: reduce fire risk without imposing chemical risks without imposing chemical risks… CPSC flammability rule would be a CPSC flammability rule would be a performance standard, would not specify performance standard, would not specify or require any FRs or require any FRs” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Regulatory Alternatives for Upholstered Furniture Flammability, CPSC Staff Briefing, [12/06/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88325/altufflamm.pdf)]

**2007 CPSC: “Regulatory Alternatives For Upholstered Furniture Flammability” By CPSC Staff: Under 2007 Alternative Draft Standard, “Manufacturers & Importers Would Likely Choose Options That Do Not Involve” Flame Retardants In Fabrics. “**Under 2007 alternative draft standard, Under 2007 alternative draft standard, manufacturers & importers would likely choose manufacturers & importers would likely choose options that do not involve FR additive use in options that do not involve FR additive use in fabrics or filling materials fabrics or filling materials” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Regulatory Alternatives for Upholstered Furniture Flammability, CPSC Staff Briefing, [12/06/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88325/altufflamm.pdf)]

**CPSC Staff Conclusions: “Staff’s Alternative Draft Would Require No FR Additives.”** “CPSC Staff Conclusions… Increased fire safety can be achieved without posing appreciable chemical without posing appreciable chemical-related health or environmental risks related health or environmental risks… Staff ’s 2007 alternative draft would require no s 2007 alternative draft would require no FR additives; mattress FR additives; mattress-technology FR barriers technology FR barriers could be used” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Regulatory Alternatives for Upholstered Furniture Flammability, CPSC Staff Briefing, [12/06/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88325/altufflamm.pdf)]

### Chicago Tribune: Flame Retardants Were “Linked To Cancer, Neurological Deficits, Developmental Problems And Impaired Fertility”

**Chicago Tribune: Flame Retardants Were “Linked To Cancer, Neurological Deficits, Developmental Problems And Impaired Fertility.”** “Before California lawmakers last year, the noted burn surgeon drew gasps from the crowd as he described a 7-week-old baby girl who was burned in a fire started by a candle while she lay on a pillow that lacked flame retardant chemicals. ‘Now this is a tiny little person, no bigger than my Italian greyhound at home,’ said Heimbach, gesturing to approximate the baby's size. ‘Half of her body was severely burned. She ultimately died after about three weeks of pain and misery in the hospital.’… Records show there was no dangerous pillow or candle fire. The baby he described didn't exist…. Heimbach is not just a prominent burn doctor. He is a star witness for the manufacturers of flame retardants. His testimony, the Tribune found, is part of a decades-long campaign of deception that has loaded the furniture and electronics in American homes with pounds of toxic chemicals linked to cancer, neurological deficits, developmental problems and impaired fertility. The tactics started with Big Tobacco, which wanted to shift focus away from cigarettes as the cause of fire deaths, and continued as chemical companies worked to preserve a lucrative market for their products, according to a Tribune review of thousands of government, scientific and internal industry documents.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/06/12](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-flame-retardants-20120506-story.html)]

### New York Times, 2012: “More Disturbingly, A Recent Study Of Toddlers In The United States At Duke University Found Flame Retardants In The Blood Of Every Child Tested”

**New York Times, 2012: “More Disturbingly, A Recent Study Of Toddlers In The United States At Duke University Found Flame Retardants In The Blood Of Every Child Tested.”** “Since 1975, an obscure California agency called the Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation has mandated that the foam inside upholstered furniture be able to withstand exposure to a small flame, like a candle or cigarette lighter, for 12 seconds without igniting. … he state’s size makes it impractical for furniture makers to keep separate inventories for different markets, so about 80 percent of the home furniture and most of the upholstered office furniture sold in the United States complies with California’s regulation. ‘We live in a foam-filled world, and a lot of the foam is filled with these chemicals,’ Blum says. … Most disturbingly, a recent study of toddlers in the United States conducted by researchers at Duke University found flame retardants in the blood of every child they tested.” [New York Times, [9/09/12](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/magazine/arlene-blums-crusade-against-household-toxins.html)]

### 2011: Dr. Jerome Paulson, a George Washington University Pediatrician: “We Know These Flame Retardants Are Hazardous”

**2011: Dr. Jerome Paulson, a George Washington University Pediatrician: “We Know These Flame Retardants Are Hazardous.”** “Because they are smaller than adults and their bodies are still developing, children face greater risks from exposure to toxic chemicals, said Dr. Jerome Paulson, a George Washington University pediatrician. Last year, Paulson wrote an American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement calling for a sweeping overhaul of the nation's chemical safety law to protect children. ‘We know these flame retardants are hazardous,’ he said in an interview. ‘The fact that you found these chemicals in crib mattresses is evidence of an ongoing problem that we as a nation have been unwilling to confront.’” [Chicago Tribune, [12/28/12](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-12-28/news/ct-met-flames-test-mattress-20121228_1_tdcpp-heather-stapleton-chlorinated-tris)]

### Chicago Tribune: “Chemical Industry Has Manipulated Scientific Findings To Promote The Widespread Use Of Flame Retardants And Downplay The Health Risks”

**Chicago Tribune: “Chemical Industry Has Maniupulated Scientific Findings To Promote The Widespread Use Of Flame Retardants And Downplay The Health Risks.”** “The misuse of Babrauskas' work is but one example of how the chemical industry has manipulated scientific findings to promote the widespread use of flame retardants and downplay the health risks, a Tribune investigation shows. The industry has twisted research results, ignored findings that run counter to its aims and passed off biased, industry-funded reports as rigorous science.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/09/12](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-flames-science-20120509-story.html)]

### Chicago Tribune: “People Might Be Willing To Accept The Health Risks If The Flame Retardants Packed Into Sofas And Easy Chairs Worked As Promised. But They Don’t”

**Chicago Tribune: “People Might Be Willing To Accept The Health Risks If The Flame Retardants Packed Into Sofas And Easy Chairs Worked As Promised. But They Don’t.”** “People might be willing to accept the health risks if the flame retardants packed into sofas and easy chairs worked as promised. But they don't. The chemical industry often points to a government study from the 1980s as proof that flame retardants save lives. But the study's lead author, Vytenis Babrauskas, said in an interview that the industry has grossly distorted his findings and that the amount of retardants used in household furniture doesn't work. ‘The fire just laughs at it,’ he said.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/06/12](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-flame-retardants-20120506-story.html)]

### New York Times: “Nowhere Has The Fight Over Flame Retardants Been More Bitter Or More Expensive Than In California”

**New York Times: “Nowhere Has The Fight Over Flame Retardants Been More Bitter Or More Expensive Than In California.”** “Six years after Blum encountered Luedeka at that first meeting, flame retardants are at the center of a national debate. “Generations of Americans have been asked to tolerate exposure to potentially toxic chemicals in their furniture in the name of fire safety,” Senator Dick Durbin said when he led a hearing on the chemicals in July. At the same hearing, James J. Jones, an administrator with the E.P.A., cited flame retardants as “a clear illustration” of all that is wrong with the Toxic Substances Control Act, the federal law that governs the use of chemicals. Several states, including New York, have proposed bans on chlorinated Tris. (So far unsuccessfully, for the most part.) But nowhere has the fight over flame retardants been more bitter or more expensive than in California.” [New York Times, [9/09/12](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/magazine/arlene-blums-crusade-against-household-toxins.html?_r=0)]

**June 2012: Governor Jerry Brown Directed Bureau Of Home Furnishings In California To No Longer Mandate Chemical Flame Retardants.** “There was other good news too. In June, the governor of California, Jerry Brown, directed the Bureau of Home Furnishings to begin the process of revising TB 117 so that chemical flame retardants are no longer mandated. A draft of the new regulation, which is similar to the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s smolder standard, was released in July and could be in effect by this time next year.” [New York Times, [9/09/12](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/magazine/arlene-blums-crusade-against-household-toxins.html?_r=0)]

### Lobbied On Behalf Of Supresta Potentially On Provision In Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Bill Would Have Pre-Empted State Law Banning Use Of “Controversial Flame Retardant, Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE)

**October 30, 2007: Bill To Strengthen Consumer Product Safety Commission Did Not Include A Provision Pre-Empting State Law Banning Use Of “Controversial Flame Retardant,”** **Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE).** “A bill in Congress to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission won't include a provision to override a state law banning the use of a controversial flame retardant. Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat, won a promise from the bill's author that an amendment pre-empting the state's prohibition against polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) would not be added to the legislation. The Senate Commerce Committee, on which Cantwell serves, is scheduled to vote on the bill today. The legislation is the most significant revision of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) since 1990. It could affect thousands of products, including toys, all-terrain vehicles, furniture, mattresses and imports from China…. Last week, manufacturers and retailers tried to insert a provision to pre-empt a law passed by the Washington state Legislature in April to ban the use or manufacture of PBDE.” [Seattle Times, [10/30/07](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/state-ban-on-flame-retardant-remains-intact/)]

### Seattle Times: “Some Division Of The Chemical Industry Had Pushed For The Provision Pre-Empting The State Ban”

**Seattle Times: “Some Division Of The Chemical Industry Had Pushed For The Provision Pre-Empting The State Ban.”** “A bill in Congress to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission won’t include a provision to override a state law banning the use of a controversial flame retardant…. Some divisions of the chemical industry had pushed for the provision pre-empting the state ban, but Cantwell persuaded Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., the bill’s sponsor, to stop them.” [Seattle Times, [10/30/07](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/state-ban-on-flame-retardant-remains-intact/)]

**Bill Would Raise Fines On Manufacturers Who Violated Safety Standards By As Much As $100 Million.** “A bill in Congress to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission won't include a provision to override a state law banning the use of a controversial flame retardant…. It would raise fines on manufacturers who violate safety standards to as much as $100 million, from the current cap of $1.83 million, and increase the CPSC's budget for staff investigators. Retailers contend that the bill would add onerous product-safety regulations. The Bush administration and CPSC officials say it would cost too much.” [Seattle Times, 10/30/07]

**Bill Would Allow Consumer Product Safety Commission To Release Publicly Internal Information It Received From Companies Concerning Defective Products.** “But the increased fines are controversial, as is a provision to allow the CPSC to make public internal information it gets from companies about defective products.” [Seattle Times, 10/30/07]

### California Had Banned “Controversial Flame Retardant,” Penta And Octa-Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE)

**California Had Banned “Controversial Flame Retardant,” Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE).** “A bill in Congress to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission won't include a provision to override a state law banning the use of a controversial flame retardant. Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat, won a promise from the bill's author that an amendment pre-empting the state's prohibition against polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) would not be added to the legislation. The Senate Commerce Committee, on which Cantwell serves, is scheduled to vote on the bill today. The legislation is the most significant revision of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) since 1990. It could affect thousands of products, including toys, all-terrain vehicles, furniture, mattresses and imports from China” [Seattle Times, 10/30/07]

**National Council Of State Legislatures: California Banned Use Of Pena-BDE And Octa-BDE.** “California West's Ann.Cal.Health & Safety Code § 108920 to 108923…Prohibits a person from manufacturing, processing or distributing a product, or a flame- retarded part of a product, containing more than one-tenth of 1 percent of pentaBDE or octaBDE, except for products containing small quantities of PBDEs that are produced or used for scientific research on the health or environmental effects of PBDEs.” [National Conference of State Legislatures, Accessed [1/13/16](http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/flame-retardants-in-consumer-products.aspx)]

### Supresta Manufactured One Of Main Types Of PBDEs, Deca-BDE, Which Became More Toxic As It Broke Down

**Supresata Manufactured Deca-BDE.** “Chemical manufacturers who make Deca-BDE and other flame retardants (Akzo Nobel (Supresta), Albemarle Corp., Great Lakes Chemical Corp. and Clariant).” [Washington State Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Chemical Action Plan: Final Plan, [1/19/06](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/0507048.pdf)]

**Deca-PDE Was One Of Three Main Types Of PBDEs.** “There are three main types of PBDEs used in consumer products: Penta-BDE, Octa-BDE and Deca-BDE. Each has different uses and different toxicity. In 2001, the total PBDE volume worldwide was estimated at over 67,000 metric tons, including 56,100 metric tons of Deca-BDE. Manufacturers of Penta- and Octa-BDE in the U.S. agreed to voluntarily stop producing these two forms of PBDEs at the end of 2004.” [Washington State Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Chemical Action Plan: Final Plan, [1/19/06](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/0507048.pdf)]

**Washington State Department Of Ecology**: **“Deca-BDE Is Likely To Breakdown In The Environment To More Toxic And Bioaccumulative Forms Of PBDEs.”** “Deca-BDE is likely to breakdown in the environment to more toxic and bioaccumulative forms of PBDEs” [Washington State Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Chemical Action Plan: Final Plan, [1/19/06](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/0507048.pdf)]

**Washington State Department Of Ecology: As Deca-BDE Degraded, It Became More Toxic To Humans And The Environment.** “Even at the time the Interim PBDE CAP was published, Ecology and DOH’s research indicated that while Deca-BDE in its original form is considered relatively safe, it is likely to degrade into more toxic forms. A more in-depth review (presented in Chapter IV) continues to reinforce this assumption. The degradation of Deca-BDE is central to Ecology and DOH’s concern about the human health and environmental safety of this flame retardant.” c[Washington State Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Chemical Action Plan: Final Plan, [1/19/06](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/0507048.pdf)]

**Washington Department Of Ecology: “Potentially Serious Health And Environmental Consequences As The Amounts Of PBDE’s Increase, Such As Neurotoxicity.”** “There are potentially serious health and environmental consequences as the amounts of PBDEs increase, such as neurotoxicity (i.e. effects to neurological development from exposures to unborn and newborn infants), leading to impacts on behavior, learning and memory. Other health effects may include bone malformations, reproductive impacts, and liver disorders.”

### December 2006: Supresta Recognized The Toxicity Of The Flame Retardant California Banned And Argued For The CPSC To Classify It As Toxic

**California Banned Polybrominated Diphenyl Used In Flame Retardants.** “A bill in Congress to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission won't include a provision to override a state law banning the use of a controversial flame retardant. Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat, won a promise from the bill's author that an amendment pre-empting the state's prohibition against polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) would not be added to the legislation.” [Seattle Times, 10/30/07]

**Supresta Recognized The Toxicity Of Polybrominated Diphenyl And Questioned Why CPSC Did Not Classify It As Toxic.** “Comment: ‘1 believe there are several publications that show brominated flame retardants express significant toxicity. For example, recent studies have shown that the polybrominated diphenyl ether flame retardants adversely affect the central nervous system. They disrupt behavior and impair learning and memory, especially after neonatal exposure (1 6, 17). The brominated phosphate esters cause genetic recombination in mammalian cells, which can result in various forms of mutation (1 8). A recent publication by EPA scientists expresses concern over the use of brominated flame retardants after finding significant levels in human tissues and in the environment (19). Recognizing that several brominated flame retardants have neurotoxic and mutagenic activity, how can the CPSC conclude they do not fit the definition of toxic? If FM-550 is to be considered one of the major flame retardants approved for furniture, a responsible course of action would be to require the manufacturer to provide base set toxicity data on the BAEs, either via a SNUR or a consent agreement.’” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Staff Preliminary Risk Assessment of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Upholstered Furniture Foam, [12/21/06](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/106736/ufurn2.pdf)]

### July 2007: Representative Of Supresta Voiced Support For California’s Open Flame Requirements, Which Was A Flammability Method

**July 2007: Representative Of Supresta Voiced Support For California’s Open Flame Requirements** “Mark Buczek, Supresta I American Fire Safety Council I Alliance for the Polyurethanes Industry I American Chemistry Council …The AHFA, PFA, AFMA, NCC and NTA industry participants favored a recommendation, articulated by Mr. Ziolkowski and Mr. Counts, that CPSC propose a rule that would address the smolder resistance of upholstered furniture and that would preempt potentially conflicting state regulations. The AHFA representatives' recommended approach for such a rule would be to implement the existing UFAC voluntary guidelines, in accordance with existing ASTM 1353 smoldering ignition test metliods referenced in the UFAC guidelines. Citing the technical complexity of open flame ignition testing, they also suggested that the group recommend that further research be conducted on open flame resistance for future consideration. Mr. Long and sonie other participants voiced concerns about the potential use of flame retardant (FR) chemical additives that might be used to meet any open flame requirements in a standard; some participants specifically opposed any recommendation that could lead to any increase in FR use in upholstered furniture. They stated their general support for the AHFA recommendations based on the presumption that the use of FR additives would not be encouraged …. Mr. Buczek stated his opposition to 'any course that would reduce the current level of safety,' referring to the likelihood that the open flame requirements of existing Califorr~ia regulations would be pre-empted by a CPSC smolder-resistance rule. He indicated that neither AFSC nor API would concur with AHFA1s recommendation. Mr. Ray noted that these views, like those of the AHFA supporters, reflected existing comments on the record.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Upholstered Furniture Flammability Stakeholder Meeting, [7/25/07](https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/88331/ufflamm.pdf)]

**2013: California’s Change From Open Flame Testing Of Upholstered Furniture To Smolder Resistance Of Cover Fabrics Allowed Furniture Makers To Not Make Products Containing Flame Retardants.** “California has revised its controversial Technical Bulletin 117 and adopted a new flammability standard that should allow producers to make furniture and baby products that do not contain flame retardant chemicals beginning Jan. 1….The adoption of TB 117 in 1975 mandated the use of flame retardant chemicals in upholstered furniture and baby product foam in the U.S. and Canada. An investigative series in the Chicago Tribune examined the efficacy and safety of the flame retardants and prompted a review of the TB 117 standard, which used an open flame flammability test. The new standard eliminates the open flame test for filling materials and focuses on smoldering sources of flammability including cigarettes, space heaters and extension cords. It also addresses upholstery cover fabrics and requires the use of barrier materials with smolder-prone materials and tests the interactions of all the materials that go into a piece of upholstered furniture.” [Furniture Today, [11/22/13](http://www.furnituretoday.com/article/426619-california-revises-controversial-upholstery-flammability-standards)]

### September 2015, HEADLINE: CPSC Considers Ban On Toxic Flame Retardants In Household Products

**September 2015, HEADLINE: CPSC Considers Ban On Toxic Flame Retardants In Household Products.** [Chicago Tribune, [9/28/15](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/ct-flame-retardants-toxic-chemicals-met-20150925-story.html)]

**Chicago Tribune: “Flame Retardants Actually Provide No Meaningful Protection From Furniture Fires, According To Government And Independent Studies.”** “Promoted as lifesavers, flame retardants actually provide no meaningful protection from furniture fires, according to government and independent studies.” [Chicago Tribune, [9/28/15](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/ct-flame-retardants-toxic-chemicals-met-20150925-story.html)]

**Petition From Prominent Scientists And Health Advocates Sought To Ban A Group Of Chemically Related Flame Retardants.”** “The chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission thinks it is time to start forcing toxic chemicals off the market too…. One of the first tests of his resolve is a new petition from prominent scientists and health advocates that seeks to ban a group of chemically related flame retardants from children's products, furniture, mattresses and household electronics.” [Chicago Tribune, [9/28/15](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/ct-flame-retardants-toxic-chemicals-met-20150925-story.html)]

### November 2007: K&L Gates Represented Supresta At CPSC Meeting With Dr. Arlene Blum In Which She Discussed Her Concerns About “Potential Environmental Safety And Health Impacts” Associated With Use Of Certain Flame Retardant Chemicals In Upholstered Furniture

**November 2007: K&L Gates Represented Supresta At CPSC Meeting With Dr. Arlene Blum In Which She Discussed Her Concerns About “Potential Environmental Safety And Health Impacts” Associated With Use Of Certain Flame Retardant Chemicals In Upholstered Furniture.** “Subject: Meeting with Dr. Arlene Blum on Flame Retardant Chemicals…Non-CPSC Attendees:… Steven Valentine, K&L Gates law firm (rep. Supresta, Inc.)… Dr. Blum requested this meeting to give a presentation to the CPSC staff entitled ‘The FR Dilemma,’ and to discuss her concerns about potential environmental safety and health impacts associated with the use of certain flame retardant (FR) chemicals in upholstered furniture and other products.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission Meeting, [11/13/07](http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/87306/chemicals11_13.pdf)]

### December 2007: Consumer Product Safety Commission Released Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Flammability Of Upholstered Furniture

**December 2007: Consumer Product Safetty Commission Released Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Flammability Of Upholstered Furniture.** “ITEM: Regulatory Alternatives to Address the Flammability of Upholstered Furniture; Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (‘NPR’)… DECISION: The Commission voted unanimously (2-0) to direct the Office of General Counsel to prepare a draft NPR for the Commission's consideration based on the staff's 2007 draft flammability standard for upholstered furniture.” [US Consumer Product Safety Commission, [12/27/07](http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/85993/furniture12-10.pdf)]

### August 2007: Supresta Chemical Plant In West Virginia Leaked, Producing A Chemical Cloud Over Facility Causing Emergency Workers To Require Residents To Shelter Inside For Nearly An Hour as A Precaution

**August 2007: Supresta Chemical Plant In West Virginia Leaked, Producing A Chemical Cloud Over Facility Causing Emergency Workers To Require Residents To Shelter Inside For Nearly An Hour as A Precaution.** “A small, in-plant situation. That 's what caused emergency responders at the Supresta chemical plant on Friday to ask residents in the area to shelter in place for nearly an hour. The shelter in place advisory, which requested that residents remain inside and keep their windows and doors shut, was issued shortly after 10 a.m. by emergency responders at the plant because of a vapor cloud that had formed over the facility.” [Sunday Times Sentinel, 8/19/07]

**200 Gallon Container Of Chemical Leaked, But Leak Was Contained And No Plant Workers Reported Ill Effects.** “The precaution was taken after plant workers discovered that a 200-gallon container of a chemical used to make organic phosphates was leaking. Kadlec said the material is used routinely at the plant but that nothing similar to Friday's incident ever had happened. The container was doused with water and the leak quickly contained, he said, adding that there were no offsite effects. No plant workers complained of any ill health effects either.” [Sunday Times Sentinel, 8/19/07]

**When Inhaled In Large Amounts, Chemical Could Case Skin Burns And Eye And Respiratory Tract Infections And Irritations.** “When inhaled in large amounts, the leaking chemical, diphenyl chlorophosphate, can cause skin burns and eye and respiratory tract infections and irritations.” [Sunday Times Sentinel, 8/19/07]

**State Department Of Environmental Protection Was Investigating.** “According to published reports, the state Department of Environmental Protection is investigating and will take ‘appropriate action.’” [Sunday Times Sentinel, 8/19/07]

### 2007-2011: California State Senator Introduced Bills To Eliminate Flame Retardants From Furniture

**2007-2011: California State Senator Introduced Bills To Eliminate Flame Retardants From Furniture.** “In 2007, full-page advertisements began appearing in newspapers across California. They showed a cluster of houses about to be engulfed by a wall of flame. “Don’t let Sacramento weaken fire safety,” the ad said. ‘Some politicians in Sacramento have proposed a sweeping ban of flame retardants that help prevent fires — and keep our homes and families safe.’… The ad was in response to the first of what would turn out to be four failed bills introduced by State Senator Mark Leno between 2007 and 2011 that sought to get flame retardants out of furniture. Despite having been in state government since 2002, Leno says he was unprepared for the fight over flame retardants. “I’ve authored landmark bills, first-of-their-kind bills,” he says. ‘But I’ve never experienced a lobbying effort as severe as this — and as contrived.’” [New York Times, [9/09/12](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/magazine/arlene-blums-crusade-against-household-toxins.html)]

… K Street Controversy

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Employed as lobbyist at K&L Gates while firm was reported to hope to “share a cut of its clients earmark success”* |

**From January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008, as a registered lobbyist at K&L Gates, Denise Gitsham lobbied the US House and the US Senate on behalf of Nanosonix on night vision technology. According to the Washington Post, over 16 days in March 2008, the company started operations, hired K&L Gates and won the help of Democratic Rep. Visclosky in seeking a $2.4 million earmark for research into night vision goggles. The NanoSonix situation was a small part of a K&L Gates scheme in which they would use their relationship with the Democratic Rep. as a marketing tool to woo prospective clients. According to an internal letter obtained by the Washington Post by a potential client of the lobbying firm, K&L Gates “hoped to share a cut of its clients’ earmarks,” even offering “a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee,’ in which the client would pay 7.5% of the earmark total to the lobbying firm on top of the $6,500 retainer. The lobbyist mentioned as offering the letter, was listed on the First Quarter 2008 lobbying disclosure along with Gitsham. 15 tech firms which employed K&L Gates as its lobbyist received over $44 million in earmarks which were supported or sponsored by the Democratic Congressman in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Federal investigators would investigate Visclosky’s earmarks and whether a member of his staff tried to raise campaign money by promising earmarks. A Washington Post review revealed that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky’s support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the DCCC.**

### Employed As Lobbyist At K&L Gates While Firm Was Reported To Hope To “Share A Cut Of Its Clients Earmark Success”

**January 1, 2008-March 31, 2008: Lobbied For Nanosonix On Night Vision Technology; Lobbying Firm Received “Less Than $5,000” For Lobbying On Behalf Of Nanosonix.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham lobbied the US House and US Senate on behalf of Nanosonix on night vision technology between the periods January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008. Gitsham’s lobbying firm receieved “less than $5,000” for lobbying on behalf of Nanosonix during the period. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [1/01/08-3/31/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=ff69b7da-dbe7-4361-9abb-f3bf7a5ec6db&filingTypeID=51)]

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| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | NanoSonix | Registration 2008 | n/a | n/a | Defense |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | NanoSonix | First Quarter 2008 | n/a | US House; Senate | Unnumbered bill, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2009, Title IV; issues relating to Night Vision Technology development.  S 3258, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2009, Biological and Environmental Research; issues relating to development of imaging technologies. |

### March 2008: NanoSonix Employed K&L Gates, Which Then Used Its Close Relations With Democratic Rep. Visclosky To Award The Company $2.4 Million In Earmarks

**March 2008: NanoSonix Employed K&L Gates, Which Then Used Its Close Relations With Democratic Rep. Visclosky To Award The Company $2.4 Million In Earmarks.** “It takes a while for most start-up companies to gain the confidence of a U.S. congressman and the promise of federal funds. But last year, a small Illinois company accomplished its goal in 16 days with the help of Rep. Peter J. Visclosky, a little-known Indiana Democrat who sits on the House committee that funds the Pentagon. In rapid succession, the three-employee technology firm, NanoSonix, filed its incorporation papers in Skokie, Ill., and hired a Washington lobbying firm, K&L Gates, which boasted to clients of its close relationship with Visclosky. A week later, Visclosky wrote a letter of support for a $2.4 million earmark for NanoSonix from the House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee….The congressman sponsored or supported at least $44 million in earmarks in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for more than 15 technology firms that had hired K&L Gates as lobbyists.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**Washington Post: “Over 16 Days In March 2008, It Started Operations, Hired The Lobbying Firm And Won Visclosky’s Help Seeking $2.4 Million For Research” Into Night Vision Goggles.** “The NanoSonix earmarks were unusual for such a fledgling company, and founder Murdock acknowledged in an interview that he moved hurriedly to protect future patents and obtain federal funds. Over 16 days in March 2008, it started operations, hired the lobbying firm and won Visclosky's help seeking $2.4 million for research to see whether a polymer might have improved night-vision goggles.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**Washington Post: “NanoSonix Earmarks Were Unusual For Such A Fledgling Company.”** “The NanoSonix earmarks were unusual for such a fledgling company, and founder Murdock acknowledged in an interview that he moved hurriedly to protect future patents and obtain federal funds. Over 16 days in March 2008, it started operations, hired the lobbying firm and won Visclosky's help seeking $2.4 million for research to see whether a polymer might have improved night-vision goggles.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

### K&L Gates Used Relationship With Rep. Visclosky As Marketing Tool To Prospective Clients

**K&L Gates Used Relationship With Rep. Visclosky As Marketing Tool.** “K&L Gates used its relationship with Visclosky as a marketing tool, a document obtained by The Washington Post reveals. ‘We also have a very good relationship with Representative Peter Visclosky, chairman of the House Energy and Water appropriations subcommittee and third ranking member on the defense appropriations committee,’ lobbyist Edward C. Olivares, a former Army Special Forces officer, wrote to a potential client in early 2007, soon after Democrats took control of the House. ‘We can ensure that Mr. Visclosky has visibility of this important project when funding is debated.’” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**Democratic Rep. Had A “Pattern Of Help For K&L Gates Clients.”** “Much of the public focus in the investigation has been on PMA Group, a former lobbying powerhouse that won $299 million in earmarks in the past two years from the defense panel -- $34 million of it directly from Visclosky. Visclosky's pattern of help for K&L Gates clients has not been previously disclosed. A Post review shows that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky's support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the House Democratic campaign committee since 2005.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

### Washington Post: “K&L Gates Hoped To Share A Cut Of Its Clients’ Earmark Success,” Offering “A Menu Of Pricing Options, Including A ‘Success Fee’”; K&L Gates Lobbyist Oliveras Offered List To Clients

**Washington Post: “K&L Gates Hoped To Share A Cut Of Its Clients’ Earmark Success,” Offering “A Menu Of Pricing Options, Including A ‘Success Fee.’; K&L Gates Lobbyist Olivares Offered List To Clients**. “The firm signed clients at nanotechnology trade conferences and told them that it had found a committed supporter in Visclosky, who was then gaining seniority on the Appropriations subcommittee that controls the Pentagon budget. According to an internal letter given to The Post by a potential client, K&L Gates hoped to share a cut of its clients’ earmark success. K&L’s Olivares offered a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee’ in which the client would pay 7.5 percent of its earmark haul to K&L Gates, on top of a $6,500 monthly retainer.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**“Client Would Pay 7.5 Percent Of Earmark Haul To K&L Gates, On Top Of $6,500 Monthly Retainer.”** “According to an internal letter given to The Post by a potential client, K&L Gates hoped to share a cut of its clients' earmark success. K&L's Olivares offered a menu of pricing options, including a ‘success fee’ in which the client would pay 7.5 percent of its earmark haul to K&L Gates, on top of a $6,500 monthly retainer.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**Denise Gitsham Was Listed As A Lobbyist Along With Edward Olivares On K&L Gates First Quarter 2008 Lobbying Disclosure; NanoSonix Was Listed As The Client.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham was listed as a lobbyist along with Edward Olivares on K&L Gates First Quarter 2008 lobbying disclosure. Olivares was listed as the Government Affairs Counselor. [1/01/08-3/31/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=ff69b7da-dbe7-4361-9abb-f3bf7a5ec6db&filingTypeID=51)]

### 15 Tech Firms Which Employed K&L Gates As Its Lobbyist Received Over $44 Million In Earmarks Supported Or Sponsored By The Congressman In Fiscal Years 2008 And 2009

**15 Tech Firms Which Employed K&L Gates As Its Lobbyist Received Over $44 Million In Earmarks Supported Or Sponsored By The Congressman In Fiscal Years 2008 And 2009.** “’I understand how this can look from the outside,’ NanoSonix chief executive Sean Murdock said in an interview, describing his company's rush to get research funding to develop night-vision goggles. ‘My belief was we had to pursue government funding if this technology was going to see the light of day.’ Murdock's company was not the only one to find a winning formula in pursuit of federal earmarks through Visclosky. The congressman sponsored or supported at least $44 million in earmarks in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for more than 15 technology firms that had hired K&L Gates as lobbyists. None of the companies operated in Visclosky's home state, but nearly all of them donated to Visclosky's campaign just before or soon after receiving the promise of federal money.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**Washington Post: K&L Gates Signed Clients At Nanotechnology Trade Conferences, Telling Them It Had A “Committed Supporter In Visclosky.”** “The alliance in 2003 hired the predecessor firm to K&L Gates, Preston Gates, which was then rebuilding its lobbying shop after the departure of rainmaker Jack Abramoff, who went to prison in a federal influence-peddling scandal. The firm became K&L Gates as part of a 2006 merger, and its lobbying revenue is on pace to hit nearly $20 million this year. The firm signed clients at nanotechnology trade conferences and told them that it had found a committed supporter in Visclosky, who was then gaining seniority on the Appropriations subcommittee that controls the Pentagon budget.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

### Washington Post: “Several Firms Said That Signing K&L Gates Helped Them Gain Access They Had Long Been Denied By Federal Agencies”

**Washington Post: “Several Firms Said That Signing K&L Gates Helped Them Gain Access They Had Long Been Denied By Federal Agencies.”** “Several firms said that signing K&L Gates helped them gain the access they had long been denied by federal agencies.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

### Federal Investigators Investigated Visclosky’s Earmarks And Whether A Member Of His Staff Tried To Raise Campaign Money By Promising Earmarks

**Federal Investigators Investigated Visclosky’s Earmarks And Whether A Member Of His Staff Tried To Raise Campaign Money By Promising Earmarks.** “Federal investigators are scrutinizing Visclosky's earmarks and whether a member of his staff tried to raise campaign money by promising funding. The Post recently reported that the Justice Department probe is examining the role played by Visclosky's recently departed chief of staff, Charles Brimmer, in negotiating with lobbyists and companies to solicit campaign donations. Brimmer's attorney declined to comment.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

### Washington Post: Visclosky’s Pay-To-Play Scheme With K&L Gates Involved Contributing Money To Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

**Washington Post: “Review Shows That The K&L Gates Clients Winning Visclosky’s Support, Along With Their Lobbyists And Investors, Donated Almost $200,000 To Visclosky And An Additional $130,000 To The House Democratic Campaign Committee.”** “A Post review shows that the K&L Gates clients winning Visclosky's support, along with their lobbyists and investors, donated almost $200,000 to Visclosky and an additional $130,000 to the House Democratic campaign committee since 2005. The donations often came in clusters, around the time Visclosky's committee was crafting its annual earmarks, which are added to the budget by committee members and do not go through the competitive or approval processes required for most government contracts.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

**As Visclosky Moved Nanosix Earmark Forward, Company Founder, Wife And Executives From NanoBusiness Alliance Wrote $21,700 In Campaign Checks To Congressman And DCCC.** “The NanoSonix earmarks were unusual for such a fledgling company, and founder Murdock acknowledged in an interview that he moved hurriedly to protect future patents and obtain federal funds. Over 16 days in March 2008, it started operations, hired the lobbying firm and won Visclosky's help seeking $2.4 million for research to see whether a polymer might have improved night-vision goggles. As Visclosky's committee moved the earmark forward, Murdock, his wife and executives from the NanoBusiness Alliance wrote $21,700 in campaign checks to the congressman and the DCCC. Murdock said he could not recall whether K&L Gates suggested the donations.” [Washington Post, [10/26/09](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/25/AR2009102502640.html)]

Public Relations Career

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Refers to herself as a small business owner* * *2012: Founded public relations firm called 7 Second Strategies along with Karl Rove’s former Chief-of-Staff and a former Senior Advisor to Congressman Bilbray* * *In an American Express blog, wrote, “There’s really no need for any business to venture into negative-talk territory”* * *Worked public relations for former Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich’s 2013 book, “America: Hope for Change”* * *7 Second Strategies turned into SVN Public Relations in March 2015* * *As of January 2016, owns Vitamin D Public Relations* |

**Gitsham refers to herself as a small business owner, having founded a self-described “boutique” public relations firm, 7 Second Strategies, in 2012 along with Karl Rove’s former Chief-of-Staff along with a former Senior Advisor to Congressman Bilbray. Gitsham offered her insight into running a successful business, writing in an American Express blog that “[t]here’s really no need for any business to venture into negative-talk territory.” Additionally, at 7 Second Strategies, she worked for public relations for former Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich’s 2013 book, “America: Hope for Change.” The firm changed its name to SVN Public Relations in 2015. Also, according to the California Secretary of State, Gitsham owns Vitamin D Public Relations, but it does not have a website.**

**Calls Herself A Small Business Owner**

**Calls Herself A Small Business Owner.** “Today, Denise owns her own small business, and works to promote San Diego’s Innovation Economy, which is driving our local economy and creating high paying jobs for San Diegans.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

**7 Second Strategies Described Itself As A “Boutique Shop.”** “7 Second Strategies is a full service public and government relations firm. Our offering is unique, in that every partner of the firm is a strategic communications expert, averaging more than a decade of experience in Washington, DC or Sacramento…. Best of all, we’re a boutique shop, so every client will receive personal attention from one of our four seasoned principals, and we’ll do whatever it takes, availing ourselves to clients 24/7, working until we win.” [7 Second Strategies, Accessed [1/12/16](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/about-us/)]

### Gitsham: “We Look At Every Client As A Campaign, And You Either Win Or You Lose”

**Gitsham: “We Look At Every Client As A Campaign, And You Either Win Or You Lose.”** “Denise: One of the things that I think distinguishes us from all other public relations firms is that if you want to take your company to the next level and you need to win, that’s what we’re here for. We look at every client as a campaign, and you either win or you lose. We take the principles of political campaigning and apply it to public affairs. We look at your brand and what you stand for, whether it’s a person, a company, an idea or an issue. Whatever it is that you’re trying to change public opinion on, we look at all the external elements and make sure your brand is well-defined and something that the media can easily pick up on.” [UT San Diego, [5/25/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2014/05/ut-san-diego-qa-dont-forget-your-business-strategy/)]

### American Express Blog: Gitsham: “There’s Really No Need For Any Business To Venture Into The Negative-Talk Territory”

**American Express Blog: Gitsham: “There’s Really No Need For Any Business To Venture Into The Negative-Talk Territory.”** “Sheena Tahilramani and Denise Gitsham, co-founders of 7 Second Strategies, a public relations and government affairs firm in Pasadena, California, say there’s really no need for any business to venture into the negative-talk territory. ‘There's a clear difference between communicating your company’s value proposition in relation to your competitors’ and blatantly pointing out your competitors’ deficiencies in an effort to make your company look more appealing,’ Tahilramani says.” [American Express, Open Forum, [7/16/14](https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/openforum/articles/why-you-should-play-nice-with-your-competition/)]

**2012: Founded Public Relations Firm Called 7 Second Strategies**

**Co-Founded Public Relations Firm Called 7 Second Strategies In 2012 Focused On Life Science, Biotech, And Politics.**  “In 2012, Denise co-founded 7 Second Strategies (now SVN Public Relations). Her firm represents clients in cleantech, life sciences, biotech, real estate, and political sectors, and treats every client’s public relations mission like a campaign.” [Denise Gitsham LinkedIn, accessed [11/05/15](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/denise-gitsham/3/b7b/349)]

**Founded Her Public Relations Firm With Sheena Tahilramani.**  “Denise Gitsham and Sheena Tahilramani help companies develop their brand, their marketing and their message for a living, but only recently did the partners at 7 Second Strategies realize the importance of putting the same amount of energy into their own brand. They launched 7 Second Strategies in late 2012, and the company based in both San Diego and Pasadena has grown so fast that it’s been tough to keep their sights set on the original mission and message.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [5/26/14](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2014/may/25/7-second-strategies-tory-burch-foundation/)]

**Sheena Tahilramani Was Karl Rove’s Former Chief-Of-Staff.** “In January 2013, Mindy Tucker Fletcher and I will launch a similarly disruptive government and public relations firm with Karl Rove’s former Chief of Staff, Sheena Tahilramani, and Congressman Bilbray’s former Senior Advisor, Jennifer Polk Maxon.” [Disruptive Thinkers Post, Denise Gitsham, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]

**Described Her PR Strategy As Looking At Each Business As A Campaign.**  “Q: How do you know when you need to take a step back and work on your strategy? Gitsham: One of the things that I think distinguishes us from all other public relations firms is that if you want to take your company to the next level and you need to win, that’s what we’re here for. We look at every client as a campaign, and you either win or you lose. We take the principles of political campaigning and apply it to public affairs. We look at your brand and what you stand for, whether it’s a person, a company, an idea or an issue. Whatever it is that you’re trying to change public opinion on, we look at all the external elements and make sure your brand is well-defined and something that the media can easily pick up on.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [5/26/14](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2014/may/25/7-second-strategies-tory-burch-foundation/)]

**Partner In Communications Firm,** **Jennifer Polk Maxon, Worked For Congressman Bilbray As A Senior Advisor.** “In January 2013, Mindy Tucker Fletcher and I will launch a similarly disruptive government and public relations firm with Karl Rove’s former Chief of Staff, Sheena Tahilramani, and Congressman Bilbray’s former Senior Advisor, Jennifer Polk Maxon. Our media experience, understanding of the policymaking process, and strong relationships at the state, local and federal level will enable us to pivot between tactics, and move the needle on public opinion for our clients. Our ope is that we’ll have the privilege of working with some of San Diego’s most disruptive companies, and that together, we’ll redefine the term ‘business as usual.’” [Disruptive Thinkers Post, Denise Gitsham, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]

### KPBS: Co-Owned SVN Public Relations; 7 Second Strategies Changed Its Name To SVN Public Relations In 2015

**KPBS: Co-Owned SVN Public Relations.** “Gitsham co-owns the firm SVN Public Relations. She worked as a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and for Republican political consultant Karl Rove during the 2000 presidential campaign and then in the White House. Rove’s political action committee American Crossroads fundraises for Republican campaigns.” [KPBS, [11/05/15](http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/nov/05/another-republican-steps-challenge-rep-scott-peter/)]

**March 2015: 7 Second Strategies Changed Its Name To SVN Public Relations.** “Same Tenacity. New Look. 7 Second Strategies is now SVN PR! http://svnpr.com #PR” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [3/18/15](https://twitter.com/svn_pr/status/578204716586258432)]

**Took Part In Business Bootcamp That Focused On Crafting Business Strategy Hosted By Goldman Sachs And The Tory Burch Foundation**

**Took Part In Business Bootcamp That Focused On Crafting Business Strategy Hosted By Goldman Sachs And The Tory Burch Foundation.**  “Gitsham and Tahilramani recently completed a three-month entrepreneurship boot camp in Los Angeles for 30 or so woman-owned businesses. The duo said the boot camp, which was sponsored by the Tory Burch Foundation and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses organizations, inspired them to work on crafting their own business strategy as carefully as they do the strategies for their clients.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [5/26/14](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2014/may/25/7-second-strategies-tory-burch-foundation/)]

**Commentator On One America News Network**

**Commentator On One America News Network.**  “Denise is a California native, a graduate of Bowdoin College, and a Georgetown University Law Center alumna, licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia. She sits on the board of San Diego-based tech company, Spritzr, San Diego Startup Week, and serves as a founding board member of one of California’s twelve Innovation Hubs. She is also an adjunct curator for Summit, and a regular political commentator on One America News Network.” [SVN PR, accessed [11/05/15](http://svnpr.com/)]

**Tweeted About Appearing On One America News Network To Discuss The Lies Presidents Tell.**  “Denise Gitsham @DGits Looking fwd to another gr8 @amatotalk show tonight, sparring over lies that Presidents tell when they’re in office! @oann @talkradiomaven” [Denise Gitsham Favstar Twitter, accessed [11/05/15](http://favstar.fm/users/dgits)]

### 7 Second Strategies Listed Chile Biotech As A Client, Which Was An Initiative Seeking To Promote Chilean Biotechnology In US Market

**Chile Biotech Was Established In 2010 To Advocate For Government Support Of Sector In Chile And Liaison With International Biotech Companies.** “Established in 2010, ChileBiotech has become the leading private sector advocate for government support of the biotech sector in Chile, and serves as liaison and ambassador to international biotech companies. ChileBiotech’s mission is to elevate awareness of Chilean biotech industry and the nation of Chile as an ideal research and development and strategic partner for international biotech and pharmaceutical companies.” [Chilean Trade Commission in United States, [6/26/14](http://www.prochile.gob.cl/int/united-states/new/chilean-delegation-to-2014-bio-international-convention/)]

**June 2014, 7 Second Strategies: Chile Biotech Sought “To Position Chile As An Attractive Destination For Development And Export Of Biotechnology Projects To The US, Generating new Investment Opportunities In Our Country.”** “Chile Biotech is an initiative to promote the Chilean biotechnology industry within Chile domestic market and the United States, with the task of promoting Chile as a platform for research and development, encouraging investment. This initiative also seeks to position Chile as an attractive destination for development and export of biotechnology projects to the U.S., generating new investment opportunities in our country. Chile Biotech is a joint effort of the Government of Chile, through the Sector Brands Department of ProChile, the entity in charge of export promotion of the Government of Chile, and the Chilean Association of Biotechnology Companies (ASEMBIO), an organization which represents professionals and companies that are involved in the research, development, production and marketing of biotechnology products and services.” [7 Second Strategies, Chile Biotech, [6/20/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/portfolio-view/chile-biotech/)]

**June 2014: Chile Biotech Held Meeting With UC San Diego And San Diego Economic Develop Count To Promote Chilean Biotechnology In US Market.”** “Leveraging the showcase provided by the BIO International Convention, the Chilean Association of Biotechnology (ASEMBIO) alongside Grünenthal Chile, CORFO, INAPI, ProChile and CIE Chile organized the Chilean Pavilion, whose aim was to show the attendees potential country as a business platform and the different areas in which trabaja.El event, which takes place every year in the U.S. and brings together the leading exponents in the field worldwide, seeks to strengthen the network and share experiences and progress . … To Araneda Patricio, President of ASEMBIO, “the opportunity to make presentations Theme and master increasingly better position allowed the country and our industry. There are many options and potential deal, this work is long and we are taking the first serious steps in the U.S. market. “Meanwhile, the Chilean Pavilion featured a large number of visitors, which endorsed the position that both public institutions and looking to give private domestic biotechnology industry. In the words of Araneda “this BIO has certainly been the occasion when Chilebiotech and Chile as a country has shown more strength, which is reflected in the number of visits and intensive work on stand by all members and authorities involved. “in addition to the above, and as a way to further enhance the work being done locally, Chilean representatives held collaborative meetings with members of the Bay Bio, Bio Mass, University of California, San Diego , San Diego Economic Development Count, among others.” [Chile Biotech, [6/15/14](http://www.chilebiotech.cl/chilean-biotechnology-companies-participating-bio-2014-strengthened-ties-with-international-organizations/)]

### March 2014: Watkins Landmark Construction Listed As Client Of 7 Second Strategies; Construction Company Renovated And Expanded Indian Wells Tennis Garden

**March 2014: Watkins Landmark Construction Renovated And Expanded Indian Wells Tennis Garden.** “San Diego-based Watkins Landmark Construction is proud to debut its latest ‘landmark’ project: the newly renovated and vastly expanded Indian Wells Tennis Garden, home of the BNP Paribas Open, which begins today. Watkins Landmark Construction completed construction of a second stadium, Stadium 2, and a sizeable Site Expansion Project for the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in just 10 months and 10 days. These additions are projected to increase attendance at the BNP Paribas Open to well over 500,000 attendees, making it the largest ATP World Tour and WTA Premier combined event in the world.” [Watkins Landmark construction, 7 Second Strategies Listed As Media Contact, 3/03/14]

### July 2013: 7 Second Strategies Client American Residential Partners Was Founded By Buffalo, NY-Based Company Started By A Former Karl Rove Staffer

**July 2013, 7 Second Strategies: American Residential Partners Was A Real Estate Investment Company That Bought And Resold Distressed And Foreclosed Single Family Properties In Southern CA.** “American Residential Partners is a real estate investment company that focuses on buying and reselling distressed and foreclosed single family properties throughout Southern California.” [7 Second Strategies, [7/11/13](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/portfolio-view/american-residential-partners/)]

**American Residential Partners Was Founded By Buffalo, NY Company, Sinatra & Company Real Estate.** “Nick Sinatra has flown on Air Force One, discussed books with Karl Rove, and cooked braciole with ziti for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Despite those heady experiences, the thirty-one-year old realtor still maintains his Buffalo-bred demeanor: modest, quietly proud of his accomplishments, hard-working, and devoted to family, as well as the Bills and Sabres, whom he cheers on through thick and thin. If asked, he’ll share stories from his government service days, but he’s more interested—and more animated—when talking about boosting Buffalo through Sinatra & Company Real Estate in Tonawanda, whose mission is ‘to have a greater impact on the community than just profits.’…Sinatra & Company was founded in 2009….We’ve extended our real estate investment interests into Southern California via a venture called American Residential Partners.” [Buffalo Spree magazine, [2/13](http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/February-2013/Q-A-with-Nick-Sinatra-Coming-home-to-roost/)]

**Founder Worked For Karl Rove In George W. Bush’s White House.** “Nick Sinatra has flown on Air Force One, discussed books with Karl Rove, and cooked braciole with ziti for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito….If asked, he’ll share stories from his government service days, but he’s more interested—and more animated—when talking about boosting Buffalo through Sinatra & Company Real Estate in Tonawanda, whose mission is ‘to have a greater impact on the community than just profits.’…I got my college degree in 2003, and went to work in then-Governor Pataki’s economic development office, here in town. Then I signed on as a field staffer on the Bush-Cheney campaign, and was assigned to Pennsylvania. After that, I was hired by Karl Rove, the president’s senior advisor and deputy chief of staff at the time. I was in Washington for three and a half years, doing coalition building with Catholics and Italian-Americans to support the Bush agenda.” [Buffalo Spree Magazine, [2/13](http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/February-2013/Q-A-with-Nick-Sinatra-Coming-home-to-roost/)]

### “7 Second Strategies To Re-Launch Guy Code: Unleash Your Manhood From MTV Books”

**7 Second Strategies, HEADLINE: 7 Second Strategies To Re-Launch Guy Code: Unleash Your Manhood From MTV Books.** [7 Second Strategies, [4/18/13](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2013/04/for-immediate-release-7-second-strategies-to-re-launch-interactive-ebook-guy-code-unleash-your-manhood-from-mtv-books/)]

### Listed Origo Ventures As Client While It Received $1 Million Grant From Chilean Government

**Listed Origo Ventures As Client While It Received $1 Million Grant From Chilean Government.** “Origo Ventures has obtained a $1 million grant from CORFO, the investment entity of the government of Chile. Origo Ventures is a San Diego-based venture capital fund that looks for investments in seed and early stage firms in Latin America. In order to help Latin American startup firms succeed, Origo Ventures looks for gaps in funding and mentoring and meets them. It immediately invests in tech firms post-accelerator. In a statement about the funding, Origo Ventures received the grant from Fen Ventures, its subsidiary in Chile.” [VC Post, [1/30/14](http://www.vcpost.com/articles/21238/20140130/san-diego-based-origo-ventures-receives-1m-corfo-grant.htm)]

**Fen Ventures Was Origo Ventures Subsidiary In Chile.** “In a statement about the funding, Origo Ventures received the grant from Fen Ventures, its subsidiary in Chile. Proceeds from the grant will be used to support the firm's investment activities in young companies in the country that hold the most potential for success. As one of the first American companies to be aware of the huge potential that emerging upstarts in Chile and Latin America hold, Origo Ventures capitalizes on the experience of its founders in order to choose the most promising entrepreneurs in the region to invest in.” [VC Post, [1/30/14](http://www.vcpost.com/articles/21238/20140130/san-diego-based-origo-ventures-receives-1m-corfo-grant.htm)]

**Proceeds From The Grant Was To Be Used To Invest In Upstart Companies In Chile.** “In a statement about the funding, Origo Ventures received the grant from Fen Ventures, its subsidiary in Chile. Proceeds from the grant will be used to support the firm's investment activities in young companies in the country that hold the most potential for success. As one of the first American companies to be aware of the huge potential that emerging upstarts in Chile and Latin America hold, Origo Ventures capitalizes on the experience of its founders in order to choose the most promising entrepreneurs in the region to invest in.” [VC Post, [1/30/14](http://www.vcpost.com/articles/21238/20140130/san-diego-based-origo-ventures-receives-1m-corfo-grant.htm)]

**7 Second Strategies, HEADLINE: Origo Ventures Receives $1 Million Grant To Support Investment In Entrepreneurs.** [7 Second Strategies, [1/29/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/2014/01/origo-ventures-receives-1-million-grant-to-support-investment-in-entrepreneurs/)]

### 7 Second Strategies Client, Hawkes Ocean Technologies, Developed $1.7 Million Personal Submarine; Planned To Market To The “Very Wealthy”

**Hawkes Ocean Technologies Developed $1.7 Million Personal Submarine.** “Behind closed doors at a workshop near the quiet waters of Brickyard Cove in Point Richmond is one of the most exotic vessels in the world - a ‘flying’ submarine. It looks a bit like a fish with stubby wings, can swim with the sharks and dive like a whale, and one just like it can be yours, custom-built for a mere $1.7 million. ‘It is like an airplane with wings upside down,’ said Graham Hawkes, founder and chief technical officer of Hawkes Ocean Technologies. ‘It is like flying in the air, but we are flying underwater.’” [San Francisco Chronicle, [1/10/14](http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Flying-submarine-making-an-innovative-splash-5132665.php)]

**Founder Planned To Market To The “Very Wealthy,” Or “People Who Have Mega Yachts,” Like Billionaire Richard Branson.** “’It is like an airplane with wings upside down,’ said Graham Hawkes, founder and chief technical officer of Hawkes Ocean Technologies. ‘It is like flying in the air, but we are flying underwater.’…It was also an adventure, and that is the market for the DeepFlight Super Falcon. His companion that day was Richard Branson, the airline billionaire. ‘It was the first time a mini-sub ever had a chance to fly with a great white,’ Branson wrote in a blog. ‘What a privilege it was.’…But his goals are clear: He plans to sell his submersibles to clients like Branson and others in his financial class, people interested in what Karen Hawkes, his wife and the company vice president for marketing, calls ‘private exploration and adventure.’ It is an endeavor that only the very wealthy can afford – ‘people with who have mega yachts,’ Graham Hawkes said.” [San Francisco Chronicle, [1/10/14](http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Flying-submarine-making-an-innovative-splash-5132665.php)]

**January 29, 2014: 7 Second Strategies Listed Hawkes Ocean Technologies.** According to 7 Second Strategies website, Hawkes Ocean Technologies was listed as a client on January 29, 2014. [7 Second strategies, [1/29/14](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/portfolio-view/hawkes-ocean-technologies/)]

### Rudy Guiliani Wrote The Foreword For Former Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich’s 2013 Book, America: Hope For Change; 7 Second Strategies Listed The Governor and Book As A Client

**Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani Wrote The Forward For Ehrlich’s Books, America: Hope For Change.** “Ehrlich said he has spent much of this year promoting his 2013 political manifesto, “America: Hope for Change.” Former New Hampshire governor John H. Sununu, a GOP powerbroker in the Granite State, wrote a glowing review for the book’s jacket; former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani (R) penned its forward.” [Washington Post, [9/13/14](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2014/09/13/former-md-governor-ehrlich-pays-visit-to-n-h-and-you-know-what-that-might-mean/)]

### Director Or Individual Trustee Of Publicly-Funded Chico Economic Planning Corporation While It Made Effort “To Take Advantage Of The Stimulus Package Developed By” Obama Admin

**2011: Listed As A Director Or Individual Trustee Of Chico Economic Planning Corporation; Averaged One Hour Of Work Per Week And Received No Compensation.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2011 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, Denise Gitsham was listed as a Director, averaging 1 hour of work per week on the group and received no compensation. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)]

**In 2011, 97.23 Percent Of Chico Economic Planning Corporation’s 97.23 Funding Was Public, Compared To 96.23 Percent In 2010.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2011 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, 97.23% of its funding was public in 2011, compared to 96.23% in 2010. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)]

**2011: Program Service Of Planning Corporation Included Effort “To Take Advantage Of The Stimulus Package Developed By The Obama Administration.** “Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments….4b Economic Development Services-Worked with specific business growth clusters including technology, food manufacturing and light/laser technology in addition, expanded our efforts in health care including physician recruitment and development of an understanding of what we can do to assist medical facilities to take advantage of the stimulus package developed by the Obama Administration.” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)]

### 2012: Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received $104,000 In Government Grants, Which Were Classified As “Contributions”

**2012: Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received $104,000 In Government Grants, Which Were Classified As “Contributions.”** According to the Economic Planning Corporation’s Statement of Revenue in their 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, the Corporation received $104,000 in government grants, which were classified as “contributions.” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.228845529.436966761.1449175619)]

**Funds Received From Public “Gifts, Grants, Contributions, And Membership Fees Received,” Increased From $50,100 In 2010 To $110,963 In 2011.** According to the Economic Planning Corporation’s statement of Public Support reported in their 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, the Corporation received $50,100 in 2010 and $110,963 in 2011 in public “gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (do no include any ‘unusual grants.’)”. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.228845529.436966761.1449175619)]

**Funds Received From Public “Gifts, Grants, Contributions, And Membership Fees Received,” Increased From $110,963 In 2011 To $225,800 In 2012.** According to the Economic Planning Corporation’s statement of Public Support reported in their 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, the Corporation received $110,963 in 2011 and $225,800 in 2012 in public “gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (do not include any ‘unusual grants’)” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.228845529.436966761.1449175619)]

**In 2012, Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received 97.86 Percent Of Its Funding From Public Sources.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, 98.86of its funding was public in 2012. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.228845529.436966761.1449175619)]

### In 2013, Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received 99.87 Percent Of Its Funding From Public Sources

**In 2013, Chico Economic Planning Corporation Received 99.87 Percent Of Its Funding From Public Sources.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, 99.87% of its funding was public in 2013. [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2014](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201406_990.pdf?_ga=1.194702312.436966761.1449175619)]

**Funds Received From Public “Gifts, Grants, Contributions, And Membership Fees Received,” Decreased From $225,800 in 2012 to $205,629 In 2013.** According to the Economic Planning Corporation’s statement of Public Support reported in their 2013 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, the Corporation received $225,800 in 2011 and $205,629 in 2012 in public “gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (do not include any ‘unusual grants’)” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2014](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201406_990.pdf?_ga=1.194702312.436966761.1449175619)]

### Chico Economic Planning Corporation Founded “530” Angels Network To Help “High Growth Investors” In Northern California

**Chico Economic Planning Corporation Founded “530” Angels Network To Help “High Growth Investors.”** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation’s Statement of Program Service Accomplishments in their 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, “ 4c… ‘530’ Angels helps high growth potential entrepreneurs in the region raise capital so theu can grow their business and create jobs.” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.135991156.436966761.1449175619)]

**Network Included “Veteran Silicon Valley Investor, Bob Bozeman.** “The 530 Angels Network, a group of Northern California angel investors that includes a veteran Silicon Valley investor, is presenting a dinner Sept. 26 to find more potential angels and to take a look at a couple of promising companies….Bob Bozeman, a veteran Silicon Valley investor, is general partner in the angel fund. He invested with partners in Angel Investors LP in companies including Google Inc., PayPal, Open Table, AskJeeves and dozens of others.” [Sacramento Business Journal, [8/30/13](http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2013/08/30/530-angels-network-dinner-investors.html)]

### 2012 Hosted “Manufacturing Repatriation Summit” For Northern California Businesses

**2012 Hosted “Manufacturing Repatriation Summit” For Northern California Businesses.** According to the Chico Economic Planning Corporation’s Statement of Program Service Accomplishments in their 2012 990 filing with the Internal Revenue Service, “4a//// Hosted several conferences for the purpose of recognizing business excellence, connecting early stage companies with investors, business service companies, and costumers, providing access to leadership in state and federal government manufacturing repatriation summite was added to support the growth of companies in the region who make and sell manufacturing products throughout California, the US and globally 100 companies were identified and providing assistance to these companies is a focal point of Innovate North State Efforts.” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2013](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201306_990.pdf?_ga=1.135991156.436966761.1449175619)]

### 530 Angels Network Founded Northern California Investment Fund LLC, Which Invested In Company That Made Wheel-Mounted High-Tech Bike Lights

**530 Angels Network Founded Northern California Investment Fund LLC, Which Was “A True, For-Profit And Return Based Angel Fund.”** “The 530 Angels Network, a group of Northern California angel investors that includes a veteran Silicon Valley investor, is presenting a dinner Sept. 26 to find more potential angels and to take a look at a couple of promising companies. Formed in the last year, 530 Angels has about 20 angel investors, and the group also has formed Northern California Investment Fund LLC, which has about $1 million to make investments in entrepreneurial growth companies, said Jon Gregory, managing director of Innovate North State in Chico….The Northern California Investment Fund is a true, for-profit and return-based angel fund, and not some kind of community development or economic development fund, Gregory said.” [Sacramento Business Journal, [8/30/13](http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2013/08/30/530-angels-network-dinner-investors.html)]

**2014: Invested In Company That Made Wheel-Mounted High-Tech Bike Lights.** “Bike light maker Revolights Inc. closed a $1 million round of funding led by the Sacramento Angels and the Sierra Angels. …Revolights makes wheel-mounted high-tech bike lights and a new product, a fender-mounted bike lighting system. The lights are highly visible to drivers and for the bike rider, the low angle of the lights illuminates the roadway better than helmet or handlebar-mounted lights….Other angels investing in the company included the Berkeley Angel Network, Augment Ventures and the Northern California Investment Fund LLC.” [Sacramento Business Journal, [5/20/14](http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2014/05/20/bike-light-maker-revolights-lands-1m-in-funding.html)]

**Organizer Of Investment Fund Said They Offered Opportunity For Smaller Investors As They Required $50,000 Or Higher Investment Amount Requirement.** “The first dinner meeting for the 530 Angel Network has occurred, but no money passed into the hands of eager entrepreneurs. That was by design because the newly formed network is focusing on bringing potential investors to the table, according to organizer Jon Gregory of Innovate North State…. First, members of the network will be committing certain amounts to Northern California Co-Investment Fund that Gregory and Robert Bozeman will invest. ‘Other venture funds or angel investments require at least $250,000. We're looking at $50,000, and you don't have to write a check for that up-front.’That means an opportunity for smaller investors, Gregory points out, reminding that information included in this article is not an invitation to invest according to law.” [Chico Enterprise Record, [5/20/13](http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20130520/angel-group-assembles-for-north-state-entrepreneurs)]

### 2011: Worked With City Of Chico On Development Of “Economic Prosperity Policy”

**2011: Worked With City Of Chico On Development Of “Economic Prosperity Policy.”** “Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments….4a Come Home to Chico Campaign-implementation of the talent mobilization strategy, collaboration with the city of Chico on the development of the economic prosperity policy, and, administration of the Come Home to Chico campaign.” [Chico Economic Planning Corporation, IRS 990 form, Filed [2012](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/680/680069592/680069592_201206_990.pdf?_ga=1.225119199.436966761.1449175619)]

### California Office Of Business And Economic Development: Innovate Northstate “Only iHub Focused On Rural Regions Of California”

**California Office Of Business And Economic Development: Innovate Northstate “Only iHub Focused On Rural Regions Of California.”** “Innovate North State serves as one of sixteen California-designated iHubs, and is the only iHub focused on rural regions of California.” [California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, Accessed [12/08/15](http://business.ca.gov/Programs/Innovation/NorthStateiHub.aspx)]

Washington-Style Partisan

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| --- |
| **Significant Findings**   * *2013: Contributed $500 to anti-choice Congressional candidate endorsed by Sarah Palin* * *In July 2013, listed “birther Joseph Farah’s WND books” as a client on public relations firm website, but in November 2013, the company was no longer listed on the site* * *Had “direct ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove”* * *Said she would “reach” out to former President George W. Bush and Karl Rove to “ask for their help” in 2016 campaign for Congress* * *Profited off her connections to the former Bush White House when she worked public relations for a Buffalo, NY-based company that was founded by a former Karl Rove staffer* * *Appeared on the 12th season of the Bachelor, but was eliminated in the first episode after talking about Karl Rove when meeting the Bachelor* * *Business partner at SVN Public Relations worked as Rove’s Chief of Staff* * *Campaign Twitter: “I couldn’t agree more with this Op-ed, written by an oft-vilified Koch Brother; Koch wrote that he opposed corporate welfare, including ethanol mandate* * *In December 2015, met with the National Federation of Independent Business in Washington, DC; Reuters: “NFIB has a record of lobbying for issues that benefit big business”* * *Public relations firm received $10,000, from a Super PAC called Americans for Progressive Action, which was funded by Sonoma Count y winemaker John Jordan and staffed by Rove’s former Chief of Staff* * *SVN Public Relations tweeted “We’ve spent a lot of time in DC”* |

**Despite calling herself a “Whole Foods Republican,” the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote that Gitsham had “direct ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove.” Gitsham worked on the 2000 Bush campaign under Karl Rove as Hispanic Outreach Coordinator. Furthermore, her business partner at SVN Public Relations worked as Rove’s Chief-of-Staff. While appearing on the 12th season of the Bachelor TV show, Gitsham revealed she was “a big Bush supporter” on air, according to ABC. According to the Washington Post, she would be eliminated in the first episode after talking about Karl Rove when meeting the Bachelor.**

**Furthermore, Gitsham profited off her connections to the former Bush White House when she worked public relations for a Buffalo, NY-based real estate investment company whose founder previously worked as a staffer for Karl Rove.**

**In December 2015, Gitsham met with the National Federation of Independent Business in Washington, DC. Reuter wrote of the organization that the “NFIB has a record of lobbying for issues that benefit big business.” In August 2013, SVN Public Relations tweeted “We’ve spent a lot of time in DC.”**

**In 2013, ThinkProgress reported that 7 Second Strategies worked publicity for “birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books.” According to the Wayback Machine, WND Books was listed as a client on July 21, 2013, but then on November 24, 2013, the company was no longer listed as a client.**

**In 2013, Gitsham’s public relations firm, 7 Second Strategies, received $10,000 from the Super PAC, Americans for Progressive Action, which was funded by Sonoma County Winemaker John Jordan. Jordan has hosted fundraisers for Rick Perry and Tim Pawlenty. Furthermore, the treasurer of the Super PAC used to work for Rep. Michele Bachmann, while the spokesperson, was Gitsham’s business partner, Tahilramani.**

**Called Herself A “Whole Foods Republican” Who Was “Bicoastal” In Her Twitter Bio**

**Called Herself A “Whole Foods Republican” Who Was “Bicoastal” In Her Twitter Bio.**  “TWITTER BIO DU JOUR -- @DGits: ‘Whole Foods Republican. Bicoastal, but Californian to the core. Lover of sun, sand, family, friends, but most of all, Addy and Jack!!’” [Politico, [5/23/13](http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2013/05/obama-speech-will-raise-bar-for-drone-strikes-ease-moves-out-of-gitmo-wartime-commander-in-chief-meets-con-law-professor-dan-bartlett-joins-walmart-will-move-to-ark-andy-weitz-succeeds-him-010754)]

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted “We’ve Spent A Lot Of Time In DC”

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted “We’ve Spent A Lot Of Time In DC.”** “We've spent a lot of time in DC. Here are some of the DC themed shows we can't get enough of @ScandalABC @HouseofCards @PoliticalAnimal” [SVN Public Relations, [8/06/13](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/364921423837396992)]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: In CPAC Speech, Said Despite Liberal Background Characteristics, She Was “A Bonafide Conservative”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: In CPAC Speech, Said Despite Liberal Background Characteristics, She Was “A Bonafide Conservative.”** “he campaign for Democrat Peters said Gitsham’s comments were strange. ‘That she launched her political career pretending to be someone she's not is an odd thing to trumpet, but more significantly, she told one of the most anti-choice, anti-gay, anti-immigrant, pro-gun lobby, tea party groups in America that she's 'one of them,’ MaryAnne Pintar, a spokesman for incumbent Democrat Scott Peter’s campaign said. Pintar is referring to a line from Gitsham’s speech where the candidate said that despite left-leaning experience working in renewable energy, the daughter of immigrants, and degrees from liberal colleges and universities, she’s a bonafide conservative. ‘Let me put your hearts at ease, I’m one of you,’ Gitsham said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

### 7 Second Strategies Worked Publicity For “Birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books”; Listed WND as Client On July 21, 2013, But Then Did Not List Them As Client from Website On November 24, 2013

**ThinkProgress: 7 Second Strategies Worked Publicity For “Birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books.”** “More notably, The Hill reported Wednesday, Americans for Progressive Action’s spokeswoman is Sheena Tahilramani. Tahilramani served for several years as chief of staff for Karl Rove’s company and was media liaison for the Republican strategist. She now works as head of marketing and publicity for a consulting firm whose clients include birther Joseph Farah’s WND Books.” [ThinkProgress, [6/13/13](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2013/06/13/2148891/rove-protege-progressive-superpac-gomez/)]

**July 21, 2013: Wayback Machine: WND Books Was Listed As A Client.** According to the Wayback Machine, 7 Second Stratgies listed WND Books as a client on July 21, 2013. [Way back Machine, 7 Second Strategies, [7/21/13](https://web.archive.org/web/20130721125234/http:/www.7secondstrategies.com/clients)]

**November 24. 2013: Wayback Machine: WND Books Not Listed As A Client.** According to 7 Second Strategies, on November 24, 2013, WND Books is not listed as a client. [Way back Machine, 7 Second Strategies,[11/24/13](https://web.archive.org/web/20131124045356/http:/www.7secondstrategies.com/clients/)]

**January 15, 2015: WND Books Not Listed As Client On 7 Second Strategies Client Page.** According

to 7 Second Strategies, WND Books is not listed as a client. [7 Second Strategies, Accessed [1/15/16](http://www.7secondstrategies.com/clients/)]

### 2012, Talking Points Memo: Farah’s WND “Carved Out A Niche For Itself As The Go-To Destination For” Birthers

**2012, Talking Points Memo: Farah’s WND “Carved Out A Niche For Itself As The Go-To Destination For” Birthers.** “In 1998, Joseph Farah's WorldNetDaily warned the world that Bill Clinton had a mad plan to hold on to power, by exploiting panic over the Y2K bug….Farah's WorldNetDaily, now known simply as WND.com, has carved out a niche for itself as the go-to destination for Americans who doubt the legitimacy of President Barack Obama's birth certificate. But Farah, who launched the website out of his bedroom in 1997, says that despite WND's growth during the Obama era, its relentless pursuit of birth certificate stories is actually bad for business.” [Talking Points Memo, [9/10/12](http://talkingpointsmemo.com/muckraker/wnd-s-joseph-farah-insists-birtherism-is-bad-for-business)]

### Contributed $500 To Anti-Choice Congressional Candidate Endorsed By Sarah Palin

**In 2013, Contributed $500 to William Taylor Griffin’s Congressional Campaign.** According to the Federal Election Commission, in 2013, Denise Gitsham contributed $500 to William Taylor Griffin’s campaign for Congress. [FEC, Accessed 2/22/16]

**Griffin Stated That Life “Begins At Conception And Must Be Protected.”** “Right to Life Taylor is a pro-life conservative who believes every life is a sacred gift from God that begins at conception and must be protected. The life of an unborn child is no different and no less valuable than the life of anyone else.” [Taylor Griffin for Congress, Accessed [2/22/16](http://taylorgriffin.org/right-life/)]

**2014, Breitbart: Sarah Palin Endorsed Griffin In His Challenge To Incumbent Republican Rep. Walter Jones In North Carolina’s 3rd Congressional District.** “Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin endorsed former George W. Bush administration official and first-time candidate Taylor Griffin a week before North Carolina’s 3rd Congressional District’s GOP primary, which will be held on Tuesday, May 6. Griffin, an Eastern North Carolina native, worked for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and in the Treasury Department for Bush, is running to unseat incumbent Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), an anti-war Representative who is the most liberal Republican in Congress.” [Breitbart, [5/01/14](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2014/05/01/sarah-palin-endorses-taylor-griffin-in-nc-house-primary/)]

**Breitbart: Griffin Considered Palin To Be “The Epitome Of A Principled Conservative.”** “Griffin said he was ‘incredibly honored to receive the endorsement of Governor Sarah and Todd Palin’ because he considers Palin to be ‘the epitome of a principled conservative and her endorsement reinforces my message that I will give Eastern North Carolina the conservative representation we deserve.’” [Breitbart, [5/01/14](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2014/05/01/sarah-palin-endorses-taylor-griffin-in-nc-house-primary/)]

### As Registered Lobbyist, Contributed $100 To Congressman Sali Who Linked Abortion To Breast Cancer And Said Offering Hindu Prayer On Senate Floor “Creates Problems For The Longevity Of This Country”

**As A Registered Lobbyist, Gitsham Contributed $100 To Congressman Bill Sali’s Campaign On April 21, 2008.** According to the US House Lobbying Contribution report, Gitsham contributed $100 to Congressman Bill Sali’s campaignon April 21, 2008. [US House, Lobbying Contribution Report, Mid-Year 2008 report, Signed [7/16/08](http://disclosures.house.gov/lc/lcxmlrelease/2008/MM/700060067.xml)]

**2006: Linked Abortion To Breast Cancer On Idaho State House Floor.** “In the Idaho legislature, he also has earned a reputation for ruffling the feathers of other lawmakers, including fellow Republicans. Sali angered state House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, a Republican, and Minority Leader Wendy Jaquet, a Democrat, in April by referring to a disputed study that linked abortion and breast cancer. Jaquet — a breast cancer survivor — stormed off the floor, prompting Newcomb to berate Sali for showing a lack of sensitivity.” [CQ Politics, [11/08/06](http://www.nytimes.com/cq/2006/11/08/cq_1901.html)]

**House Minority Leader And Breast Cancer Survivor Was “In Tears And Obviously Upset, Walked Out.”** “Idaho lawmakers adjourned Friday until next week, with the House ending its session in an uproar after all 11 Democrats present stormed out when a Republican representative insisted on discussing studies he claims link abortion to breast cancer. Rep. Bill Sali, R-Kuna, kept talking about the studies during his closing debate, despite the objections of House Minority Leader Wendy Jacquet, D-Ketchum, herself a breast cancer survivor. When Sali continued, Jacquet, in tears and obviously upset, walked out and was followed by the other Democrats present.” [Associated Press, 4/07/06]

**Coeur d’Alene Press Editorial: “Fellow Republican Mike Simpson Was So Incensed, He Threatened To Toss Sali Out The Window.”** “We had a legislative lightning bolt in the Rotunda a few years back when two lawmakers who would eventually serve in Congress went after each other - almost literally. Bill Sali audaciously (and unscientifically) linked abortion to breast cancer, and fellow Republican Mike Simpson was so incensed, he threatened to toss Sali out the window.” [Coeur d’Alene Press Editorial, 2/2/4/13]

**Sali Said Hindu And Muslim Congresspeople Were At Odds With Founding Fathers Principles.** “Sali is one member of Congress who believed the prayer should have never been allowed, according to OneNewsNow.com. ‘We have not only a Hindu prayer being offered in the Senate, we have a Muslim member of the House of Representatives now: Keith Ellison from Minnesota. Those are changes — and they are not what was envisioned by the Founding Fathers,’ Sali told media at the time. Sali told the media America was built on Christian principles derived from scripture. He also said the only way the United States has been allowed to exist in a world that is so hostile to Christian principles is through ‘the protective hand of God.’” [Coeur d’Alene Press Editorial, 3/03/15]

**Said Hindu Prayer On Senate Floor “Creates Problems For The Longevity Of This Country**.” “Sen. Steve Vick, R-Dalton Gardens, said he tried to stop a Hindu invocation at the Senate opening today, but Senate leadership was allowing it anyway….. Zed, who is no stranger to political controversy, has been giving Hindu invocations to political bodies for years. In July of 2007, Zed gave the first Hindu prayer ever to be heard in the United States Senate. …Sali said the only way the U.S. can continue to survive is under that protective hand of God. He said when a Hindu prayer is offered, ‘that’s a different god’ and that it ‘creates problems for the longevity of this country.’” [Coeur d’Alene Press Editorial, 3/03/15]

### Lewiston Morning Tribune, Tom Henderson Column: Sali “Often Too Extreme Even For Extremists”

**Lewiston Morning Tribune, Tom Henderson Column: Sali “Often Too Extreme Even For Extremists.”** “In Hedden-Nicely's case, it may aid and abet Republican Bill Sali….It's sad his candidacy will suck votes away from Grant and give Sali -- often too extreme even for extremists -- an edge in November.” [Lewiston Morning Tribune, Tom Henderson Column, 7/02/06]

**Washington Monthly, Steve Benen Political Animal: Sali Was “One Of My Favorite Nutty Congresspeople.”** “Bunny Ears And Real Americans Bill Sali, one of my favorite nutty Congresspeople, makes the news again: ‘Congressman Bill Sali and his campaign staff disrupted a NewsChannel 7 reporter and a representative for his opponent during an interview Tuesday in Downtown Boise.” [Washington Monthly, Steve Benen Political Animal, [10/21/08](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/archives/individual/2008_10/015285.php)]

**Once Had A Close Working Relationship With Karl Rove**

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Had “Direct Ties To Republican Strategist Karl Rove.”**  “A San Diego business owner with direct ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove connections to his influential super PAC has entered the race against Democratic Rep. Scott Peters. Denise Gitsham is expected to announce her candidacy for California’s 52nd Congressional District this morning at an event in Little Italy.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)]

**Worked For Rove During The 2000 Election And In The White House.**  “Gitsham, a GOP political consultant described in campaign materials as a ‘small business owner,’ first worked for Rove during then-Texas Governor George W. Bush’s 2000 presidential campaign. She continued to work for Rove in the White House when he became the president’s deputy chief of staff and remained his political guru.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)]

**Gitsham’s Media Consultant Claimed She Had An “Unpaid Internship With Rove During The Bush Campaign.”** “Her campaign consultant, Jason Cabel Roe, said Thursday after the news conference that Gitsham had an unpaid internship with Rove during the Bush campaign.” [San Diego Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)]

### Business Partner Tahilramani Worked For Rove At The White House And At American Crossroads As His Chief Of Staff

**Business Partner Tahilramani Worked For Rove At The White House And At Rove-Founded American Crossroads.**  “She would later go to law school at Georgetown, and practiced in Washington before heading to California where she would form 7 Second Strategies, a public relations consulting firm. Her partner in the small company, Sheena Tahilramani, also worked for Rove in the White House and was later his media advisor as he founded American Crossroads, a super political action committee that supports conservative candidates but spends most of its money attacking Democrats.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)]

**Tahilramani Was Rove’s Chief Of Staff.** “In January 2013, Mindy Tucker Fletcher and I will launch a similarly disruptive government and public relations firm with Karl Rove’s former Chief of Staff, Sheena Tahilramani, and Congressman Bilbray’s former Senior Advisor, Jennifer Polk Maxon. Our media experience, understanding of the policymaking process, and strong relationships at the state, local and federal level will enable us to pivot between tactics, and move the needle on public opinion for our clients. Our ope is that we’ll have the privilege of working with some of San Diego’s most disruptive companies, and that together, we’ll redefine the term ‘business as usual.’” [Disruptive Thinkers, Accessed [11/12/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]

### Politico: “A Few Dozen Enigmatic Billionaires Have Effectively Crowned Themselves The New Kings Of Politics,” And Rove Was “Their Keeper”

**Politico: “A Few Dozen Enigmatic Billionaires Have Effectively Crowned Themselves The New Kings Of Politics,” And Rove Was “Their Keeper.”** “All we really know for sure is that in the four years since the Citizens United decision, a few dozen enigmatic billionaires have effectively crowned themselves the new kings of politics. Even before the legal landscape shifted, Rove anticipated their rise, and he set himself up to be their keeper.” [Politico, [6/26/14](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/06/karl-rove-and-the-modern-money-machine-108019)]

### Gitsham’s Public Relations Firm Received $10,000 From Super PAC Americans For Progressive Action, Which Was Funded By Sonoma County Winemaker John Jordan

**Gitsham’s Public Relations Firm Received $10,000 From Super PAC,** **Americans For Progressive Action,** **Which Was Funded By Sonoma County Winemaker John Jordan**. “Gitsham and her public relations firm 7 Seconds Strategies worked for at least one super PAC that focused its efforts entirely on a single candidate. Federal Election Commission records show the company received $10,000 from Americans for Progressive Action, an independent expenditure committee funded exclusively by $1.7 million in contributions from Sonoma County winemaker John Jordan.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [1/14/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/14/gitsham-leads-gop-field-in-fundraising/)]

**Jordan Had Hosted Fundraisers For Rick Perry And Tim Pawlenty.** “In the past two weeks, John Jordan has singlehandedly spent more than $1.2 million to help Republican candidate Gabriel Gomez in an uphill race against longtime Democratic Rep. Edward Markey. The 41-year-old chief executive of the Jordan Vineyard and Winery has jumped into the race under the guise of a mysterious super PAC with a somewhat un-Republican name, Americans for Progressive Action….Mr. Jordan gave more than $60,000 to the Republican National Committee in 2011 and 2012, and has hosted fundraisers at the family estate for Texas Gov. Rick Perry and the former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Republican Governors Association.” [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/13](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/06/21/california-vintner-pours-money-into-massachusetts-senate-race/)]

**Rove’s Former Chief Of Staff And Gitsham’s Business Partner Was Often Quoted As Spokesperson For Super PAC.** “Gitsham and her public relations firm 7 Seconds Strategies worked for at least one super PAC that focused its efforts entirely on a single candidate. Federal Election Commission records show the company received $10,000 from Americans for Progressive Action, an independent expenditure committee funded exclusively by $1.7 million in contributions from Sonoma County winemaker John Jordan. Sheena Tahilramani, Gitsham’s business partner and Rove’s former chief of staff, was often quoted as a spokeswoman for the super PAC.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [1/14/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/14/gitsham-leads-gop-field-in-fundraising/)]

**Treasurer Of Super PAC Used To Work For Michele Bachmann.** “The creation of Mr. Jordan’s super PAC, Americans for Progressive Action, stirred speculation earlier this month about the group’s origins and backers. Its treasurer, Nancy Watkins, used to work for Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, while its spokeswoman, Sheena Tahilramani, once served as chief of state to former Bush White House aide Karl Rove. But Mr. Jordan said he has no ties to either Ms. Bachmann or Mr. Rove. ‘I am not the usual political creature,’ he said. ‘I am just a guy in California who just couldn’t sit by.’” [Wall Street Journal, [6/21/13](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/06/21/california-vintner-pours-money-into-massachusetts-senate-race/)]

**Americans For Progressive Action Supported Republican Gabriel Gomez In His Race For The Massachusetts US Senate Race.** “Americans for Progressive Action supported Republican Gabriel Gomez who lost in a special election to Ed Markey to fill a Massachusetts U.S. Senate seat that was vacated when John Kerry became secretary of state.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [1/14/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/14/gitsham-leads-gop-field-in-fundraising/)]

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted John Jordan Of Americans For Progressive Action Is “Future Of Super Pacs”

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted John Jordan Was “Future Of Super PACs.”** “Heard 1st @politico @ShaneGoldmacher. John Jordan is future of #SuperPACs + trend will continue in #2016 http://bit.ly/1Qj9jp0 #politics” [SVN Public Relations, [4/22/15](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/590889142193532928)]

**John Jordan Funded The Super PAC, Americans For Progressive Action.** “Americans for Progressive Action, meanwhile, operated like the super PAC equivalent of a temporary, pop-up retail store. It started last June — 19 days before a special election to fill a U.S. Senate seat in the Democratic stronghold of Massachusetts and shut down last month. In between the two dates, it spent more than $1.3 million on Republican Gabriel Gomez's unsuccessful bid for the vacant seat. Its funder: California Republican and winery CEO John Jordan. Jordan said he launched the super PAC as a "rescue mission" to help Gomez, who was being pummeled by Democratic groups supporting the eventual winner, Edward Markey.” [USA Today, [2/11/14](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/02/11/super-pac-names/5375699/)]

### San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham “And Her Firm Have Ties To Karl Rove And His Influential Super PAC”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham “And Her Firm Have Ties To Karl Rove And His Influential Super PAC.”** “Businesswoman and her firm have ties to Karl Rove and his influential super PAC… A San Diego business owner with ties to Republican strategist Karl Rove and connections to his influential super PAC has entered the race against Democratic Rep. Scott Peters.”[San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/)]

**Appeared On The 12th Season Of The Bachelor, But Was Eliminated In The First Episode After Talking About Karl Rove When Meeting The Bachelor**

**Appeared On Season 12 Of The Bachelor.**  “This campaign won’t be Gitsham’s first time in the spotlight, and her candidacy also means that Donald Trump isn’t the only Republican candidate with reality television experience on their resume. In 2008 Gitsham was a short-lived contestant on season 12 of ABC’s ‘The Bachelor’.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]

**Was Kicked Off The Show After Talking About Karl Rove When Meeting The Bachelor.**  “It wasn’t all roses. The Washington Post reported that she got booted from the show after telling the bachelor ‘I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s considered ‘Bush’s brain.’ Gitsham was passed up in favor of a Venice Beach hotdog vender, the daughter of soap opera star Lorenzo Lamas’s, and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half, the Post noted.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]

**Said “I Worked For Karl Rove.”** “It wasn’t all roses. The Washington Post reported that she got booted from the show after telling the bachelor ‘I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s considered ‘Bush’s brain.’ Gitsham was passed up in favor of a Venice Beach hotdog vender, the daughter of soap opera star Lorenzo Lamas’s, and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half, the Post noted.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Passed Up In Favor Of A Venice Beach Hot Dog Vendor And A Woman Who Bit An Aluminum Can In Half.** “It wasn’t all roses. The Washington Post reported that she got booted from the show after telling the bachelor ‘I worked for Karl Rove. . . . He’s considered ‘Bush’s brain.’ Gitsham was passed up in favor of a Venice Beach hotdog vender, the daughter of soap opera star Lorenzo Lamas’s, and a woman who bit an aluminum can in half, the Post noted.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [11/05/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/nov/05/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-congressional-race-peters/); Washington Post, [3/19/08](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/19/AR2008031900021.html)]

**Boss At K&L Gates Promoted Gitsham’s Bachelor Appearance.** “Now it welcomes her back with open arms. From an email recently sent around by D.C.-based partner Mark Ruge: All: This Monday, at 9:30 p.m. on ABC, is the season premier of the hit television show, The Bachelor. (‘The Bachelor’ is the nation’s highest-rated reality TV show in the 18-45 female demographic group. It is now entering its 12th season on network television.) Believe it or not, one of the contestants this season will be our own associate Denise Gitsham, who was away ‘on location’ during much of February. Here is a link to the show’s web site and Denise’s bio. Denise’s name, photo, and bio were submitted to the show by her cousin, and Denise was selected to be one of the show’s 25 bachelorettes out of more than 12,000 applicants. She was under extreme confidentiality requirements during her adventure (and still is to some degree). At least now, though, she is free to admit what she was doing during her mysterious leave in February. Just thought you would like to know Mark.” [Above The Law, [3/13/08](http://abovethelaw.com/2008/03/kl-gates-reality-tv-stars-welcome-here/?rf=1)]

**Told Her Co-Workers She Was Leaving Work To Study For The Bar; Instead Appeared On The Bachelor…** “Ah, the old ‘studying for the bar’ excuse! That’s what Denise Gitsham told her fellow associates at D.C. mega-firm K&L Gates when she vanished for most of January and February. In fact, she was one of the 25 women running the roses-and-hot-tubs gantlet on the new ‘The Bachelor,’ premiering on ABC tonight.” [Washington Post, 3/17/08]

**… But Actually Did Take The Bar During Bachelor Leave Of Absence.** “Also good about: multitasking. Seems Gitsham actually managed to study for the bar during filming -- and took the exam last month.” [Washington Post, 3/17/08]

**E! Mocked Gitsham For Appearing On The Bachelor.** “The 19 Dumbest Fake Jobs That Have Ever Been on The Bachelor… 1. ‘Attorney and Former White House Aide’: Denise, Season 12. Number one because…WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS SHOW?! That can’t be real.” [E!, [1/06/15](http://www.eonline.com/news/611679/the-19-dumbest-fake-jobs-that-have-ever-been-on-the-bachelor)]

### Said She Would “Reach Out” To Former President George W Bush And Karl Rove To “Ask For Their Help” In Congressional Campaign

**Said She Would “Reach Out” To Former President George W Bush And Karl Rove To “Aske For Their Help” In Congressional Campaign** “When the time is right, she may even call on those ex-bosses of hers for support. ‘I haven’t discussed my plans to run with either Mr. Rove or the President,’ she shared, adding that it’s certainly possible President George W. Bush wouldn’t remember her anymore. ‘It’s been so long since I worked in his administration, and was one of thousands!’ she estimated. Still, it never hurts to have friends in formerly high places. ‘Once I get off the ground, I’ll reach out to both to ask for their help,’ Gitsham said. ‘But for now, it’s nose to the grindstone working with the people of my district to garner support.’” [Roll Call, [11/09/15](http://atr.rollcall.com/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-scott-peters/)]

**Planned To Reach Out To Karl Rove And George W. Bush At Some Point During Her Congressional Run.**  “When the time is right, she may even call on those ex-bosses of hers for support. ‘I haven’t discussed my plans to run with either Mr. Rove or the President,’ she shared, adding that it’s certainly possible President George W. Bush wouldn’t remember her anymore. ‘It’s been so long since I worked in his administration, and was one of thousands!’ she estimated. Still, it never hurts to have friends in formerly high places. ‘Once I get off the ground, I’ll reach out to both to ask for their help,’ Gitsham said. ‘But for now, it’s nose to the grindstone working with the people of my district to garner support.’” [Roll Call, [11/09/15](http://atr.rollcall.com/denise-gitsham-karl-rove-scott-peters/)]

### ABC: Revealed She’s “A Big Bush Supporter” While Talking To Bachelor On TV Show

**ABC: Revealed She’s “A Big Bush Supporter” While Talking To Bachelor On TV Show.** “Carri is dismayed when Denise hijacks their two-on-one with Matt to talk politics and reveal she's a big Bush supporter. Carri decides to "liven things up" and takes a bite out of an aluminum can!” [ABC, [3/17/08](http://www.tvfanatic.com/shows/the-bachelor/episodes/season-12/episode-1-season-12/)]

### Roll Call: “Rove Aide Enters Race Against Scott Peters”

**Roll Call, HEADLINE: Rove Aide Enters Race Against Scott Peters.** [Roll Call, [11/06/15](http://atr.rollcall.com/rove-aide-enters-race-against-scott-peters/)]

**National Journal, HEADLINE: Gitsham To Ask Bush, Rove For Campaign Help.** [National Journal, [11/10/15](http://www.nationaljournal.com/s/92317/gitsham-ask-bush-rove-campaign-help)]

### Campaign Twitter: “I Couldn’t Agree More With This Op-Ed, Written By An Oft-Vilified Koch Brother”; Koch Opposed Corporate Welfare, Including Ethanol Mandate

**Campaign Twitter: “I Couldn’t Agree More With This Op-Ed, Written By An Oft-Vilified Koch Brother.”** “#Truth. I couldn't agree more with this op-ed, written by an oft-vilified Koch brother. This is precisely the... <http://fb.me/156NYScIZ>” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, [2/19/16](https://twitter.com/DeniseforSD/status/700726654205763584)]

**Charles Koch Opinion, Washington Post: “Opposes All Forms Of Corporate Welfare,” Including Ethanol Mandate.** “That’s why Koch Industries opposes all forms of corporate welfare — even those that benefit us. (The government’s ethanol mandate is a good example. We oppose that mandate, even though we are the fifth-largest ethanol producer in the United States.)” [Charles Koch Opinion, Washington Post, [2/18/16](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-koch-this-is-the-one-issue-where-bernie-sanders-is-right/2016/02/18/cdd2c228-d5c1-11e5-be55-2cc3c1e4b76b_story.html)]

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Libertarian Think Tank Podcast On Food And Drug Administration’s Regulatory Overreach In Regard To New Medical Products

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted “Check It Out” In Regard To Heartland Institute Podcast Concerning A Report Entitled “The Proper Role Of The FDA.”** “The @HeartlandInst on ‘The Proper Role of the #FDA’ by @josephgulfo @mercatus in Ep25. Check it out http://bit.ly/1TduJ8L #innovation” [SVN Public Relations, [2/12/16](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/698247807438729216)]

**Report Criticized The Food And Drug Administration For “Regulatory Overreach” In Regard To New Medical Products.** “This study evaluates current FDA policy toward new medical products and concludes that the FDA must return to its role as gatekeeper of safe and effective drugs and devices. The FDA has made significant incursions into private health decisions by exercising its public health mandate in a manner that was not intended by Congress…The FDA is rightly supposed to demand proof of the safety and effectiveness of drugs and medical devices. This is its mission under the law. The FDA’s job is to approve safe and effective new drugs, biologics, and devices for use in the medical marketplace, making them available to doctors as they care for patients. Unfortunately, regulatory overreach by the FDA often leaves the agency nearly purporting to practice medicine rather than making safety and effectiveness determinations. This dampens the development of drugs for diseases that affect large populations of Americans, and also creates delays and raises prices.” [Mercatus Center George Mason University, [2/02/16](http://mercatus.org/publication/proper-role-fda-21st-century)]

### Heartland Institute Podcast Included Discussion On Role Institute Had On Opposing Obama Administration’s Clean Power Plan

**Heartland Institute Podcast Discussed “The Work Heartland Institute Has Done On The Recent Supreme Court Ruling Which Halted The Obama Administration’s Clean Power Plan.”** “Hosts Donny Kendal and John Nothdurft continue to explore the world of think tanks in episode #25 of the In The Tank Podcast…. They also talk about the work The Heartland Institute has done on the recent Supreme Court ruling which halted the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan.” [Heartland Institute Podcast, [2/12/16](https://www.heartland.org/podcasts/2016/02/12/tank-podcast-ep25-georgia-public-policy-foundation-fda-and-utahs-zion-curtain)]

**Heartland Institute: Obama’s Clean Power Plan Would “Impose Costly Regulations On The Nation’s Energy Industry.”** “The U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) issued a stay on the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule in a decision issued on February 9, halting efforts by the Obama administration to impose costly regulations on the nation’s energy industry until a final ruling on the legality of CPP can be delivered.” [Heartland Institute, [2/11/16](http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2016/02/11/supreme-court-blocks-obama-administrations-clean-power-plan)]

### The Economist: “Heartland Institute, The World’s Most Prominent Think-Tank Promoting Skepticism About Man-Made Climate Change”

**The Economist: “Heartland Institute, The World’s Most Prominent Think-Tank Promoting Skepticism About Man-Made Climate Change.”** “THE Heartland Institute, the world's most prominent think-tank promoting scepticism about man-made climate change, is getting a lot of heat. In recent weeks it has lost an estimated $825,000 in expected donations, a couple of directors and almost its entire branch in Washington, DC.” [The Economist, [5/26/12](http://www.economist.com/node/21555894)]

### Heartland Institute: Released Digital Billboard Depicting The Unabomber With The Slogan “I Still Believe In Global Warming. Do You?”

**The Economist: Heartland Insitute Released Digital Billboard “That Linked Belief In Global Warming To Madness And Terrorism.”** “THE Heartland Institute, the world's most prominent think-tank promoting scepticism about man-made climate change, is getting a lot of heat…. Worse ensued early this month after the institute put up a digital billboard in Chicago that linked belief in global warming to madness and terrorism.” [The Economist, [5/26/12](http://www.economist.com/node/21555894)]

**Released Digital Billboard Depicting The Unabomber With The Slogan “I Still Believe In Global Warming. Do You?”** “THE Heartland Institute, the world's most prominent think-tank promoting scepticism about man-made climate change, is getting a lot of heat…. Worse ensued early this month after the institute put up a digital billboard in Chicago that linked belief in global warming to madness and terrorism. It depicted the ‘Unabomber’, a mass-murderer called Ted Kaczynski, with the slogan, ‘I still believe in Global Warming. Do you?’” [The Economist, [5/26/12](http://www.economist.com/node/21555894)]

**Sign “Lasted Only For A Day,” With Pepsi Pulling Their Support Of The Thank Tank.** “The offending sign lasted only for a day. But PepsiCo, BB&T bank and Eli Lilly, a pharma company, are among donors that announced the end of their support.” [The Economist, [5/26/12](http://www.economist.com/node/21555894)]

### Heartland Institute: “Scientific Evidence Shows Secondhand Smoke Is No Danger”

**Heartland Institute: “Scientific Evidence Shows Secondhand Smoke Is No Danger.”** “Scientific Evidence Shows Secondhand Smoke Is No Danger… Millions of dollars have been spent promoting belief in SHS as a killer, and more millions of dollars have been spent by businesses in order to comply with thousands of highly restrictive bans, while personal choice and freedom have been denied to millions of smokers. Finally, and perhaps most tragically, all this has diverted resources away from discovering the true cause(s) of lung cancer in nonsmokers.” [Heartland Institute, [7/01/08](http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2008/07/01/scientific-evidence-shows-secondhand-smoke-no-danger)]

### Possibly Appeared With Rick Santorum On Rick Amato Talk Show

**Possibly Appeared With Rick Santorum On Rick Amato Talk Show.** “Tonite on @OANN @ 10pET: @RickSantorum, @7SStrategies, @Project21News, @NationalCenter & more: Verizon 116/616HD & CenturyLink 209/1209” [Rick Amato Official Twitter Account, [5/14/14](https://twitter.com/AmatoTalk/status/466696788570021888)]

### Met With National Federation Of Independent Business In Washington DC; Reuters: “The NFIB Has A Record Of Lobbying For Issues That Benefit Big Businesses”

**Met With National Federation Of Independent Business In Washington DC.** “Such a pleasure meeting with the NFIB today in Washington DC - the nation's leading voice for small business owners like me. Honored to be invited to sign their candidate wall on behalf of small business owners in San Diego.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress official Facebook page, [12/08/15](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1684678611780162)]

**Reuters: “The NFIB Has A Record Of Lobbying For Issues That Benefit Big Businesses.** “For another, the NFIB has a record of lobbying for issues that benefit big businesses, not necessarily small ones. Consider a widespread state tax loophole that lets big-box retailers like Wal-Mart and Home Depot transfer income to out-of-state subsidiaries. This loophole often allows the chain retailers to pay no state income tax, while small businesses do. Yet the NFIB has fought against closing such loopholes.” [Reuters, [5/22/12](http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2012/05/22/who-truly-speaks-for-small-businesses/)]

Abortion Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *San Diego Union-Tribune: “Gitsham was against abortion rights”* * *Said, “I’m a pro-life candidate”* * *Said she “would defund Planned Parenthood,” but said organization provided “So much important stuff,” and would only cut funds “specifically earmarked for abortions”* |

**During the first Republican primary debate of the 2016 election, Gitsham staked out a position “Against abortion rights,” according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. She stated that she is a “pro-life candidate.” Furthermore, Gitsham said she would defund Planned Parenthood, but said the organization provided “So much important stuff,” and would only cut funds “specifically earmarked for abortions.”**

### San Diego Union-Tribune: “Gitsham Was Against Abortion Rights”; Gitsham: “I’m A Pro-Life Candidate.”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: “Gitsham Was Against Abortion Rights”; Gitsham: “I’m A Pro-Life Candidate.** “Gitsham said she’s against abortion rights. “I am a pro-life candidate. I believe that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God and we have an inherent right to life.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]

### Said She “Would Defund Planned Parenthood,” But Said Organization Provided “So Much Important Stuff,” And Would Only Cut Funds “Specifically Earmarked For Abortions”

**Said She “Would Defund Planned Parenthood,” But Said Organization Provided “ So Much Important Stuff,” And Would Only Cut Funds “Specifically Earmarked For Abortions.” “**Gitsham said she’s against abortion rights. ‘I am a pro-life candidate. I believe that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God and we have an inherent right to life. And I would defund Planned Parenthood,’ she said. Planned Parenthood, however, provides ‘so much important stuff” and she only wants to cut funds “specifically earmarked for abortions,’ Gitsham said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]

Budget Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Called for Congress to be more focused on budget cuts* |

**On Gitsham’s Congressional campaign page, she called for Congress to be more focused on budget cuts.**

**Called For DC To Be More Focused On Budget Cuts**

**Called For DC To Be More Focused On Budget Cuts.**  “Some politicians seem to have forgotten this elementary truth on their way to Washington. The rules don’t magically change in D.C., but many act and legislate as if they do. The truth is, there will never be enough money in the world to give everyone what they want. Nonetheless, our elected officials aren’t prioritizing spending with the limited resources we have – a rule that everyone, whether business owner or private citizen, must abide by. It’s time for new leadership to step in, take the China-backed credit card out of Washington’s hands, and restore budgetary discipline in our nation’s capitol. #AmericanProsperity” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

Education Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *In 2008, Gitsham donated up to $24,000 to the District of Columbia College Success Foundation* |

**In 2008, Gitsham donated up to $24,000 to the District of Columbia College Success Foundation.**

### Donated Up To $24,000 To District Of Columbia College Success Foundation In 2008

**Donated Up To $24,000 To District Of Columbia College Success Foundation In 2008.** “The District of Columbia College Success Foundation is grateful to the following generous supporters of our 2008 scholarship and program efforts that touch students’ lives.... Major Benefactors (Up to $24,000):… Denise Gitsham” [District of Columbia College Success Foundation, [2008 Annual Report](http://collegesuccessfoundation.org/Document.Doc?id=12)]

Energy Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008: Lobbied on algae to gasoline development, later leaving firm to work as Director of Corporate Affairs and as Legislative Counsel for Sapphire Energy from January 2009 to January 2013* * *During tenure at Sapphire, company received over $100 million in federal funding for its New Mexico algae production facility* * *During tenure at Sapphire, Biofuels Digest named Sapphire Energy’s crude farm in New Mexico its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award winner* * *In March 2011, Mansanto made an equity investment in Sapphire* * *Lobbied on behalf of company in support of funding for cellulosic biomass technology* * *2014: Led a multi-industry public-private association focused on establishing a domestic renewable crude industry* * *January 2014: SVN Public Relations called opinion article “great Piece,” in which he described Cap-and-Trade as contributing to Obama’s “political demise”* |

**For the entire year of 2008, Gitsham reported lobbying for Sapphire energy on algae to gasoline development. In January 2009, she started working at Sapphire Energy as the Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Council, where she would work until January 2013. In 2009, the company would receive over $100 million in federal funding to build a New Mexico algae production facility. $50 million of the total received was stimulus funds. Additionally, during her tenure at the company, Biofuels Digest named Sapphire’s Energy’s crude farm in New Mexico its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award winner. Finally, during her tenure at the company, Monsanto made an equity investment.**

**Additionally, she lobbied on behalf of XF Technologies in support of funding for cellulosic biomass technology. In 2015, Albuquerque Business First wrote that the company’s biomass solvents were “good replacements” for chlorinated solvents and plasticizers, which were chemicals in plastics that were banned by many countries. Furthermore, in 2014, she led a multi-industry public-private association focused on establishing a domestic renewable crude industry.**

**In January 2014, Gitsham’s public relations firm called a John Jordan opinion article a “great piece.” In the article, he described Cap-and-Trade as contributing to Obama’s “political demise.”**

### Lobbied For Sapphire Energy On Algae To Gasoline Development, Later Left K&L To Work Directly For Sapphire Energy

**January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008: Lobbied For Sapphire Energy On “Support Algae To Gasoline Technology Development”; Lobbying Firm Received $190,000 For Lobbying On Behalf Of Sapphire.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, US Senate, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Treasury and the Department of Agriculture on behalf of Sapphire Energy on “Support algae to gasoline technology development; S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project” between the periods January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Gitsham’s lobbying firm received $190,000 for lobbying on behalf of Sapphire during the time period. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed 1/11/16]

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| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury | Support algae to gasoline technology development. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Second Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | Support algae to gasoline technology development |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Third Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Sapphire Energy | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $90,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy; Dept. of Treasury; Dept of Agriculture | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, algae to gasoline demonstration project. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

### Gitsham Started Working For Sapphire Energy As The Director Of Corporate Affairs And Legislative Council From January 2009 To January 2013

**Gitsham Started Working For Sapphire Energy As The Director Of Corporate Affairs And Legislative Council From January 2009 To January 2013.** According to Denise Gitsham’s official Linkedin page, “Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel…Sapphire Energy…January 2009 – January 2013 (4 years 1 month)” [Linkedin, Denise Gitsham, Accessed [12/15/15](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]

### 2009: Sapphire Energy Received $50 Million In Stimulus Act Funding To Build New Mexico Algae Production Facility From US Department Of Energy Of 2009; Received Over $100 Million In Federal Funds Overall

**Sapphire Energy Received $50 Million In Funding For New Mexico Algae Production Company From US Department Of Energy; Received Over $100 Million In Federal Funds Overall.** “Sapphire Energy will receive $104.5 million in federal funding to build a commercial scale, algae-based biofuel operation near Columbus in southern New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Energy awarded $50 million in stimulus money for the project, and the U.S. Department of Agricultural approved a $54.5 million loan guarantee under the Biorefinery Assistance Program, which was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill.” [Albuquerque Business Journal [11/30/09](http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2009/11/30/daily50.html)]

**Construction On Algae Production Facility Began In June 2011.** “Sapphire Energy, Inc., one of the world leaders in algae-based green crude oil production, today announced the first phase of its Green Crude Farm, the world’s first commercial demonstration algae-to-energy facility, is now operational. Construction of this first phase, which began on June 1, 2011, was completed on time and on budget. When completed, the facility will produce 1.5 million gallons per year of crude oil and consist of approximately 300 acres of algae cultivation ponds and processing facilities. By reaching this key milestone, Sapphire Energy is on target to make algae-based Green Crude a viable alternative fuel solution capable of significantly reducing the nation’s need for foreign crude oil, which will serve as the blueprint for scalable algae biofuel facilities globally.” [Sapphire Energy Press Release, Accessed [12/15/15](http://www.mveda.com/blog/sapphire-energys-commercial-demonstration-algae-to-energy-facility-now-operational/)]

*NOTE: According to USASpending.gov, Sapphire Energy received over $70 million in federal funds during Gitsham’s tenure with the company. A table of the funds is outlined in a table in the appendix labeled “Federal Funding-Sapphire Energy.”*

### September 17, 2008: Was Evaluating Locations Across The United States To Build Algae Production Facility

**September 17, 2008: Was Evaluating Locations Across The United States To Build Algae Production Facility.** “SAN DIEGO – September 17, 2008 – Sapphire Energy took another step closer to bringing Green Crude Production to commercial scale today by announcing it has raised substantial additional financing from existing and new investors. Sapphire Energy’s Series B round of investment brings the company’s total funding to substantially more than $100 million, and Sapphire is now financed to scale up its production facilities to full commercial feasibility…. Sapphire’s production facilities will be capable of expanding and growing easily and economically because production is modular, transportable, and fueled by sunlight – not constrained by land, crops, or other natural resources. The company aims to produce Green Crude at a commercial scale within three to five years.….Sapphire recently established a test and research site in New Mexico, and is evaluating locations across the United States.” [Sapphire Energy Press Release, [9/17/08](http://www.sapphireenergy.com/press-article/67404-sapphire-energy-builds-investment-syndicate-to)]

**September 17, 2008: Operated Test And Research Site In New Mexico.** “Sapphire recently established a test and research site in New Mexico, and is evaluating locations across the United States.” [Sapphire Energy Press Release, [9/17/08](http://www.sapphireenergy.com/press-article/67404-sapphire-energy-builds-investment-syndicate-to)]

### August 2008: Presented Proposal To City Of Las Cruces To Build On 10 Acres Of Land; City Also Gave Company Additional 90 Acres Of Land, With A Value Of $1.35 Million

**August 2008: Presented Proposal To City Of Las Cruces To Build On 10 Acres Of Land.** “Also at Monday's meeting, the council is expected to receive a presentation from Sapphire Energy, a company that wants to develop high octane gasoline through algae. Sapphire's proposal to the city includes purchasing 10 acres at the West Mesa Industrial Park; creating 30 jobs that would pay about $34,000 a year — or 120 percent of the median average income of Las Cruces residents; and the company would invest $6 million in construction at the industrial park.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/02/08]

**Facility Would Eventually Grow To A Thousand Acres.** “Southern New Mexico and the El Paso area have drawn interest from companies hoping to create biofuel from algae. Now Sapphire Energy of San Diego, Calif., hopes to build a facility on the West Mesa Industrial Park in Las Cruces that could eventually grow to thousands of acres. Sapphire Energy plans to grow algae to produce a renewable source of fuel from which gasoline and jet fuel can be made…. A proposed ordinance and economic development project is on the Las Cruces City Council's agenda today that calls for Sapphire to buy 10 acres of land in the West Mesa Industrial Park at market value. Sapphire would create 30 jobs at 120 percent of the average salary for the area and would invest $6 million in the industrial park. After that, the city would convey 90 acres surrounding the original site to the company — with a value of $1.35 million — at no additional cost. The company reports in its business plan to the city that it could eventually use about 2,000 acres for a commercial test plant.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/03/08]

**City Also Gave Company Additional 90 Acres Of Land, With A Value Of $1.35 Million.** “Sapphire would create 30 jobs at 120 percent of the average salary for the area and would invest $6 million in the industrial park. After that, the city would convey 90 acres surrounding the original site to the company — with a value of $1.35 million — at no additional cost. The company reports in its business plan to the city that it could eventually use about 2,000 acres for a commercial test plant.” [Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/03/08]

### Sapphire’s Decision To Build Algae Plant In New Mexico Became Issue In San Diego County Supervisor Race In 2012

**Sapphire’s Decision To Build Algae Plant In New Mexico Became Issue In San Diego County Supervisor Race In 2012.** “The contest to replace retiring San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, a down-ballot competition that has drawn comparatively little attention, heated up Tuesday as the candidates exchanged barbs over a new Chargers stadium, pension reform, tax increases and red tape in the planning department…. Characterizing their cities as models of financial stewardship, Hilliard and Roberts challenged Danon for repeatedly asserting that Sapphire Energy — a company with deep ties to University of California San Diego and Scripps Institute of Oceanography — decided to relocate after being told by the county it would take five to seven years to get the necessary permits. Some 750 jobs that would have been created here are now being created in New Mexico, Danon said. Roberts said he reached out to the company, the city and the county and ‘we cannot find anybody to say this is true.’ A county spokesman said county officials never engaged in a pre-application meeting or initial consultation with Sapphire Energy. Messages left with a company representative were not returned Tuesday. Danon said he received the information from the company’s chief executive.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/11/12]

**Sapphire Relocated From County Of San Diego To New Mexico.** “Characterizing their cities as models of financial stewardship, Hilliard and Roberts challenged Danon for repeatedly asserting that Sapphire Energy — a company with deep ties to University of California San Diego and Scripps Institute of Oceanography — decided to relocate after being told by the county it would take five to seven years to get the necessary permits. Some 750 jobs that would have been created here are now being created in New Mexico, Danon said. Roberts said he reached out to the company, the city and the county and ‘we cannot find anybody to say this is true.’ A county spokesman said county officials never engaged in a pre-application meeting or initial consultation with Sapphire Energy. Messages left with a company representative were not returned Tuesday. Danon said he received the information from the company’s chief executive.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/11/12]

**San Diego County Supervisor Candidate Claimed That Sapphire Energy Decided To Relocate After County Said It Would Take Five To Seven Years To Get Permits To Build Facility.** “Characterizing their cities as models of financial stewardship, Hilliard and Roberts challenged Danon for repeatedly asserting that Sapphire Energy — a company with deep ties to University of California San Diego and Scripps Institute of Oceanography — decided to relocate after being told by the county it would take five to seven years to get the necessary permits. Some 750 jobs that would have been created here are now being created in New Mexico, Danon said. Roberts said he reached out to the company, the city and the county and ‘we cannot find anybody to say this is true.’ A county spokesman said county officials never engaged in a pre-application meeting or initial consultation with Sapphire Energy. Messages left with a company representative were not returned Tuesday. Danon said he received the information from the company’s chief executive.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/11/12]

**Candidate Claimed 750 Jobs Would Have Been Created.** “Some 750 jobs that would have been created here are now being created in New Mexico, Danon said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/11/12]

**County Spokesman Said County Officials Never Engaged In Pre-Application Meeting Or Initial Consultation With Sapphire Regarding Facility.** “Characterizing their cities as models of financial stewardship, Hilliard and Roberts challenged Danon for repeatedly asserting that Sapphire Energy — a company with deep ties to University of California San Diego and Scripps Institute of Oceanography — decided to relocate after being told by the county it would take five to seven years to get the necessary permits. Some 750 jobs that would have been created here are now being created in New Mexico, Danon said. Roberts said he reached out to the company, the city and the county and ‘we cannot find anybody to say this is true.’ A county spokesman said county officials never engaged in a pre-application meeting or initial consultation with Sapphire Energy. Messages left with a company representative were not returned Tuesday. Danon said he received the information from the company’s chief executive.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/11/12]

### Attended US Senator Tom Udall’s Press Conference At New Mexico State At Which He Announced Legislation To Help Algae Biofuels Industry

**Attended US Senator Tom Udall’s Press Conference At New Mexico State At Which He Announced Legislation To Help Algae Biofuels Industry.** “Research being done at New Mexico State University on the production of algae-based biofuels would become increasingly important to New Mexico's - and the nation's - economic prosperity, if U.S. Sen. Tom Udall has his way. Udall visited the campus Aug. 9 to announce he will soon introduce legislation in the Senate to ensure a more level playing field for the algal biofuels industry. Joining Udall at the news conference were NMSU President Barbara Couture; Pete Lammers, NMSU research professor and the technical director of the university's Algal Bioenergy Program; Jim Peach, Regents Professor of Economics; and Denise Gitsham, director of corporate affairs and legislative counsel for Sapphire Energy, Inc., owner of a large biorefinery in Columbus, N.M.” [New Mexico State University, [8/12/11](http://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/7936)]

### Led Multi-Industry Public-Private Association Focused On Establishing Domestic Renewable Crude Industry Called The 2020 Inflection Point Coalition

**Led Multi-Industry Public-Private Association Focused On Establishing Domestic Renewable Crude Industry Called The 2020 Inflection Point Coalition.** “She also led a multi-industry public-private association focused on establishing a domestic renewable crude industry, called the 2020 Inflection Point Coalition. In both capacities, Gitsham developed strategic communications plans that facilitated a steady stream of media coverage for algae at the national, state and local level. She also served as an algae industry spokesperson on Capitol Hill.” [San Diego Business Journal, [11/17/14](http://www.cbjonline.com/a3sdbj/resources/supplements/PDF/20141117_WWMB.pdf)]

### Sapphire Used Genetically-Modified Algae, Which Some Saw As Risky

**Sapphire Used Genetically-Modified Algae.** “But Sapphire Energy, which works with GM algae in its laboratories, says the algae that will be grown in its open-air ponds will be solely of the natural variety – ‘bred between the same species to enable traits, whether that be crop protection or the ability to withstand temperature variances, adaptability to salt water, pH or other conditions,’ according to Tim Zenk, vice president of corporate affairs for the company.” [ClimateWire, 7/22/10]

**ClimateWire: Small Groups Of Academics And Researchers Saw Risks In Genetically Modified Algae.** “If researchers choose to modify them, then the algae basking in open pools under the sun's rays will have genomes dotted with genes from foreign species. Those algae could cause problems, according to a small group of academics and researchers. Cyanotech, a maker of nutritional supplements, grows natural algae in outdoor ponds at its facility in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. Some researchers think genetically modified algae for making biofuels might pose a danger in such ponds. Their concerns begin with something as ephemeral as a breeze that could pick up genetically modified microalgae and carry them into nearby fields and streams to displace natural strains, alter the ecosystem, and perhaps get into the human food chain. Just what would happen then is unknown, but the uncertainty is what is keeping them up at night. When it comes to genetically modified algae, they say, no one is asking the difficult questions, so it is impossible to get any of the answers.” [ClimateWire, 7/22/10]

**Some Groups Worried About Genetically Modified Algae Displacing Natural Strains And Altering The Ecosystem.** “Their concerns begin with something as ephemeral as a breeze that could pick up genetically modified microalgae and carry them into nearby fields and streams to displace natural strains, alter the ecosystem, and perhaps get into the human food chain. Just what would happen then is unknown, but the uncertainty is what is keeping them up at night. When it comes to genetically modified algae, they say, no one is asking the difficult questions, so it is impossible to get any of the answers.” [ClimateWire, 7/22/10]

### December 13, 2013: Reached Deal With Phillips 66 To Work Together To Commercially Develop Crude Oil Derived From Algae

**December 13, 2013: Reached Deal With Phillips 66 To Work Together To Commercially Develop Crude Oil Derived From Algae.** “A deal between refiner Phillips 66 and Sapphire Energy to develop green crude was lauded by advocates as the dawn and the emergence of a new renewable form of domestic oil. With a production target of around 65,000 barrels per day by 2025, however, the celebration may be premature. Phillips 66 and green crude pioneer Sapphire Energy, Inc., agreed to work together to develop crude oil derived from algae to the commercial level. Both sides said they'd work to expand on Sapphire's test program to show green crude can be refined using traditional methods.” [Postmedia Breaking News, 12/13/13]

### September 2013: Department Of Energy Awarded Sapphire Energy Money For Research

**September 2013: Department Of Energy Awarded Sapphire Energy Money For Research.** “The Department of Energy also awarded two businesses, Sapphire Energy of San Diego and Hawaii Bioenergy of Lihue, Hawaii, with money for research. This isn’t the first Department of Energy grant for algae research Cal Poly students have received; the Algae Technology Group, a Cal Poly research group, was awarded a $1.3 million grant in January. The research projects build on the Energy Department’s effort to bring next-generation biofuels to the forefront, with the goal of producing competitive biofuels by 2017 and algae biofuels by 2022, according to the release.” [San Luis Obispo, 9/09/13]

**Received $5 Million From Department Of Energy To Develop New Process To Produce Algae-Based Fuel Compatible With Existing Refineries.** “Sapphire Energy ($ 5 million DOE investment): Headquartered in San Diego, California, Sapphire Energy will develop a new process to produce algae-based fuel that is compatible with existing refineries. The project will also work on improving algae strains and increasing yield through cultivation improvements.” [US Department of Energy Press Release, 8/06/13]

### Sapphire’s Green Crude Produced At “A Demonstration Facility” In New Mexico

**Sapphire’s Green Crude Produced At “A Demonstration Facility” In New Mexico.** “Sapphire Energy entered into an agreement earlier in the year to sell an undisclosed amount of its "Green Crude" product to major West Coast refiner Tesoro, in what the biofuel firm described as the first step in commercializing the technology. Sapphire's Green Crude is being produced at a demonstration facility in New Mexico funded in part by the Department of Energy (DOE), and is expected to begin producing 100 barrels of the oil per day in 2014.” [EnergyWashington Week, 12/18/13]

### September 2013: Paid Off $54.5 Million Federal Loan Guarantee Given To Company In December 2009 As Part Of The Biorefinery Assistance Program To Build New Mexico Facility

**September 2013: Paid Off $54.5 Million Federal Loan Guarantee Given To Company In December 2009 As Part Of The Biorefinery Assistance Program To Build New Mexico Facility.** “Senators will also hear from a representative of Sapphire Energy Inc., an advanced biofuel company that is operating a large algae farm on a desert site in Columbus, N.M. Sapphire feeds its algae a diet of carbon dioxide, sunlight and nonpotable water and harvests "green crude" produced from the microorganisms that can be refined into jet fuel and diesel. Earlier this year, Sapphire announced it had finished paying off a $54.5 million federal loan guarantee for the project given to the company in December 2009 through the Biorefinery Assistance Program (E&ENews PM, July 30).” [Environment and Energy Daily, 9/30/13]

### Bill Gates Invested In Sapphire Energy

**Bill Gates Invested In Sapphire Energy.** “Another company ready to make the leap into commercial scale production of algae fuel is Sapphire Energy, which operates a 2,200-acre algae farm in New Mexico where oil is harvested across 70 open ponds and refined on site. Sapphire - Bill Gates is a big investor - expects the facility, which goes online next year, to generate some 10,000 barrels of crude oil a day by 2018.” [The Environment Magazine, 7/29/13]

### March 2011: Monsanto Made An Equity Investment In Sapphire And Entered Into A Multiyear Research Collaboration

**Monsanto Made An Equity Investment In Sapphire In March 2011 And Entered Into A Multiyear Research Collaboration.** “This is not the first time that Monsanto has invested in a San Diego company. Monsanto made an equity investment in San Diego's Sapphire Energy Inc. in March 2011, and entered a multiyear research collaboration. The two companies are teaming up to discover new genes in algae that can be applied to agriculture --particularly those that wouldallow plants to grow in difficult environments, like saltwater. Sapphire employs about 170, and 10 employees are working directly with Monsanto. Tim Zenk, vice president of corporate affairs for Sapphire, said that the Monsanto collaboration has fit in nicely with Sapphire's own agenda to develop an algae-based energy source.” [San Diego Business Journal, 2/11/13]

**Sapphire Vice President Of Corporate Affairs: “Real Sybmiotic Relationship Between The Ability To Impart And Develop A Gene Library For Monsanto.”** “Tim Zenk, vice president of corporate affairs for Sapphire, said that the Monsanto collaboration has fit in nicely with Sapphire's own agenda to develop an algae-based energy source. ‘There's a real symbiotic relationship between the ability to impart and develop a gene library for Monsanto, but also improve the traits that we need improvement on to commercialize algae into an energy product,’ Zenk said.” [San Diego Business Journal, 2/11/13]

### Sapphire Received $142 Million In Venture Capital Funding In 2012

**Sapphire Received $142 Million In Venture Capital Funding In 2012.** “Venture funding into San Diego companies last year passed $1 billion, the first time that's happened since 2008, according to the latest MoneyTree Report. As has been the case for most of the past two decades, the life sciences sector (which includes medical devices) took the majority of that total with $709 million invested in 2012, up from nearly $600 million in the prior year….Sapphire Energy Funded… Within the life sciences, the firm attracting the largest VC funding was Sapphire Energy, which obtained $142 million earlier in the year, the report said.” [San Diego Business Journal, 1/28/13]

### Sapphire’s New Mexico Project Received Approximately $105 Million In Federal Loan Gurantees And Grants, In Addition To $229 Million In Private Investments

**Sapphire’s New Mexico Project Received Approximately $105 Million In Federal Loan Gurantees And Grants, In Addition To $229 Million In Private Investments.** “Bryn Davis was succinct and on point. ‘Our goal: Make oil, make a lot of it,’ said Davis, operations manager of Sapphire Energy as he gave a tour of the company's research facility in Las Cruces. San Diego-based Sapphire works to extract oil from algae that can then be refined and made into fuel. In addition to the Las Cruces location, the company has what it calls a green crude farm near Columbus, N.M., south of Deming. The idea is to make a renewable crop that can produce fuel…. ‘Our view is that clear heads will prevail at the end of the presidential cycle,’ Zenk said. The project has already been funded by approximately $105 million in federal loan guarantees and grants, in addition to $229 million in private investments.” [Las Cruces Sun News, 9/09/12]

### Biofuels Digest Named Sapphire Energy’s Green Crude Farm In New Mexico Its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award Winner

**Biofuels Digest Named Sapphire Energy’s Green Crude Farm In New Mexico Its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award Winner.** “Biofuels Digest said the market for the aviation fuel could total 60 billion gallons annually. The journal also named Sapphire Energy's Green Crude Farm its New Feedstock (Demonstration) Award winner. In August 2012, Sapphire Energy launched the first phase of its Green Crude Farm in Columbus. By growing algae on a massive scale, the company hopes to turn it into crude oil. Sapphire opened its farm in August 2012, and plans to cultivate 300 acres of algae.” [Albuquerque Business First Journal, 1/07/13]

### 2012: House Of Representatives Had Not Approved $70 Million In Funding For Navy Biofuel Program In 2013 Budget, Which Was Supported By Sapphire

**2012: House Of Representatives had Not Approved $70 Million In Funding For Navy Biofuel Program In 2013 Budget, Which Was Supported By Sapphire.** “Dissent from some lawmakers on the merits of using ‘green fuel’ to power the U.S. Navy is not stopping Sapphire Energy from continuing to develop and explore algae-based fuel at its Columbus green crude farm. Despite the criticism of some that biofuel is too costly and not yet fully developed, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved $70 million for the Navy biofuels program in the 2013 budget. The House of Representatives has not approved the $70 million in funding, but consideration by the full House and Senate is expected to make the final decision in September. ‘Our view is that clear heads will prevail at the end of the presidential cycle,’ Zenk said.” [Las Cruces Sun News, 9/09/12]

### May 2009: Sapphire Urged US Senators To Add Algae-Based Fuel To Cap-And-Trade Legislation

**May 2009: Sapphire Urged US Senators To Add Algae-Based Fuel To Cap-And-Trade Legislation.** “Cynthia J. Warner, president of Sapphire Energy, today testified before the full U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Hearing on ‘Business Opportunities and Climate Policy’ to ensure that upcoming Cap and Trade legislation includes a proper ‘carbon accounting’ for emerging and proven algae-based fuel. Warner encouraged Senators to adopt policies that would incentivize industrial emitters of CO2, like coal-burning electric power generators, to collect and transport their CO2 to companies like Sapphire Energy whose process turns industrial waste and greenhouse gases (GHG) into low carbon gasoline, diesel and jet fuels. Recycling carbon in an economically beneficial way not only generates green electricity, but offsets the need for new hydrocarbon-based crude oil and reduces overall GHG emissions into the atmosphere.” [Sapphire Energy Press Release, [5/19/09](http://www.sapphireenergy.com/press-article/67380-sapphire-energy-urges-senators-to-add)]

### SVN Public Relations Called John Jordan Opinion Article “Great Piece,” In Which He Described Cap-And-Trade As Contributing To Obama’s “Political Demise”

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted That John Jordan Opinion Article On Fox News Was A “Great Piece.”** “Another great piece by John Jordan on @foxopinion: Obama’s political demise gives GOP chance to woo Democratic voters <http://fxn.ws/1dh9tq3>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter Account, [1/03/14](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/419174729447002113)]

**John Jordan Opinion, Fox News: Pushing Cap-And-Trade Contributed To Obama’s “Political Demise.”** “Obama’s political demise gives GOP chance to woo Democratic voters…For five years, the Democratic Party has remained uncharacteristically united in its political support for President Obama. From universal health care, to gay marriage, to cap-and-trade, Democrats of all stripes have put their own political careers on the line to help this president win big, hoping that his success would bolster theirs.” [Fox News, John Jordan Opinion, [1/03/14](http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/01/03/obamas-political-demise-gives-gop-chance-to-woo-democratic-voters.html)]

### Lobbied For XF Tehnologies To Create More Opportunities For Cellulosic Biomass Technology

**July 1, 2007-December 31, 2008: Lobbied For XF Technologies On Funding For Cellulosic Biomass Technology; Lobbying Firm Received $90,000 For Lobbying On Behalf Of XF Technologies.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US house, US Senate, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture on behalf of XF Technologies on funding for cellulosic biomass technologies between the periods July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008. Gitsham’s lobbying firm received $90,000 for lobbying on behalf of XF Technologies. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [1/11/16](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Registration 2007 | n/a | n/a | Federal opportunities for cellulosic biomass technology |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Year End 2007 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | Federal opportunities for cellulosic biomass technology |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | First Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosis biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Second Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosis biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Third Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | HR 2638, Division C, DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosic biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $10,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | HR 2638, Division C, DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosic biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

### 2015: XF Technologies Biomass Solvents Were “Good Replacements” For Chlorinated Solvents And Plasticizers, Which Were Chemicals In Plastics Banned By Many Countries

**2015: XF Technologies Biomass Solvents Were “Good Replacements” For Chlorinated Solvents And Plasticizers, Which Were Chemicals In Plastics Banned By Many Countries.** “XF Technologies, formerly Incitor, makes a fuel additive from biomass that has some unique properties, said company president Len Rand…. Though the company hadn’t planned on making industrial solvents, it’s biomass chemicals are turning out to be good replacements for both chlorinated solvents as well as plasticizers, which are chemicals in plastics that are banned in many countries.” [Albuquerque Business First, [6/24/15](http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/blog/bizventures/2015/06/xf-technologies-raises-another-1-5-million-in.html)]

Environmental Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Gitsham Linkedin: Claimed that as an Associate at K&L Gates, “represented clients in the clean technology” industry* * *Lobbied on behalf of self-described “largest private-sector coal company in the world,” in support of coal-to-substitute-liquid natural gas technology, which “results in enormous greenhouse gas emissions”* * *Lobbied for Peabody Energy; USA Today referred to company as “perhaps the staunchest opponent of stringent regulations to cap greenhouse gas”* * *Lobbied for Peabody while it opposed bill to cap greenhouse gas emissions* * *Lobbied for Peabody while it built the “biggest US coal plant in 25 years”* * *Lobbied for Peabody while the company was subpoenaed by the New York AG as part of investigation that focused on companies building new coal-fired plants* * *Lobbied for Peabody while it created spinoff company in order to shed hundreds of millions of dollars in pension obligations to retired miners* * *Lobbied on behalf of Accelergy Corp. in support of coal-to-liquid technology; Scientific American: “Liquid coal comes with substantial environmental and economic negatives”* * *Lobbied on behalf Accelergy Corp. on appropriations bill containing coal-to-liquid incentives, which was estimated to cost $1.424 billion over 10 years* * *Said California cap-and-trade bill “strengthens California’s legacy” in developing environmental and energy policies* * *Lobbied on behalf of Peabody on bill which would have provided $1.5 billion for coal electricity projects and coal gasification projects* |

**On her Linkedin page, Gitsham claims that as an Associate at K&L Gates, she “represented clients in the clean technology” industry. What she conveniently leaves out is her lobbying for Peabody Energy, the self-described “largest private-sector coal company in the world,” in support of coal-to-natural gas technology, also known as synthetic natural gas between April and September 30, 2008. The process of converting coal-to-substitute natural gas involved burning coal to create the natural gas. According to ClimateWire, coal-to-liquid natural gas technology “results in enormous greenhouse gas emissions.”**

**Gitsham was compensated for lobbying on behalf of Peabody at a time when it did not have the best reputation for environmental friendliness. USA Today referred to the company as “perhaps the staunchest opponent of stringent regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions.” Additionally, although she did not lobby specifically on the bill, Gitsham reported lobbying for the company while it opposed legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, she lobbied for Peabody while it built the “biggest US coal plant in 25 years.” During the same time period, the Sierra Club Director said that Peabody was “the large, unrelenting, unrepentant poster child for the coal industry.”**

**While Gitsham was compensated for lobbying for Peabody, in August 2008, the CEO of the company advocated for the continued use of coal, while arguing against the expanded use of natural gas in the context of a Congressional move to push clean fuels. The company contributed millions to an ad campaign coal-to-liquid technology.**

**Between July 2007 and December 31, 2008, Gitsham lobbied on behalf of Accelergy Corp in support of coal-to-liquid technology. Scientific American magazine wrote that liquid coal was “worse than gasoline,” and that it “comes with substantial environmental and economic negatives.” The magazine also wrote the technology “would at worst be twice as bad as gasoline in producing the greenhouse gases that blanket the Earth and lead to global warming.” Finally, the magazine wrote that “driving a Prius on liquid coal makes it as dirty as a Hummer on regular gasoline.”**

**Additionally, Gitsham lobbied on behalf of Accelergy on a Senate Energy appropriations bill which contained coal-to-liquid incentives estimated to cost $1.424 billion over 10 years.**

**In 2011, while working for Sapphire Energy, Gitsham said that the California cap-and-trade bill “strengthens California’s legacy” in developing environmental and energy policies. But she stated her concerns over the bill’s regulation of carbon produced by biofuel projects. She went on to advocate her support for protecting “low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.”**

### Denise Gitsham Linkedin: Claimed That As Associate At K&L Gates, “Represented Clients In The Clean Technology” Industry

**Denise Gitsham Linked: Claimed That As Associate At K&L Gates, “Represented Clients In The Clean Technology” Industry.** “Denise Gitsham is a seasoned expert in public relations, strategic communications, and government affairs…. Denise joined the K Street law firm, K&L Gates, after graduating from the Georgetown University Law Center. As an associate at the firm, she represented clients in the clean technology, nanotechnology, and biotechnology industries.” [Denise Gitsham Linkedin, Accessed [1/11/16](https://www.linkedin.com/in/denise-gitsham-349b7b3)]

### Lobbied On Behalf Of Peabody Energy Corporation In Support Of Synthetic Natural Gas Produced From Coal

**April 1, 2008-June 30, 2008: Lobbied For Peabody Energy Corporation On “Substitute Natural Gas Proposal And Alternative Minimum Tax Proposal For R&D Tax Credit”; Lobbying Firm Received $80,000 For Lobbying On Behalf Of Peabody.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, on behalf of Peabody Energy Corporation on “Substitute natural gas proposal; alternative minimum tax proposal for R&D tax credit” between the periods April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008. Gitsham’s lobbying firm received $80,000 for lobbying on behalf of Peabody for the period. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [4/01/08-6/30/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=eddb1b2e-5562-4cfa-a9e7-f9f76a38f662&filingTypeID=60)]

**July 1, 2008-September 30, 2008: Lobbied For Peabody Energy Corporation On Tax Legislation, HR 6049 And HR 3221; Lobbying Firm Received $80,000 For Lobbying On Behalf Of Peabody.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, on behalf of Peabody Energy Corporation on “HR 6049, Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, provisions for CET, CTL and CCS. HR 3221, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007, provisions relating to AMT/R&D tax credits.” between the periods July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008. Gitsham’s lobbying firm received $80,000 for lobbying on behalf of Peabody for the period. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [7/01/08-9/30/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=10f236f0-c14a-418f-9274-4f38a31a1d09&filingTypeID=69)]

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Peabody Energy Corporation | Second Quarter 2008 | $80,000 | US House; Senate | Substitute natural gas proposal; alternative minimum tax proposal for R&D tax credit. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Peabody Energy Corporation | Third Quarter 2008 | $80,000 | US House; Senate | HR 6049, Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, provisions for CET, CTL and CCS.  HR 3221, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007, provisions relating to AMT/R&D tax credits. |

### Peabody Energy Corporation Described Itself As The “Largest Private-Sector Coal Company In The World”

**Peabody Energy Corporation Described Itself As The “Largest Private-Sector Coal Company In The World.”** “Peabody Energy (NYSE: BTU) is the world’s largest private-sector coal company and a global leader in sustainable mining and clean coal solutions. The company serves metallurgical and thermal coal customers in nearly 25 countries on six continents.” [Peabody Energy, Accessed [1/04/16](http://www.peabodyenergy.com/content/113/peabody-at-a-glance)]

### Lobbied In Support Of Peabody And Coalition’s Coal-To-Substitute-Natural-Gas Technology; ClimateWire: Technology “Results In Enormous Greenhouse Gas Emissions”

**Coalition Developed Federal Lobbying Effort On Climate Change, Of Which Included Pushing Coal-To-Substitute-Natural-Gas.** “The lobbying and outreach operation pushing for clean coal just got bigger, and its newest representative is not ruling out the prospect of a mandatory cap-and-trade system. A new coalition that includes more than 40 U.S. companies -- including Peabody Energy and Duke Energy Corp. -- announced it will develop a federal lobbying effort on climate change and bring new advertising to the airwaves…. The new coalition will not only establish a new federal lobbying presence but also stand behind a set of 12 principles for formulating national "carbon management" legislation, which recognizes a mandatory cap-and-trade program as an option, according to Miller. A 'big step' for 'America's fuel'… Still, the coalition emphasized that such a mandatory system would have to stick with the 12 principles, which include a request that any emission cuts be "reasonable," with an understanding that many technologies to reduce emissions are not yet commercially available.” [ClimateWire, 4/17/08]

**Coal-To-Natural Gas Plants Burned Coal To Create Natural Gas, Otherwise Known As Synthetic Natural Gas.** “SNG plants, which burn coal to create natural gas, first came under government regulation in 2010, at which point the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) put a hold on all but four proposed projects.” [ClimateWire, [10/02/13](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-push-into-synthetic-natural-gas-has-pollution-consequences/)]

**Push For Development Of Coal-To-Substitute-Natural Gas Facility Part Of 12-Point Strategy Pushed By Peabody And Other Energy Companies As A Response To Cap-And-Trade System.** “The lobbying and outreach operation pushing for clean coal just got bigger, and its newest representative is not ruling out the prospect of a mandatory cap-and-trade system. A new coalition that includes more than 40 U.S. companies -- including Peabody Energy and Duke Energy Corp. -- announced it will develop a federal lobbying effort on climate change and bring new advertising to the airwaves…. The new coalition will not only establish a new federal lobbying presence but also stand behind a set of 12 principles for formulating national ‘carbon management’ legislation, which recognizes a mandatory cap-and-trade program as an option, according to Miller. A ‘big step’ for ‘America's fuel’… Still, the coalition emphasized that such a mandatory system would have to stick with the 12 principles, which include a request that any emission cuts be ‘reasonable,’ with an understanding that many technologies to reduce emissions are not yet commercially available.” [ClimateWire, 4/17/08]

**ClimateWire: Coal-To-Natural Gas “Results In Enormous Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** “China Push into Synthetic Natural Gas Has Pollution Consequences….Burning synthetic natural gas may be cleaner, but making it results in enormous greenhouse gas emissions…China is in the process of approving a new fleet of large-scale, coal-fueled synthetic natural gas (SNG) plants to be built in northwestern China and Inner Mongolia, projects that would emit seven times as much greenhouse gases as conventional natural gas plants, according to a new study out in the journal Nature Climate Change.” [ClimateWire, [10/02/13](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-push-into-synthetic-natural-gas-has-pollution-consequences/)]

**ClimateWire: China’s Effort To Adopt Coal-To-Natural Gas Technology “Would Be A Disaster For Efforts To Combat Climate Change.”** “The effort is an attempt to improve China's air and increase energy security but would be a disaster for efforts to combat climate change… It was first criticized by environmentalists. Then it was reined in by government officials. Now, China's coal-fueled synthetic natural gas industry faces another blow as a group of energy experts raise doubt over its economic viability.” [ClimateWire, [10/29/14](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-china-s-bid-to-turn-coal-to-gas-be-stopped/)]

### Synthetic Natural Gas Plants Required Intense Water Use

**Synthetic Natural Gas Plants Required Intense Water Use.** “Jackson and Yang also criticized SNG projects for their intense water use. The nine approved plants are being constructed in desert environments in Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia, and SNG production requires 6 to 12 liters of water per cubic meter of gas, compared to shale gas, which -- while frequently lambasted for its impact on water resources -- needs 50 to 100 times less.” [[10/02/13](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-push-into-synthetic-natural-gas-has-pollution-consequences/)]

### Lobbied On Behalf Of Peabody On Bill Which Would Have Provided $1.5 Billion For Coal Electricity Projects And Coal Gasification Projects

**HR 6049 Would Have Provided $1.5 Billion Of Tax Credits For Coal Electricity Projects And Coal Gasification Projects.** “Summary: H.R. 6049, the Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, will provide almost $20 billion of tax incentives for investment in renewable energy, carbon capture and sequestration

demonstration projects, energy efficiency and conservation. Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) demonstration projects. The bill would provide $1.5 billion of tax credits for the creation of advanced coal electricity projects and certain coal gasification projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology.” [American Benefits Council, HR 6049, [5/14/08](http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/pub/e60c9560-9122-f492-e8db-3437f3ae18dc)]

### 2008: Peabody Partnered With ConocoPhillips To Develop Coal-To-Substitute-Natural-Gas Facility In Western Kentucky

**2008: Peabody Partnered With ConocoPhillips To Develop Coal-To-Substitute-Natural-Gas Facility In Western Kentucky.** “ConocoPhillips' E-Gas technology is a leading, commercially proven gasification technique. We are developing projects based on this technology and licensing it to others to utilize in producing synthetic natural gas, electrical power and a variety of chemicals….Our two major E-Gas equity gasification projects could be on line by 2014, at total expected gross capital costs of up to $7 billion. One, a joint venture with Peabody Energy to develop a coal-to-substitute-natural-gas facility in Western Kentucky, would produce up to 70 billion cubic feet per year or 1.5 trillion cubic feet in 30 years - equivalent to a very large natural gas field.” [Committee on House Select Energy Independence and Global Warminng, Statement of John Lowe Executive Vice President ConocoPhillips, 4/01/08]

### Kentucky Coal-To-Natural Gas Project Did Not Have Plan To Capture Carbon Dioxide Making Investors Hesitant Due To Congress’ Planned Proposal To Reduce Greenhouse Gases

**Peabody’s Coal-To-Natural Gas Project Did Not Have Plan To Capture Carbon Dioxide Resulting In Investors Being Hesitant Due To Congress’ Planned Proposal To Reduce Greenhouse Gases.** “Tom FitzGerald, director of the Kentucky Resources Council, said he doubts any of the proposed projects would get started that quickly. Because Congress is expected to call soon for a reduction in greenhouse gases, FitzGerald said investors are unlikely to put money into projects that don't have a plan for capturing carbon dioxide. ‘That's one of the reasons I think the Peabody project to date has not gone forward,’ he said. ‘Wall Street wants to see what Congress is going to do with carbon dioxide.’ Peabody spokeswoman Beth Sutton said the project "remains on track, and coal-to-gas projects like this are especially important for energy security at a time when natural gas costs are increasing and virtually all new growth in demand will be met by imports.’” [Courier-Journal, 5/27/08]

### 2009: Newsweek Ranked Peabody Last In Rankings Of 500 Large Companies Based On Their Environmental Compliance And Policies

**2009: Newsweek Ranked Peabody Last In Rankings Of 500 Large Companies Based On Their Environmental Compliance And Policies**. “On Monday, Newsweek magazine unveiled its first annual Green Rankings, the fruits of a near-Herculean endeavor: rating and ranking the environmental performance, achievements, and reputation of the S&P 500. The list, published today in a 12-page special section in the magazine as well as online, is the culmination of an 18-month journey….The bottom 10 companies — those ranked 491 through 500 — are FirstEnergy, Southern, Bunge, American Electric Power, Ameren, Consol Energy, ConAgra Foods, Allegheny Energy, NRG Energy, and . . . in last place: Peabody Energy.” [Grist, [9/22/09](http://grist.org/article/2009-09-21-inside-newsweeks-new-green-corporate-rankings/)]

### Lobbied For Peabody Energy While USA Today Referred To The Company As “Perhaps The Staunchest Opponent Of Stringent Regulations To Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions”

**USA Today: Peabody “Perhaps The Staunchest Opponent Of Stringent Regulations To Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** In the USA, Peabody is perhaps the staunchest opponent of stringent regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions even as stalwarts such as ExxonMobil and American Electric Power have softened their stances.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)]

### Lobbied For Peabody Energy While Company Opposed Bill To Cap Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Bill To Curb Global-Warming Gases Failed In Congress In June 2008 Due Partly To Peabody And Coal Industry.** “A bill to curb global-warming gases fizzled in Congress in June, partly because of opposition from Peabody and the coal industry. It would have forced utilities and others to buy permits to emit carbon, passing the costs to consumers and boosting electric rates up to 45% by 2020.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)]

**Peabody CEO Said Company Supported Climate-Change Regulations, But Only After Carbon-Storate Technology Was Developed.** “In an interview at Peabody's St. Louis headquarters, in his corner office facing the gleaming Gateway Arch, Chairman and CEO Gregory Boyce shrugs off any worries. He says coal is just too plentiful to be cast aside, especially with power demand soaring…. Boyce dismisses the Sierra Club's criticism. He says Peabody backs climate-change regulation, but only after carbon-storage technology is developed; it could take at least 10 years. Otherwise, he says, consumers will be socked with added costs without any benefits.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)]

*NOTE: Lobbying report does not say Gitsham lobbied on the bill.*

### Lobbied For Peabody While Company Built “Biggest U.S. Coal Plant In 25 Years”

**August, 2008, USA Today: Peabody Building, Along With Partners, “Biggest U.S. Coal Plant In 25 Years.”** “About 30 coal-fired power plants are under construction around the country, the most in a generation. Peabody, along with partners, is building a $3 billion, 1,600-megawatt coal generator in Illinois, the biggest U.S. coal plant in 25 years.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)]

**Coal Plant Was Backed By Obama And Senator Dick Durbin As It Was Intended To Prove That Carbon Dioxide Released From Burned Coal Could Be Captured And Stored Underground.** “Illinois' congressional delegation is searching for ways to keep the FutureGen clean-coal power plant once planned for central Illinois alive until a new president takes office in January. Sen. Dick Durbin has exercised the first of a limited set of options, threatening to block White House appointments to the U.S. Department of Energy while looking for a way to pass legislation to keep the project afloat…. Durbin and the rest of the Illinois delegation have to find a way to keep the project alive by June, when the DOE can legally cancel its contract with the coal and power companies that make up the FutureGen Alliance, which includes major utilities such as American Electric Power and Southern Company and coal producers like Peabody Energy and Consol Energy Inc…. Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have both expressed support for the original FutureGen project…. FutureGen was intended to prove that coal could be burned to generate power while the carbon dioxide released in the process could be captured and stored underground rather than released into the atmosphere.” [Associated Press, 5/06/08]

### 2008, Sierra Club Director: Peabody “The Large, Unrelenting, Unrepentant Poster Child For The Coal Industry”

**2008, Sierra Club Director: Peabody “The Large, Unrelenting, Unrepentant Poster Child For The Coal Industry.”** “Peabody is ‘the large, unrelenting, unrepentant poster child for the coal industry,’ says Sierra Club director Bruce Nilles.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)]

### September 2008: Peabody CEO Advocated For Continued Use Of Coal, While Arguing Against Expanded Use Of Natural Gas In Context Of Congressional Move To Push “Clean Fuels”

**September 2008: Peabody CEO Advocated For Continued Use Of Coal, While Arguing Against Expanded Use Of Natural Gas In Context Of Congressional Move To Push “Clean Fuels.”** “Presidential leadership is critical to garnering public support for initiatives to cut carbon dioxide emissions by advancing new technology and transitioning to cleaner fuels, according to energy executives, Democratic leaders and advocates for federal action on climate change….Industry executives participating in the forum pushed their own agendas. Executives of coal and natural gas producers reiterated their industries positions that encourage expanded use of the fuels and challenged one another on the stated abundance and future uses of the fuels. Robert Hefner, founder of gas producer The GHK Group, said domestic gas is as abundant as coal and could replace much of the oil consumed in the transportation sector. That message is similar to one pushed in expensive media campaigns by energy magnate T. Boone Pickens and independent producer Chesapeake Energy. ‘It is wildly overstating it that you can do anything with natural gas," responded Frederick Palmer, senior vice president of coal company Peabody Energy. For his part, Palmer's comments reflected a high-profile media campaign by ‘clean coal’ advocates here at the convention.” [Inside EnergyExtra, 9/01/08]

**Peabody Contributed Millions To Ad Campaign Touting “Clean Coal” Technology Or Liquid-To-Coal Technology.** “Far from phasing out coal, Boyce wants to expand use of "clean coal" to solve the energy crisis. "Clean coal" would be scrubbed free of CO2 thanks to carbon-capture technology. Peabody kicked in about $9 million this year to an ad campaign touting "clean coal." Boyce is leading a push for coal that's turned into a liquid — with part of its CO2 captured in the process — to replace gasoline for vehicles and gasified coal to supplant natural gas, though environmentalists criticize the initiatives.” [USA Today, [8/20/08](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-18-peabody-coal_N.htm)]

### Lobbied On Behalf Of Peabody While Company Was Subpoenaed By New York Attorney General As Part Of Investigation, Which Focused On Companies Building New Coal-Fired Power Plants

**2008: Peabody Was Subpoenaed By New York Attorney General As Part Of Investigation, Which Focused On Companies Building New Coal-Fired Power Plants.** “Mega-utility Xcel Energy has settled with New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo (D) and now agrees to disclose risks associated with climate change to investors in Form 10-K filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Cuomo says the deal could set an industry-wide standard for assessing and publicly disclosing the financial risks that climate change poses for investors. …Cuomo subpoenaed four other energy companies as part of the ongoing investigation under a state security law that gives the attorney general access to a business's financial records, according to the statement. The companies were AES Corporation, Dominion Resources, Dynegy and Peabody Energy. The investigation focuses on companies that are building new coal-fired power plants, which Cuomo says ‘especially exacerbate" risks to investors.’” [EnergyWashington Week, 9/03/08]

### Lobbied For Peabody While Company Created Spinoff Company In Order To Shed Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Pension Obligations To Retired Miners

**In These Times: Peabody Created Spinoff Company In Order To Shed Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Obligations To Retired Minors.** “Over the past decade, Peabody Energy and Arch Coal, the nation's largest coal companies, offloaded large amounts of retiree healthcare obligations to new companies that now face bankruptcy. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) says that the spin-offs were designed to fail in order to clean the companies' books of their retiree debts. In 2007, Peabody Energy spun off a new company, Patriot Coal, which inherited 10 unionized mines in Kentucky and West Virginia. Along with the mines, Patriot took on $557 million in healthcare obligations to UMWA retirees. In 2008, Patriot bought Magnum, which had been similarly spun off from Arch Coal three years earlier. From Magnum, Patriot inherited another $500 million in obligations to retired miners, according to the UMWA.” [In These Times, [12/31/12](http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/14360/in_the_coal_fields_a_novel_way_to_get_rid_of_pensions_is_born)]

### July 2007-December 31, 2008: Lobbied In Support Of Coal-To-Liquid Technology, Which “Would Produce Roughly Twice The Global Warming Emissions Of Gasoline”

**July 2007-December 31, 2008: Lobbied For Accelergy Corp On Coal-To-Liquid Technology; Lobbying Firm Received $180,000 For Lobbying On Behalf Of Accelergy.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy on behalf of Accelergy Corp. on coal-to-liquid technology between the periods July 2007 and December 31, 2008. Githsam’s lobbying firm received $180,000 for lobbying on behalf of Accelergy for the period. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

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| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Registration 2007 | n/a | n/a | Assist on federal opportunities for a Coal to liquid technology |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Year End Report 2007 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Executive agency opportunities for a coal-to-liquid technology.  Unnumbered bill, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Second Quarter 2008 | $50,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Executive agency opportunities for a coal-to-liquid technology.  Unnumbered bill, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Third Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | S 3258, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Accelergy Corp. | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | S 3258 and HR 7324, Energy & Water Appropriations for FY-09, DOE fossil energy funding for coal-to-liquid demonstration project. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Scientific American: “Liquid Coal Comes With Substantial Environmental And Economic Negatives.”** The conversion technology is well established (the Germans used it during World War II), and liquid coal can power conventional diesel cars and trucks as well as jet engines and ships. Coal industry executives contend that it can compete against gasoline if oil prices are $50 a barrel or higher. But liquid coal comes with substantial environmental and economic negatives.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Scientific American: Liquid Coal “Would Produce Roughly Twice The Global Warming Emissions Of Gasoline.”** “Liquid coal would produce roughly twice the global warming emissions of gasoline… Lawmakers of both parties are proposing amendments to the so-called energy independence bill that would massively subsidize the coal industry to produce liquid coal as a replacement for foreign oil.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Scientific American: Liquid Coal “Would At Best Do Little To Rein In Climate Change.”** “The shifting positions of Bingaman and Obama underscore the tension between efforts to reduce dependence on foreign oil and to slow global warming. Liquid coal—produced when coal is converted into transportation fuel—would at best do little to rein in climate change and would at worst be twice as bad as gasoline in producing the greenhouse gases that blanket the earth and lead to warming.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Scientific American: Liquid Coal “Would At Worst Be Twice As Bad As Gasoline In Producing The Greenhouse Gases That Blanket The Earth And Lead To Global Warming.”** “The shifting positions of Bingaman and Obama underscore the tension between efforts to reduce dependence on foreign oil and to slow global warming. Liquid coal—produced when coal is converted into transportation fuel—would at best do little to rein in climate change and would at worst be twice as bad as gasoline in producing the greenhouse gases that blanket the earth and lead to warming.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Scientific American The Large Amounts Of Energy Required To Liquefy It Mean That Liquid Coal Produces More Than Twice The Global Warming Emissions As Regular Gasoline And Almost Double Those Of Ordinary Diesel.”** “On the environmental side, the polluting properties of coal—starting with mining and lasting long after burning—and the large amounts of energy required to liquefy it mean that liquid coal produces more than twice the global warming emissions as regular gasoline and almost double those of ordinary diesel. As pundits have pointed out, driving a Prius on liquid coal makes it as dirty as a Hummer on regular gasoline.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Scientific American: “Driving A Prius on Liquid Coal Makes It As Dirty As A Hummer on Regular Gasoline.”** “As pundits have pointed out, driving a Prius on liquid coal makes it as dirty as a Hummer on regular gasoline.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Massachusetts Institute Of Technology Estimated It Would Cost $70 Billion To Build Enough Plants To Replace 10 Percent Of American Gasoline Consumption.** “Liquid coal is also a bad economic choice. Lawmakers from coal states are proposing that U.S. taxpayers guarantee billions of dollars in construction loans for production plants, guarantee minimum prices for the new fuel, and guarantee big purchases by the government for the next 25 years. Their mantra is that coal-based fuels are more American than gasoline. But no operating coal-to-liquid plants exist in the U.S., and researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology estimate it will cost $70 billion to build enough plants to replace 10 percent of American gasoline consumption. Some energy experts worry that the scale of the incentives could lead to a repeat of the disastrous effort 30 years ago to underwrite a synthetic fuels industry.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

**Scientific American: “Country Would Be Spending Billions In Loans, Tax Incentives And Price Guarantees To Lock In A Technology That Produces More Greenhouse Gases Than Gasoline Does.”** “The country would be spending billions in loans, tax incentives and price guarantees to lock in a technology that produces more greenhouse gases than gasoline does. This is unacceptable at a time when leading scientists from all over the world are warning that greenhouse gases must be cut by at least 60 percent over the next half a century to avert the worst consequences of global warming. Instead of spending billions to subsidize a massively polluting industry, we should be investing in efficiency and in renewable energy technologies that can help us constrain global warming today.” [Scientific American, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

### 2008: Lobbied On Senate Energy Appropriations Bill Containing Coal-To-Liquid Incentives, Which Was Estimated To Cost $1.424 Billion Over 10 Years

**2008: Lobbied In Support Of Senate Energy Appropriations Bill Containing Coal-To-Liquid Incentives.** “The Senate Wednesday night overwhelmingly passed a multibillion-dollar rescue fund for at-risk financial institutions, placing additional pressure on the House to clear the measure amid signs that opposition appears to be cracking in the lower chamber…. Business groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors and Information Technology Industry Council wrote to lawmakers announcing they were making it a "key vote" in their annual scorecards. And nearly 700 companies and trade associations have written congressional leaders urging them to adopt the energy tax incentives in the Senate bill for wind, solar and other renewable sources, which could be important in gaining votes for candidates in both parties….. Rep.Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., might change his mind. ‘That is something he is taking note of and is taking under special consideration,’ a spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said it is unclear whether the rural schools funding or the renewable energy tax incentives are enough to sway Blumenauer, as he opposes the package's incentives for coal-based liquids, tar sands and oil shale. [National Journal CongressDaily, 10/02/08]

**Estimated Cost Of Coal-To-Liquid Proposal Contained In Senate Energy-Tax Bill Would Cost $1.424 Billion Over 10 Years.** “The U.S. Senate last week passed overwhelmingly an energy tax bill that includes clean-coal, biodiesel, gasification, electric-car and "renewables" tax breaks….Senate version: The bill provides $1.5 billion in new tax credits for the creation of ‘advanced coal electricity projects (Section 48A) and certain coal gasification projects (Section 48B) that demonstrate the greatest potential for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology,’ the bill says….’The bill also clarifies that gasification projects producing transportation grade liquid fuels [coal-to-liquids, CTL] are eligible under Section 48B. The estimated cost of this proposal is $1.424 billion over 10 years.’” [National Journal CongressDaily, 10/02/08]

### August 2007, Scientific American: “Lawmakers Of Both Parties” Were Proposing Amendments To Energy Bill To “Massively Subsidize The Coal Industry To Produce Liquid Coal As A Replacement For” Oil

**August, 2007, Scientific American: “Lawmakers Of Both Parties” Were Proposing Amendments To Energy Bill To “Massively Subsidize The Coal Industry To Produce Liquid Coal As A Replacement For” Oil.** “Lawmakers of both parties are proposing amendments to the so-called energy independence bill that would massively subsidize the coal industry to produce liquid coal as a replacement for foreign oil. (The admirable original bill is designed to increase fuel efficiency in cars and light trucks, encourage production of biofuels, and provide funds to develop technology that will capture carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.)” [Scientific America, [8/01/07](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/worse-than-gasoline/)]

*NOTE: Year-end lobbying report does not mention any specific legislation. All specific proposals were based off of 2007 registration report which lists specific proposals.*

### National Journal’s CongressDaily, 2008: Wildlife Federation Attacks Senate’s ‘Dirty Fuels’ Push

**National Journal’s CongressDaily, 2008: HEADLINE: Wildlife Federation Attacks Senate’s ‘Dirty Fuels’ Push.** [National Journal’s CongressDaily, 10/01/08]

**Environmentalists Opposed Provision In Senate-Approved Tax-Extenders That Would Have Encouraged Coal-To-Liquids Technology.** “Environmentalists have launched an assault in the House on a provision in the Senate-approved tax-extenders bill that would encourage development of oil shale, tar sands, and coal-to-liquids technology. ‘If Congress cannot pass a clean-energy bill this year that is not tarred by a new program of oil industry subsidies for dirty fuels, then it should wait and let the next Congress do it right,’ said Larry Schweiger, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, in a letter to House members Tuesday.” [National Journal’s CongressDaily, 10/01/08]

### January 1, 2008-March 31, 2008: Lobbied For Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization On Funding And Incentives For Clean Energy And Sustainable Technologies

**January 1, 2008-March 31, 2008: Lobbied For Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization On Funding And Incentives For Clean Energy And Sustainable Technologies; Lobbing Firm Received “Less Than $5,000” For Lobbying On Behalf Of Organization.** According to K&L Gates Lobbyist Disclosure filing, Denise Gitsham reported lobbying the US House, the US Senate, and the Department of Energy on behalf of Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization on “Support federal legislation and executive agency initiatives that promote federal funding opportunities and programmatic incentives for clean energy and sustainable technologies” between the periods January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2008. Gitsham’s lobbying firm received “less than $5,000” for lobbying on behalf of the organization for the period. [United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, [1//01/08-/3/31/08](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=aad85cb3-fe12-43d3-aeb5-679c2a981dfe&filingTypeID=51)]

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| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization | First Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | Us House; Senate; Dept. of Energy | Support federal legislation and executive agency initiatives that promote federal funding opportunities and programmatic incentives for clean energy and sustainable technologies. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization | Fourth Quarter 2008 | n/a | Us House; Senate; Dept. of Energy | initiatives that promote federal funding opportunities and programmatic incentives for clean energy and sustainable technologies.  S 3258 ad HR 7324, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009, Clean Technology Evaluation Program. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, Accessed 12/16/15]

### Lobbied For Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization While It Held Policy Tour, Which Pushed For A Variety Of Technologies, Including Nuclear Energy And Clean Coal

**March 5, 2008: Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization Held Policy Tour To Educate US Elected Officials On Variety Of Technologies, Including Clean Coal And Nuclear Energy.** “Over fifty representatives of the clean technology sector descended on Washington DC for the first Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization (CTSI) Policy Tour held March 5th, 2008. Participants launched an initiative to educate US elected officials on the importance and interrelated needs of the clean technology community….Proving that clean technology is much more than just an investment sector, companies and organizations came together to work together on a common agenda. Technologies represented included solar, wind, fuel cells, energy efficiency, demand response, hydrogen, water purification, nuclear, biofuels, and clean coal. Project financing, venture capital, and institutional investor participants emphasized how decision-making and investment strategy depended on clear and long-term policy developed in Washington.” [Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization Press Release, 3/12/08]

**Vice President Of Shell Hydrogen Company Delivered Keynote At Clean Technology & Sustainable Organization Clean Technology 2008 Conference.** “Clean Technology 2008 today announced that Duncan Macleod, Vice President of Shell Hydrogen Company, will deliver a keynote speech at the conference. Clean Technology 2008 will take place in Boston, Massachusetts at the Hynes Convention Center June 2-5, 2008. Mr. Macleod will speak on June 3rd.” Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization Press Release, 3/05/08]

**Nuclear Energy Institute Participated In Tour.** “Over fifty representatives of the clean technology sector descended on Washington DC for the first Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization (CTSI) Policy Tour held March 5th, 2008. Participants launched an initiative to educate US elected officials on the importance and interrelated needs of the clean technology community…. A sample of companies and organizations participating in the tour included: MMA Renewable Ventures, Applied Materials, Calvert Group. Ernst & Young, Babcock & Wilcox, Ricardo, Lux Research, Sopogy, Solar Power Partners, SunPower Corporation, Nuclear Energy Institute” [Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization Press Release, 3/12/08]

### Said California Cap-And-Trade Bill “Strengthens California’s Legacy,” In Developing Environmental And Energy Policies

**Said California Cap-And-Trade Bill “Strengthens California’s Legacy,” In Developing Environmental And Energy Policies.** According to Gitsham’s testimony in the California State Senate on behalf of the Advanced Biofuels Association, “Chairman DeSaulnier and Members of the Committee, I am Denise Gitsham, Director of Corporate Affairs and Legislative Counsel for Sapphire Energy, headquartered in San Diego. I am testifying today on behalf of the Advanced Biofuels Association. … AB32 has set bold and aggressive GHG emissions reduction targets for the transportation fuels industry, which we all strive to meet and exceed. The Federal Government and other states have looked to California for leadership in developing environmental and energy policies. AB32 strengthens California's legacy in this realm.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]

**New York Times: California’s Cap-And-Trade Bill Called For Reducing California’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions To 1990 Levels By 2020.** “The cap-and-trade plan, which calls for reducing California’s greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, sets a ceiling on climate-warming emissions by the industrial, electricity, transportation and other sectors that will gradually be lowered over time. Companies will be allocated emissions allowances, and as they progress in cutting their emissions, they can sell their unneeded credits to other polluters.” [New York Times, [5/30/11](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/30/science/earth/30climate.html?_r=0)]

### But Had Concerns Over Bill’s Regulation Of Carbon Produced By Biofuel Projects

**Had Concerns Over Cap-And-Trade Bill’s Regulation Of Carbon Produced By Biofuel Projects.** “However, the ABFA does have concerns regarding certain elements of AB32’s implementation. Specifically, California’s protracted technical discussions regarding modifications to lifecycle carbon intensity values have introduced crippling uncertainty into our industry. This uncertainty limits the private investment we need in order to commercialize. Consequently, we urge you to establish mechanisms to stabilize the LCFS compliance market. Such an approach could involve, for example: Establishing alternative compliance mechanisms that reward investments in qualified low-carbon advanced biofuel projects, and Establishing grandfather or other provisions that protect a low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]

**Supported The Establishment Of Alternative Compliance Procedures For The Biofuel Industry In Regard To California Cap-And-Trade Law.** “Consequently, we urge you to establish mechanisms to stabilize the LCFS compliance market. Such an approach could involve, for example: Establishing alternative compliance mechanisms that reward investments in qualified low-carbon advanced biofuel projects, and Establishing grandfather or other provisions that protect a low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]

### Supported Protecting “Low Carbon Fuel’s Carbon Intensity Score From The Volatility Of Ever-Evolving Academic Models”

**Supported Protecting “Low Carbon Fuel’s Carbon Intensity Score From The Volatility Of Ever-Evolving Academic Models.”** “Consequently, we urge you to establish mechanisms to stabilize the LCFS compliance market. Such an approach could involve, for example: Establishing alternative compliance mechanisms that reward investments in qualified low-carbon advanced biofuel projects, and Establishing grandfather or other provisions that protect a low carbon fuel’s carbon intensity score from the volatility of ever-evolving academic models.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]

**Wanted All Transportation Fuel Technologies, Including Advanced Biofuels, To Be Assessed For Their Environmental Impact.** “We also ask that all transportation fuel technologies – including advanced biofuels – be assessed similarly for their environmental impact. Currently, the LCFS only assigns indirect land use effects for biofuels. Additionally, CARB is assessing sustainability reporting criteria that would apply primarily to the biofuels industry. Neither of these elements have been meaningfully evaluated for their potential application to any other transportation fuels.” [California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, “Meeting the Goals of AB32-Fuels of the Future,” 10/24/11]

Foreign Policy Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Criticized Peters for supporting the Iran deal* |

**In 2015, following Peters’ support for the Iran deal, Gitsham criticized him for the vote.**

### Criticized Peters For Supporting The Iran Deal

**Criticized Peters For Supporting The Iran Deal.** “Gitsham said Peters' vote for the measure ‘is a welcome, if sharp, departure from his prior voting record,’ according to KPBS. She then noted that Peters supported the Iran nuclear deal, and voted on several occasions to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, which could result in terrorist prisoners being held in the U.S. He recently voted for legislation that would ban those prisoners from being jailed in the U.S.” [San Diego Tribune, 11/20/15]

Gun Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial: In a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost daily,” Gitsham “has been silence for six weeks when asked about the 2nd Amendment* * *After criticism for silence on 2nd Amendment issues, released gun policy positions, but did not provide specifics as to how she would alter the regulations and “did not provide clarification upon request”* * *Supported closing “loopholes” related to people on the terrorism watch list and purchases at gun shows and on the Internet* * *Said, “background checks must be made against a database that is accurate, comprehensive and current”* * *Supported barring people on the no-fly list from buying guns, “in theory”* * *Said, “My support for any policy proposal would hinge on whether its passage would actually reduce gun crime”* |

**On December 19, 2015, the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote a story outlining the positions of Rep. Scott Peters and other candidates in the 52nd Congressional district race on gun control. According to the newspaper, “Gitsham didn’t respond to a request for comment, and her campaign manager didn’t make her available.” Additionally, “on her campaign Facebook page, Gitsham has ignored questions from potential voters who ask for her stance on 2nd Amendment-related issues.” A day after the San Diego Union-Tribune story was published, Gitsham released her policy positions to the newspaper in a statement. But before writing a story on her positions on the issue, the newspaper wrote an editorial entitled, “Gitsham’s gun silence a disappointment.” Furthermore, she had been silent on the issue for much longer, the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote, “in a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost daily,” Gitsham “has been silent for six weeks when asked about the Second Amendment.”**

**In a December 23rd article in the San Diego Union-Tribune, article, Gitsham’s gun policy positions were laid out, but they proved to be short on specifics. She advocated her support for “closing sensible loopholes,” in regard to people on the terrorism watch list, purchases at gun shows and firearm purchases on the Internet, but according to the San Diego Union-Tribune, “Her campaign did not specify how she would like regulations changed, and did not provide further clarification upon request.” She would go on to voice her support for background checks, saying they “must be made against a database that is accurate, comprehensive and current.” Additionally, Gitsham supported barring people on the no-fly list from buying guns, “in theory.” She had concerns for barring people on the list from buying guns as she believed the list was “over-inclusive and imprecise.” Finally, Gitsham said her “support for any policy proposal would hinge on whether its passage would actually reduce gun crime.”**

### San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial: “In A Country Where Gun Ownership And Gun Violence Is Almost Daily,” Gitsham “Has Been Silent For Six Weeks When Asked About The Second Amendment”

**San Diego Union Tribune Editorial, HEADLINE: Gitsham’s Gun Silence A Disappointment.** [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]

**San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial: “In A Country Where Gun Ownership And Gun Violence Is Almost Daily,” Gitsham “Has Been Silent For Six Weeks When Asked About The Second Amendment.** “In a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost a daily — and always an emotional — discussion, congressional candidate Denise Gitsham has been silent for six weeks when asked about the Second Amendment. That's disappointing.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]

**San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial: “That’s Disappointing.”** “In a country where gun ownership and gun violence is almost a daily — and always an emotional — discussion, congressional candidate Denise Gitsham has been silent for six weeks when asked about the Second Amendment. That's disappointing.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]

**In December 19, 2015 Story Outlining Gun Positions Of Rep. Scott Peters And Other Candidates In 52nd District Race, “Gitsham Didn’t Respond To Request For Comment, And Her Campaign Manager Didn’t Make Her Available.”** “A Sunday story in The San Diego Union-Tribune outlined the gun positions of San Diego Rep. Scott Peters and two other candidates coveting his seat in the 52nd Congressional District, John Horst and Jacquie Atkins. But Gitsham didn’t respond to a request for comment, and her campaign manager didn't make her available. Also, she never answered questions about gun control posted to her campaign Facebook page in early November.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]

**San Diego Union-Tribune: “On Her Campaign Facebook Page, Gitsham Has Ignored Questions From Potential Voters Who Ask For Her Stance On 2nd Amendment-Related Issues.”** “The campaign manager for a third Republican in the race, Denise Gitsham, did not make the candidate available for an interview, and Gitsham did not respond to a voice message requesting comment. On her campaign Facebook page, Gitsham has ignored questions from potential voters who ask for her stance on 2nd Amendment-related issues.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/19/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/19/peters-horst-atkinson-gitsham-gun-control-second/)]

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Gitsham’s Campaign Manager Did Not Make Her Available For Interview In Regard To Her 2nd Amendment Positions.** “The campaign manager for a third Republican in the race, Denise Gitsham, did not make the candidate available for an interview, and Gitsham did not respond to a voice message requesting comment. On her campaign Facebook page, Gitsham has ignored questions from potential voters who ask for her stance on 2nd Amendment-related issues.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/19/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/19/peters-horst-atkinson-gitsham-gun-control-second/)]

**San Diego Union-Tribune: “Gitsham Did Not Respond To A Voice Message Requesting Comment.”** “The campaign manager for a third Republican in the race, Denise Gitsham, did not make the candidate available for an interview, and Gitsham did not respond to a voice message requesting comment. On her campaign Facebook page, Gitsham has ignored questions from potential voters who ask for her stance on 2nd Amendment-related issues.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/19/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/19/peters-horst-atkinson-gitsham-gun-control-second/)]

**December 20, 2015: When Asked Again For Position On Gun Control, Gitsham Responded With One A Day After Story Outlining Candidates’ 2nd Amendment Positions.** “On Monday, we asked her campaign for her position and to its credit, one was provided within hours. That wasn't so hard.” [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]

### Supported Closing “Loopholes” Related To People On Terrorism Watch List And Purchases At Gun Shows And On The Internet

**December 23, 2015: Supported “Closing Sensible Loopholes,” In Regard To People On Terrorism Watch List.** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues. In a statement from her campaign, Gitsham said she supports ‘closing sensible loopholes’ related to people on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as well as firearm sales at gun shows and online without infringing on the Second Amendment.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

**Supported Closing “Loopholes,” In Regard To Purchases At Gun Shows. “**Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues. In a statement from her campaign, Gitsham said she supports ‘closing sensible loopholes’ related to people on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as well as firearm sales at gun shows and online without infringing on the Second Amendment.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

**Supported Closing “Loopholes,” In Regard To Firearm Purchases On The Internet.** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues. In a statement from her campaign, Gitsham said she supports ‘closing sensible loopholes’ related to people on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as well as firearm sales at gun shows and online without infringing on the Second Amendment.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

### Did Not Provide Specifics As To How She Would Alter The Regulations And “Did Not Provide Clarification Upon Request”

**San Diego Union-Tribune: Did Not Provide Specifics As To How She Would Alter The Regulations And “Did Not Provide Clarification Upon Request.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues. In a statement from her campaign, Gitsham said she supports ‘closing sensible loopholes’ related to people on the federal government’s terrorism watch list as well as firearm sales at gun shows and online without infringing on the Second Amendment. Her campaign did not specify how she would like regulations changed, and did not provide further clarification upon request.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

### Said “Background Checks Must Be Made Against A Database That Is Accurate, Comprehensive And Current”

**Said “Background Checks Must Be Made Against A Database That Is Accurate, Comprehensive And Current.”** Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. Policies that may limit firearm ownership must be narrow in order to not interfere with Second Amendment rights, and must be demonstrably effective to reduce crime, she said. Background checks must be made against a database that is accurate, comprehensive and current, she added.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

### Supported Barring People On The No-Fly List From Buying Guns, “In Theory”

**Supported Barring People On The No-Fly List From Buying Guns, “In Theory.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. She also supports barring people who are on the no-fly list from buying guns ‘in theory.’ Gitsham’s concern, she said, is that the no-fly list is over-inclusive and imprecise, and it’s unclear how someone can end up on the list, nor is it clear what sort of recourse people who are erroneously on the list have to be removed.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

**Concern For Barring People From No-Fly List From Buying Guns Was That List Was “Over-Inclusive And Imprecise.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. She also supports barring people who are on the no-fly list from buying guns ‘in theory.’ Gitsham’s concern, she said, is that the no-fly list is over-inclusive and imprecise, and it’s unclear how someone can end up on the list, nor is it clear what sort of recourse people who are erroneously on the list have to be removed.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

**“Unclear How Someone Can End Up on The List,” And How They Could Be Removed If They Were somehow Erroneously Added.** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. She also supports barring people who are on the no-fly list from buying guns ‘in theory.’ Gitsham’s concern, she said, is that the no-fly list is over-inclusive and imprecise, and it’s unclear how someone can end up on the list, nor is it clear what sort of recourse people who are erroneously on the list have to be removed.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

### Said “My Support For Any Policy Proposal Would Hinge On Whether Its Passage Would Actually Reduce Gun Crime”

**Said “My Support For Any Policy Proposal Would Hinge On Whether Its Passage Would Actually Reduce Gun Crime.”** “Following the two other Republicans trying to unseat Democrat Scott Peters in the House, GOP candidate Denise Gitsham has released her position on gun control and Second Amendment issues…. ‘My support for any policy proposal would hinge on whether its passage would actually reduce gun crime, and what the chances are of such laws being enforced. Without both, their passage misleads a public that looks to its government for real solutions,’ she said.” [San Diego Tribune Editorial, [12/23/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/23/denise-gitsham-reveals-firearm-policy/)]

Health Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *January 2016: SVN Public Relations tweeted that Wall Street “earnings demand drive” drug prices up amid the Food and Drug Administration’s “complex approval processes”* * *July 2015: SVN Public Relations tweeted link to opinion article opposing legislation providing $550 million in additional funding to Food and Drug Administration* |

**Gitsham’s public relations firm’s twitter account has criticized the Food and Drug Administration for its regulation of the drug approval process.**

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted That Wall Street “Earnings Demand Drive” Drug Prices Up Amid The Food And Drug Administration’s “Complex Approval Processes”

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted That Wall Street “Earnings Demand Drive” Drug Prices Up Amid The Food And Drug Administration’s “Complex Approval Processes.”** “#WallStreet earnings demands drive ⬆️ drug prices amid complex approval processes http://bit.ly/1TA5wDF @josephgulfo #FDA #Medical” SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [1/04/16](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/684073744285986816)]

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Opinion Article Opposing Legislation Providing $550 Million In Additional Funding To Food And Drug Administration

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted Article Concerning $550 Million From Congress To Food And Drug Administration.** “Today's @courierjournal by @josephgulfo: #FDA empowered 2 act, but doesn't #Cures2015 @RepJohnYarmuth @RepEdWhitfield <http://cjky.it/1esBxyE>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter Account, [7/06/15](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/618064560302374912)]

**Joseph Gulfo Opinion, The Hill: 21st Century Cures Bill Providing $550 Million To Food And Drug Administration Was Not Needed.** “Why would an agency charged with promoting the public health need to be told to consider patients’ perspectives? Further, why would the Food and Drug Administration need be given two years to come up with a “structured risk benefit framework” for the meaningful incorporation of patient experience data into the regulatory decision-making process when the agency has been saying since February 2013 that it is doing just this? That’s the mandate of the 21st Century Cures bill passed last week by the House Energy & Commerce Committee by a vote of 51 to zero. Included in the bill is $550 million in additional funding to the FDA. To me, the 21st Century Cures bill begs a critical question — why? Why is this bill needed?” [The Hill, [7/06/15](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/246496-go-on-take-the-money-and-run-as-usual)]

Immigration and Border Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *San Diego Union-Tribune: “Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said”; Said, “It’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman”* * *Said, “I’m just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything, and as a result ended up as a Hispanic Relations Coordinator” on the 2000 Bush Campaign* * *Carl DeMaio: Gitsham was “San Diego’s own version of Rachel Dolezal”* * *Said, “We are a nation of laws,” in regard to undocumented children crossing US-Mexico border and opposed reclassifying them as refugees* * *Said situation with undocumented children crossing border opened way for terrorists to enter the country* * *Supported American SAFE Act, which would have made it more difficult for Syrian and Iraq refugees to come to the United States* * *Called for securing the border, cracking down on human trafficking, and a guest worker visa program as the ways to fix immigration* |

**In the first Republican primary debate of the 2016 election, Gitsham said she would withhold visas from pregnant women, saying, “It’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman.”**

**In 2016, Gitsham gave an address at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., in which she said, “I’m just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything, and as a result ended up as a Hispanic Relations Coordinator” on the 2000 Bush campaign. Her campaign manager said she was not portraying herself as Hispanic, but that it was a “joke” that she’s been using for three years. The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that it was not the first time “Gitsham discussed how she portrayed her heritage to work for Bush campaign.” She wrote in a profile for Disruptive Thinkers how she worked for the Bush campaign “without a Latino bone in my body.” Gitsham received criticism for the comments, with Carl DeMaio likening her to “San Diego’s own version of Rachel Dolezal,” or according to him, Rachel Dolezal was “The nutty white woman who claimed to be African American.” DeMaio continued writing that Gitsham told the crowd at CPAC that she was “One of you!” It “Makes you wonder what she really means by that,” wrote DeMaio.**

**In 2014, Gitsham commented on the Rock Amato show in regard to undocumented children, saying, “We are a nation of laws,” and voiced her opposition to reclassifying them as refugees. In November 2015, Gitsham advocated her support for the American SAFE Act, which would have made it more difficult for Syrian and Iraq refugees to come to the United States. On her campaign website, Gitsham calls for securing the border, cracking down on human trafficking and instituting a guest worker visa program as the way to fix immigration.**

### San Diego Union Tribune: “Immigrant Women Who Plan To Have A Child In The United States Should Not Be Given Visas, Gitsham Said”; “It’s Not Hard To Pick Out A Pregnant Woman”

**San Diego Union Tribune: “Immigrant Women Who Plan To Have A Child In The United States Should Not Be Given Visas, Gitsham Said.”** “Both candidates said the government needs to do a better job finding people who overstay visas, but disagreed on what should happen when immigrants who are in the country illegally start families in the United States. Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]

**Gitsham: “If We Know You’re Coming Here For That Reason, You’re Not Allowed To Come.”** “Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said. ‘If we know you’re coming here for that reason, you’re not allowed to come. It’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]

**Gitsham: “It’s Not Hard To Pick Out A Pregnant Woman.”** “Immigrant women who plan to have a child in the United States should not be given visas, Gitsham said. ‘If we know you’re coming here for that reason, you’re not allowed to come. It’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]

### Gitsham: “I’m Just Ambiguously Ethnic Enough To Pass For Almost Anything, And As A Result Ended Up As A Hispanic Relations Coordinator” On Bush Campaign

**Gitsham: “I’m Just Ambiguously Ethnic Enough To Pass For Almost Anything, And As A Result Ended Up As A Hispanic Relations Coordinator” On Bush Campaign.** “When she’s introducing herself to potential supporters, Denise Gitsham sometimes brings up her heritage: she’s the daughter of a Chinese mother who immigrated from Taiwan and a father from Canada who served a full career in the United States Air Force….She mentioned it when she announced her candidacy for the House of Representatives in November as her parents stood by her side, and again on Thursday evening during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland, an event for and Republican lawmakers, candidates and right-leaning causes. But when Gitsham’s background wasn’t entirely obvious the uncertainty has worked to her political advantage. It helped her get work during George W. Bush’s 2000 campaign for president, she said. ‘I’m just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything, and as a result ended up as a Hispanic coalitions coordinator,’ she said in a speech Wednesday at C-PAC.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

**San Diego Union Tribune: Gitsham Campaign Manager Said She “Didn’t Try To Pass As Hispanic,” And That It Was “A Long-Running Joke” That She Has Been Using For Three Years.** “Jason Roe, Gitsham’s campaign manager, said his candidate didn’t try to pass as Hispanic, and she’s just continuing a long-running joke. ‘She’s making fun of herself and I think this characterization takes it way too seriously. She is no way was portraying herself as Hispanic, just joking about how she found herself doing Hispanic outreach,’ he said, adding that she’s been using the joke for at least three years.”[San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

### San Diego Tribune: Not First Time “Gitsham Discussed How She Portrayed Her Heritage To Work For Bush Campaign,” Writing In Profile How She Worked For Bush Campaign “Without A Latino Bone In My Body”

**San Diego Union Tribune: Was Not First Time “Gitsham Discussed How She Portrayed Her Heritage To Work For Bush Campaign.”** “Thursday wasn’t the first time Gitsham discussed how she portrayed her heritage to work for the Bush campaign.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

**In Profile For Disruptive Thinkers, Wrote “As A Half-Chinese 22 Year Old Without A Latino Bone In My Body,” Ran Bush’s 2000 National Hispanic Coalition.** “Thursday wasn’t the first time Gitsham discussed how she portrayed her heritage to work for the Bush campaign. ‘As a half-Chinese 22 year old without a Latino bone in my body, I created a position for myself on the Bush campaign, running President Bush’s previously non-existent National Hispanic Coalition. I figured the President would benefit from speaking directly to the Hispanic population about his vision for America’ she wrote on her profile for Disruptive Thinkers, a forum for young entrepreneurs.” **[**San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/04/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/04/house-candidate-denise-gitsham-said-she-passed-as/)]

### Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Was “San Diego’s Own Version Of Rachel Dolezal”; Rachel Dolezal Was “The Nutty White Woman Who Claimed To Be African American”

**Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Was “San Diego’s Own Version Of Rachel Dolezal”; Rachel Dolezal Was “The Nutty White Woman Who Claimed To Be African American.”** “Remember Rachel Dolezal? She’s the nutty white woman who claimed to be African American. She lied so well that she even got appointed the head of the NAACP in Spokane, Washington!... Well, over the weekend, San Diego’s own version of Rachel Dolezal came to public light. Former reality show contestant Denise Gitsham is running for US Congress.” [KOGO, Carl DeMaio, [3/07/16](http://www.kogo.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/meet-san-diegos-own-rachel-dolezal-14459316/#ixzz42JEIoqJs)]

**Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Was A “Former Show Contestant Denise Gitsham Is Running For US Congress.”** “Former reality show contestant Denise Gitsham is running for US Congress. Late last week she gave a talk at one of the workshops at a conservative political conference in Washington.” [KOGO, Carl DeMaio, [3/07/16](http://www.kogo.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/meet-san-diegos-own-rachel-dolezal-14459316/#ixzz42JEIoqJs)]

**Carl DeMaio: Gitsham Told Crowd At CPAC That She Was “One Of You!” DeMaio: “Makes You Wonder What She Really Means By That.”** “She told the conservative crowd “I’m one of you!” Makes you wonder what she really means by that.” [KOGO, Carl DeMaio, [3/07/16](http://www.kogo.com/onair/the-demaio-report-56776/meet-san-diegos-own-rachel-dolezal-14459316/#ixzz42JEIoqJs)]

### Michael Smolens Column: “Gitsham’s Identity Crisis”

**Michael Smolens Column: “Gitsham’s Identity Crisis.”** “Gitsham’s identity crisis Republican congressional candidate’s Denise Gitsham’s comment that her appearance was “ambiguously ethnic” — enough so to assist in landing a job in Hispanic outreach in the George W. Bush presidential campaign — sure did ricochet around the country pretty fast.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/13/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/13/will-stadium-convention-center-coalition-hold/)]

**Michael Smolens Column: Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Put Out Press Releases In Spanish And English.** “Not surprising, Democrats erupted in righteous indignation. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee put out releases in Spanish and English, with the former the more harsh of the two.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/13/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/13/will-stadium-convention-center-coalition-hold/2/?#article-copy)]

### Los Angeles Times: “Gitsham’s Campaign Defended The Line As A Joke”

**Los Angeles Times: “Gitsham’s Campaign Defended The Line As A Joke.”** “The San Diego Union Tribune’s Joshua Stewart reports that Republican San Diego businesswoman Denise Gitsham, who is challenging Democratic Rep. Scott Peters, is catching flak over remarks she made last week about her race. Gitsham said at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland that because she is half-Chinese she is "ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything," which got her a job on George W. Bush’s 2000 campaign reaching out to Latino voters. Gitsham’s campaign defended the line as a joke.” [Los Angeles Times, [3/09/16](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-essential-politics-20160309-story.html)]

### Said, “We Are A Nation Of Laws,” In Regard To Undocumented Children Crossing Border And Opposed Reclassifying Them As Refugees

**Said, “We Are A Nation Of Laws,” In Regard To Undocumented Children Crossing Border.** JEFF OLSEN: Well, you know, I don’t know much about the bill, but I do know that there are women and children in harms way who are coming to us for help and you can show me the child that Jesus would turn back away from the border and send back into harms way then you might convince me that that would be the right thing to do, but until you can show me that kid, that terrified kid escaping from harms way who should go back into that scenario then I can’t really be a part of that. RICK AMATO: Denise Gitsham, what’s wrong with that argument? DENISE GITSHAM: Well, you know, I actually think it’s a great argument and its one that Republicans obviously, if you really listen to the mainstream Republican response right now, everyone is saying the exact same. There’s not one Republican legislator whose saying we should send these kids back in an inhumane way or in any way shape or form treat them differently from other people. All that we’re saying is that we are still a nation of laws, so if you would like to change the laws, there’s a way to do that and its just not by reclassifying them as refugees. [Rick Amato Show, 5:50-6:25, [7/15/14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZB3iGxtLs)]

### Said Situation With Undocumented Children Opened Way For Terrorists To Enter Country

**Said Situation With Undocumented Children Opened Way For Terrorists To Enter Country.** “Gitsham: I really don’t know. It’s actually not politically smart to not talk about enforcing the laws of this nation. I actually think it s erods our credibility….But if there was some sort of sanity that we could bring to this issue, it would talk about both sides, it would talk about ensuring the integrity of our nation and protecting them from really now –I just read about this-there’s a whole group of border patrol agents that are acting as babysitters instead of doing their job and if I were a terrorist, of a terrorist mindset, I would think that’s the key to America. [8:07-8:25]

### Supported American SAFE Act, Which Would Have Made It More Difficult For Syrian And Iraq Refugees To Come To The United States

**Supported American SAFE Act, Which Would Have Made It More Difficult For Syrian And Iraq Refugees To Come To The United States.** “Rep. Scott Peters' vote to make it tougher for Syrian and Iraqi refugees to come to the United States deprives his Republican election opponents of a big line of attack. Peters was among the 47 Democrats in the House who joined Republicans on Thursday to pass the American SAFE Act, which requires the heads of the FBI, Homeland Security and National Intelligence to certify that those refugees allowed in pose no security threat…. Regardless, the campaign benefits are obvious. One or both of his Republican opponents, Denise Gitsham and Jacquie Atkinson, almost certainly would have criticized Peters for a vote against the bill. Gitsham said Peters' vote for the measure ‘is a welcome, if sharp, departure from his prior voting record,’ according to KPBS.” [San Diego tribune, 11/20/15]

**Called For Securing The Border, Cracking Down On Human Trafficking And A Guest Worker Visa Program As The Way To Fix Immigration**

**Called For Securing The Border, Cracking Down On Human Trafficking And A Guest Worker Visa Program As The Way To Fix Immigration.**  “As a border region, San Diegans must take a lead on fixing this problem – first by securing our borders, second by cracking down on cross-border human trafficking, and third by implementing a market-based, guest worker visa policy. Our economy demands a free-market answer to our labor needs; one that respects American workers, while making room for those who enter legally. Above all, our treatment of immigrants – regardless of their status – should be marked with the same dignity and respect we extend to our own citizens. In our efforts to uphold the law, we must never forget that ultimately, it is our generosity, empathy and compassion that makes our nation truly great. #JusticeandCompassion” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, accessed [11/06/15](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/)]

Labor and Working Family Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *August 2015: SVN Public Relations tweeted link to opinion article in TIME criticizing Netflix’s unlimited maternity and paternity leave during first year of employees’ birth or adoption* |

**In August 2015, Gitsham’s public relations firm tweeted link to opinion article in TIME magazine criticizing Netflix’s unlimited maternity or paternity leave during the first year of an employees’ birth or adoption.**

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Opinion Article In TIME Criticizing Netflix’s Unlimited Maternity Or Paternity Leave During The First Year Of Employees’ Birth Or Adoption

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Opinion Article On Netflix Parental Leave Police.** .@netflix unveils parental leave policy. Will it solve work-family conflict? @SuzanneVenker says it won't http://ti.me/1MPSqRD @TIME [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter Account, [8/05/15](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/629045974682341376)]

**Suzanne Vecker Opinion, TIME: Netflix’s Unlimited Paid Paternity Or Maternity Leave For First Year Of Employees’ Birth Or Adoption “Wasn’t Fair To Babies.”** “No doubt people are dancing a jig with Netflix’s announcement Tuesday that the tech company will allow its employees to take unlimited maternity or paternity leave during the first year after their child’s birth or adoption—while earning their normal pay…. There are several problems with this new policy. First, offering an unlimited leave policy in the first year to new moms and dads means the remaining employees who don’t fit the bill will be left to pick up the slack. This will likely, in turn, strain relations among co-workers and make the workplace environment less effective…. Second, it isn’t fair to babies. By encouraging mothers, who are the still the primary parent at home, to bond with their baby for a long period of time with the expectation they’ll return to work at the end of the year means the baby will become even more attached to his mother, and separation may become intolerable.” [TIME, Suzanne Vecker Opinion, [8/05/15](http://time.com/3986543/netflix-parental-leave-policy-women/)]

Other Social Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Said, “When I made the decision to move from DC to California, I thought I’d never find the intellectually challenging atmosphere I left”* * *January 2014: Gitsham’s public relations firm tweeted that opinion article was a “great piece,” in which he described gay marriage as a failed policy of Obama’s* |

**In an interview with Disruptive Thinking, Gitsham remarked that, when she made the decision to move from DC to California, she thought she’d “never find the intellectually challenging atmosphere [she] left.”**

**In January 2014, Gitsham’s public relations firm tweeted that a John Jordan opinion article was a “great piece,” in which he described gay marriage as a failed policy of Obama’s.**

### Said “When I Made The Decision To Move From DC To California, I Thought I’d Never Find The Intellectually Challenging Atmosphere I Left”

**Said “When I Made The Decision To Move From DC To California, I Thought I’d Never Find The Intellectually Challenging Atmosphere I Left.”** According to an interview Gitsham gave to Disruptive Thinking, “Define Disruptive Thinking: Disruptive thinking is creative thinking that happens to challenge the status quo. Gathering with a group of folks like those who attend DT unleashes our collective creativity, and enables 2+2 =5; in other words, more than the sum of our parts. … The APPEAL of DT: When I made the decision to move from DC to California, I thought I’d never find the intellectually challenging atmosphere I left. DT has given me a forum for airing my wacky ideas and learning from others whose life experiences and intellects I respect. I’ve found a place where my brain gets as much exercise as my body does, and I’m thrilled to be a part of DT.” [Disruptive Thinking, Accessed [12/02/15](http://disruptivethinkers.org/people/member-spotlight/denise-gitsham/)]

### SVN Public Relations Called John Jordan Opinion Article “Great Piece,” In Which He Described Gay Marriage As A Failed Policy Of Obama’s

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted That John Jordan Opinion Article On Fox News Was A “Great Piece.”** “Another great piece by John Jordan on @foxopinion: Obama’s political demise gives GOP chance to woo Democratic voters <http://fxn.ws/1dh9tq3>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter Account, [1/03/14](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/419174729447002113)]

**John Jordan Opinion, Fox News: Pushing Gay Marriage Contributed To Obama’s “Political Demise.”** “Obama’s political demise gives GOP chance to woo Democratic voters…For five years, the Democratic Party has remained uncharacteristically united in its political support for President Obama. From universal health care, to gay marriage, to cap-and-trade, Democrats of all stripes have put their own political careers on the line to help this president win big, hoping that his success would bolster theirs.” [Fox News, John Jordan Opinion, [1/03/14](http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/01/03/obamas-political-demise-gives-gop-chance-to-woo-democratic-voters.html)]

### Gitsham Appeared On Rick Amato Talk Show To Talk About “Playmates Gone Muslim, And Hobby Lobby”

**Gitsham Appeared On Rick Amato Talk Show To Talk About “Playmates Gone Muslim, And Hobby Lobby.”** “7SS's @STahilramani & @DGits on the "I" word, Playmates gone Muslim, and Hobby Lobby on @OANN @ 10pm ET on Verizon 116/AT&T 1208 @AmatoTalk” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [7/08/14](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/486653940164218880)]

### Tweeted Link To Opinion Article Criticizing Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg For “Her Crusade Against Gender Imbalance At Work And At Home”

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Opinion Article By Sheryl Sandberg Entitled Misguided Message.”** “New @fxnopinion: @SuzanneVenker on #LeanIn and @SherylSandberg's misguided message. <http://fxn.ws/12G2xU7>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [3/10/13](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/310860385911701504)]

**Sheryl Sandberg Opinion, Fox News: Facebook COO’s “Crusade Against Gender Imbalance At Work And At Home,” Was Not Based In Reality.** “Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg gets around. She runs a multi-billion dollar company; she gives high profile speaking engagements; and now she’s a first-time author. Her new book, ‘Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead’ is a spin-off of Sandberg’s infamous TED talk, where she encouraged women to put their careers front and center and let the rest of life fall into place…. But Ms. Sandberg is best known for something else altogether: her crusade against gender imbalance at work and at home. Sandberg believes women are penalized at work due to gender stereotypes and are unduly burdened at home. This is the reason there are so few women at the top, she says. The only way to achieve equality is for men and women to live identical lives…. But what does this mean in real life? It means both parents leave their homes each morning and return each evening—and pay other people (i.e. less educated women) to do the bulk of the parenting work for them. That’s fine if you’re the Sandbergs and can afford Mary Poppins. Most cannot. But the greater problem with Sandberg’s proposal is that it dismisses maternal desire.” [Fox News, Sheryl Sandberg Opinion, [3/09/13](http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/03/09/sheryl-sandberg-misguided-message.html?intcmp=HPBucket)]

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Article Criticizing Legislation Popular With Tech Companies

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted Link To Article Saying Hedge Funds And “Reverse Trolls Were “Crushing Biopharma Innovation.”** “Commentary: Hedge funds, 'reverse trolls' crushing #biopharma #innovation by @josephgulfo in @CNBC http://cnb.cx/1DuPiTK #IPR #PTAB” [SVN Public Relations Official twitter Account, [7/22/15](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/623907161656012800)]

**Joseph Gulfo Opinion, CNBC: 2012 America Invents Act, Although Popular Among Technology Companies, Hurt Biopharmaceutical innovations.** “In an attempt to increase efficiency and protect innovation, Congress passed the 2012 America Invents Act (AIA). It established "inter partes review" (IPR), a quick and easy way to get rid of nuisance patents. The results have been quite impressive with more than three-quarters of the patent claims challenged via IPR being invalidated upon further review. But, while the system has been very popular and effective for technology companies, two unintended consequences of the IPR law have given rise to practices that very much hurt biopharmaceutical innovation—"reverse trolls" and stock manipulation. You see, those acting in bad faith also have a legal right to file such challenges, and they do.” CNBC, Joseph Gulfo Opinion, [7/22/15](http://www.cnbc.com/2015/07/22/biopharma-hammered-by-hedge-funds-reverse-trolls-commentary.html)]

**Laughed About Website That Ranked Female Attorneys Based On Their Attractiveness; Called It Great For Showing That Beauty And Brains Could Exist In A Person**

**Laughed About Website That Ranked Female Attorneys Based On Their Attractiveness; Called It Great For Showing That Beauty And Brains Could Exist In A Person.** “HotAttorney.wordpress.com, a blog that was taken offline earlier this week after being widely criticized in The National Law Journal and on several legal blogs, had posted photographs and employment information about young female lawyers…But not all of the lawyers deemed hot by the site are upset – some are actually amused by the rankings. Denise Gitsham, a first-year associate at Washington D.C. firm K&L Gates, told ABCNEWS.com that she sees no harm in showing that smart people can be pretty too. ‘I wasn’t upset at all [when I heard about the site],’ said Gitsham, who once appeared on ABC’s ‘The Bachelor.’ ‘I think it’s good to have a sense of humor about it.’ ‘It’s great when people realize beauty and brains can exist in the same person,’ added Gitsham.” [ABC News, [7/10/08](http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=5341225&page=1)]

### Public Relations Firm Mentioned In Tweet From David Mark Concerning “Feminist Fear Mongering”

**Public Relations Firm Mentioned In Tweet From David Mark Concerning “Feminist Fear Mongering.”** “Feminist Fear Mongering http://politix.topix.com/story/10072 via @TopixPolitix @SuzanneVenker @7SStrategies” [David mark Official Twitter Account, [1/27/14](https://twitter.com/DavidMarkDC/status/427884631157776384)]

Seniors Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *Called Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid “Huge burgeoning debts that are contributing every year to the deficit,” saying she supported cuts to the program* * *December 2015: SVN Public Relations tweeted “Medicare negotiating with Pharm is not the answer”* |

**In the first Republican primary debate of the 2016 election, Gitsham called Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid “Huge burgeoning debts that are contributing every year to the deficit,” saying she supported cuts to the programs.**

### Called Medicare, Social Security And Medicaid “Huge Burgeoning Debts That Are Contributing Every Year To The Deficit,” Saying She Supported Cuts To The Programs

**Called Medicare, Social Security And Medicaid “Huge Burgeoning Debts That Are Contributing Every Year To The Deficit,” Saying She Supported Cuts To The Programs.** “Gitsham said she would target social programs to eliminate deficit spending and cut government debt. ‘Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid are huge burgeoning debts that are contributing every year to the deficit. And so we can look to those to begin the process of cutting down how much we spend,’ she said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [3/18/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/18/gitsham-atkins-clash-in-first-debate/)]

### SVN Public Relations Tweeted “Medicare Negotiating With Pharm Is Not The Answer”

**SVN Public Relations Tweeted “Medicare Negotiating With Pharm Is Not The Answer.”** “In @thehill today: #Medicare negotiating with #pharma is not the answer by @josephgulfo <http://bit.ly/1N85ejh>” [SVN Public Relations Official Twitter, [12/04/15](https://twitter.com/SVN_PR/status/672796571054903296)]

Transportation Issues

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| **Significant Findings**   * *In 2008, lobbied on behalf of Tesla against the auto bailout because it transferred money away from fund that paid for new car technology* |

**In 2008, Gitsham lobbied on behalf of Tesla against the auto bailout because it transferred money away from fund that paid for new car technology. Gitsham’s lobbying firm received $20,000 for lobbying on behalf of Tesla.**

### Lobbied Against Auto Bailout Because It Transferred Money Away From Fund That Paid For New Car Technology

**Tesla Hired Gitsham To Lobby After Receiving $400 Million For Two Energy Projects.**  “Tesla is hoping to receive about $400 million for two projects. The first would direct a little less than $200 million to ramp up production of its next generation of powertrain batteries. The remaining $200 million would be used to help finance an assembly line in San Jose, Calif., to build a second-generation roadster sedan that would retail for about $50,000. Although Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has insisted that any monies transferred from the Energy Independence and Security Act fund for a Big Three bridge loan will have to be repaid in full, Tesla is continuing its lobby campaign. This month it brought on two lobby shops: McBee Strategic Consulting and K&L Gates. McBee has not yet filed its lobby registration. At K&L Gates, three lobbyists are working on the account, according to Senate lobby records: Scott Aliferis, former legislative director for Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.); Denise Gitsham, a one-time Justice Department aide; and Laurie Purpuro, who had been a senior policy adviser at the Department of Energy and chief of staff to then-Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.)” [Roll Call, 12/10/08]

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| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Tesla Motors | Registration 2008 | n/a | n/a | Energy |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Tesla Motors | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; White House | HR 7321, Auto Industry Financing and Restructuring Act, Section 136 program. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

### Lobbied Against Auto Bailout Because It Transferred Money Away From Fund That Paid For New Car Technology

**Lobbied Against Auto Bailout Because It Transferred Money Away From Fund That Paid For New Car Technology.** Although Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has insisted that any monies transferred from the Energy Independence and Security Act fund for a Big Three bridge loan will have to be repaid in full, Tesla is continuing its lobby campaign. This month it brought on two lobby shops: McBee Strategic Consulting and K&L Gates. McBee has not yet filed its lobby registration. At K&L Gates, three lobbyists are working on the account, according to Senate lobby records: Scott Aliferis, former legislative director for Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.); Denise Gitsham, a one-time Justice Department aide; and Laurie Purpuro, who had been a senior policy adviser at the Department of Energy and chief of staff to then-Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.).” [Roll Call, 12/10/08]

### Tesla Criticized Redirecting $15 Billion From Fund Designed To Pay for New Car Technology Towards Auto Bailout

**Tesla Criticized Redirecting $15 Billion From Fund Designed To Pay for New Car Technology Towards Auto Bailout.** “Tesla Motors Inc. specializes in making a hip all-electric roadster that rockets from 0 to 60 miles an hour in less than four seconds. But when it comes to the auto bailout, the San Carlos, Calif.-based company is urging Congress to slow down. That's because the company doesn't like the fact that lawmakers are redirecting $15 billion from the Energy Independence and Security Act fund to pay for the bailout. While Tesla officials haven't taken a public stance on the bailout bill, they don't like paying for the immediate cash flow needs of Chrysler, General Motors Corp., and Ford Motor Co. with money that comes in part from funds set aside to pay for new car technology.” [Roll Call, 12/10/08]

Appendix I – Campaign Finance

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| **Items of Interest**   * *In first FEC report, loaned campaign $55,400* * *5-percent of individual contributions were from small donors, while her own contributions comprised 22-percent of her total raised* * *Year-end 2015 FEC report: Campaign reimbursed her $2,394.49* |

**Gitsham filed her first report with the Federal Election Commission in the 2015 Year-End reporting period, raising $251,938 overall, although $55,400 of that total were funds Gitsham loaned the campaign. Of her overall total for the quarter, 5-percent of individual contributions were from small donors, while her own loan comprised 22-percent. Gitsham’s campaign reimbursed her $2,394.49 for the reporting period.**

### 2016 Election

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total Raised** | **Total Spent** | **Cash on Hand** |
| **Denise Gitsham** | $251,938 | $20,711 | $231,227 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Individual Contributions | N/A |  |
| * Small contributions | $13,790 | 5% |
| * Large Contributions | $182,748 | 73% |
| PAC Contributions | $0 | 0% |
| Candidate self-financing | $55,400 | 22% |
| Other | $0 | 0% |

[Opensecrets, Accessed [2/23/16](http://www.opensecrets.org/races/candidates.php?cycle=2016&id=CA52&spec=N)]

### 2015 Year-End FEC Report: Loaned Campaign $55,400

**2015 Year-End FEC Report: Loaned Campaign $55,400.** According to the Gitsham congressional campaign’s 2015 Year-End 2015 report to the Federal Election Commission, she loaned her campaign $55,400 for the quarter. [Federal Election Commission, Amended 2015 Year-End report, Filed [2/03/16](http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/296/201602039008436296/201602039008436296.pdf)]

### 2015 Year-End FEC Report: Campaign Reimbursed Gitsham $2,394.49

**2015 Year-End FEC Report: Campaign Reimbursed Gitsham $2,394.49.** According to the Gitsham congressional campaign’s 2015 Year-End 2015 report to the Federal Election Commission, she was reimbursed $2,394.49 by her campaign. [Federal Election Commission, Amended 2015 Year-End report, Filed [2/03/16](http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/296/201602039008436296/201602039008436296.pdf)]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Expense** | **Amount** |
| 11/21/15 | Reimbursement (See line item below) | 294.96 |
| 11/21/15 | Candidate’s Travel | 294.96 |
| 12/09/15 | Reimbursement (See line items for expenses >$200) | 1194.56 |
| 12/09/15 | Candidate’s Travel | 448.96 |
|  | Reimbursement (Vendors >$200 below) | 904.97 |
|  |  |  |
| **Total** |  | **$2,394.49** |

### Claimed To Have Raised $254,000 In First Seven Weeks Of Her Campaign

**Claimed To Have Raised $254,000 In First Seven Weeks Of Her Campaign.** “Small business owner Denise Gitsham, the leading Republican candidate for Congress in California’s 52nd District, reported $254,000 in the first seven weeks of her campaign.” [Denise Gitsham for Congress, [1/11/16](http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=04430c5e56066f1143696a87a&id=4b3ba2d791&e=10c6b67b3b)]

### Met With Super PACs in Washington DC

**Met With Super PACs in Washington DC.** “Gitsham has met with organizations in Washington, D.C., including super PACs, and he anticipates that they will support his candidate financially. Additional trips to visit those groups in the capital are in the making, Roe said.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, [1/14/16](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/14/gitsham-leads-gop-field-in-fundraising/)]

### Claimed To Have Raised $100,000 In The First Week Of Her Candidacy

**Claimed To Have Raised $100,000 In The First Week Of Her Candidacy.** “San Diego businesswoman Denise Gitsham, who is challenging Rep. Scott Peters (D-San Diego) in the 52nd congressional district. Gitsham, who owns a public relations firm, worked for Karl Rove during then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush’s 2000 presidential campaign and later worked in the Bush administration, announced her candidacy two weeks ago. Her campaign bragged on Facebook it raised $100,000 in the first week. In 2014, Peters defeated Republican businessman Carl DeMaio 52% to 48%.” [Los Angeles Times, [11/19/15](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-essential-politics-html-20151119-htmlstory.html)]

### Contributions As A Lobbyist

**As A Registered Lobbyist, Gitsham Contributed $100 To Congressman Bill Sali’s Campaign On April 21, 2008.** According to the US House Lobbying Contribution report, Gitsham contributed $100 to Congressman Bill Sali’s campaignon April 21, 2008. [US House, Lobbying Contribution Report, Mid-Year 2008 report, Signed [7/16/08](http://disclosures.house.gov/lc/lcxmlrelease/2008/MM/700060067.xml)]

**As A Registered Lobbyist, Gitsham Contributed $250 To Congressman Fred Upton’s Campaign On April 16, 2008.** According to the US House Lobbying Contribution report, Gitsham contributed $250 to Congressman Fred Upton’s campaign on April 16, 2008. [US House, Lobbying Contribution Report, Mid-Year 2008 report, Signed [7/16/08](http://disclosures.house.gov/lc/lcxmlrelease/2008/MM/700060067.xml)]

Appendix II – Lobbying Clients

**Lobbied For Energy Companies**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Acclergy Corp. | Registration 2007 | n/a | n/a | Coal to liquid technology |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Acclergy Corp. | Year End Report 2007 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Acclergy Corp. | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Acclergy Corp. | Second Quarter 2008 | $50,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Acclergy Corp. | Third Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Acclergy Corp. | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Energy | Coal to liquid technology; Energy and Water Appropriations |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization | First Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | Us House; Senate; Dept. of Energy | Support federal legislation and executive agency initiatives that promote federal funding opportunities and programmatic incentives for clean energy and sustainable technologies. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Clean Technology & Sustainable Industries Organization | Fourth Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | Us House; Senate; Dept. of Energy | initiatives that promote federal funding opportunities and programmatic incentives for clean energy and sustainable technologies.  S 3258 ad HR 7324, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009, Clean Technology Evaluation Program. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Peabody Energy Corporation | Second Quarter 2008 | $80,000 | US House; Senate | Substitute natural gas proposal; alternative minimum tax proposal for R&D tax credit. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Peabody Energy Corporation | Third Quarter 2008 | $80,000 | US House; Senate | HR 6049, Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, provisions for CET, CTL and CCS.  HR 3221, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007, provisions relating to AMT/R&D tax credits. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Defense Companies**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Cangene Corp. | Second Quarter 2008 | $60,000 | Us House; Senate; HHS; Dept of Homeland Sec. | Monitor legislation regarding biodefense vaccines, biodefense therapeutics, and pandemic preparedness |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Cangene Corp. | Third Quarter 2008 | $70,000 | Us House; Senate; HHS; Dept of Homeland Sec. | Monitor legislation regarding biodefense vaccines, biodefense therapeutics, and pandemic preparedness |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Cangene Corp. | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $60,000 | Us House; Senate; HHS; Dept of Homeland Sec. | Monitor legislation regarding biodefense vaccines, biodefense therapeutics, and pandemic preparedness |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | NanoSonix | Registration 2008 | n/a | n/a | Defense |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | NanoSonix | First Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House; Senate | Unnumbered bill, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2009, Title IV; issues relating to Night Vision Technology development.  S 3258, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2009, Biological and Environmental Research; issues relating to development of imaging technologies. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Nanosys | Year End 2007 | $140,000 | US House; Senate | HR 3222; Title IV; Issues related to nanotechnology; Energy and water development |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Nanosys | First Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate | Unnumbered bill, Department of Defense Appropriations for FY09; Research, Development, Test and Evaluation; issues related to nanotechnology enabled defense research.  Unnumbered bill, Energy and Water Development Appropriations for FY09; issues related to nanotechnology enabled fuel cell research. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Nanosys | Second Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate | Unnumbered bill, Department of Defense Appropriations for FY09; Research, Development, Test and Evaluation; issues related to nanotechnology enabled defense research.  Unnumbered bill, Energy and Water Development Appropriations for FY09; issues related to nanotechnology enabled fuel cell research. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | US Maritime Coalition | Second Quarter 2008 | $90,000 | US House; Snetae; Dept of Defense; Dept of Homeland Security; Maritime Administration; Dept of Transportation | HR 2830 and S 1892, Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008; any legislative or administrative proposal to amend or waive the maritime cabotage laws of the U.S. to allow non-U.S. built, owned, or documented vessels to transport merchandise or passengers between two U.S. ports or places or to provide maritime services in U.S. waters. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Tesla Motors**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Tesla Motors | Registration 2008 | n/a | n/a | Energy |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Tesla Motors | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; White House | HR 7321, Auto Industry Financing and Restructuring Act, Section 136 program. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For National Council On Compensation Insurance On Insurance Data Collection**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | National Council on Compensation Insurance | Second Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House | General monitoring of HR 5840, the Insurance Information Act of 2008, provisions relating to insurance data collection. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | National Council on Compensation Insurance | Third Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House | General monitoring of HR 5840, the Insurance Information Act of 2008, provisions relating to insurance data collection. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | National Council on Compensation Insurance | FourthQuarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House | General monitoring of HR 5840, the Insurance Information Act of 2008, provisions relating to insurance data collection. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Starz On Canadian Restrictions On Media Channels**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Starz | Second Quarter 2008 | $70,000 | Dept of State; US Trade Rep | Made contacts on Canadian restrictions on foreign ownership of media companies and distribution of their products. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Supresta On Oversight For Upholstered Furniture Flammability**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Supresta | Year End 2006 | $60,000 | US House; Senate; Consumer Product Safety Commission | Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Supresta | Year End 2007 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; Consumer Product Safety Commission | Oversight of US Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to upholstered furniture flammability; Legislation to reauthorize consumer product safety commission |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For XF Technologies To Create More Opportunities For Cellulosic Biomass Technology**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Registration 2007 | n/a | n/a | Federal opportunities for cellulosic biomass technology |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Year End 2007 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | Federal opportunities for cellulosic biomass technology |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | First Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosis biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Second Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosis biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Third Quarter 2008 | $20,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | HR 2638, Division C, DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosic biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | XF Technologies | Fourth Quarter 2008 | $10,000 | US House; Senate; Dept of Energy; Dept of Defense; Dept of Agriculture | HR 2638, Division C, DOD Appropriations for FY-09, cellulosic biomass technology for remote battlefield locations |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Technology Industry Funding And Support**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Nanobusiness Commercialization Association | Second Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House; Senate | Support HR 2272 and S 761, America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act (America COMPETES), possible changes to Nanotechnology Research and Development Act, nanotechnology education. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Nanobusiness Commercialization Association | Third Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House; Senate | Support HR 2272 and S 761, America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act (America COMPETES), possible changes to Nanotechnology Research and Development Act, nanotechnology education. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Neurotechnology Industry Organization | First Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | Us House; Senate; FDA | Advocate for National Neurotechnology Initiative legislation |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Neurotechnology Industry Organization | Second Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | Us House; Senate; FDA | Advocate for National Neurotechnology Initiative legislation |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Neurotechnology Industry Organization | Third Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House ; Senate; FDA | Advocate for HR 5989 and S 2989, the National Neurotechnology Initiative Act, all provisions. |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Neurotechnology Industry Organization | Fourth Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | US House ; Senate; FDA | Advocate for HR 5989 and S 2989, the National Neurotechnology Initiative Act, all provisions. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Water Program Funding**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | MIND Institute | Year End 2007 | $40,000 | US House; Senate | HR 2641 and S 1751; Energy and Water Development Appropriations; Funding for traumatic brain injury research |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | MIND Institute | First Quarter 2008 | “Less Than $5,000” | Senate; Dept of Veterans Affairs | Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury legislation, |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Water Advocates | Year End 2007 | $60,000 | US House; Senate; OMB; Dept. of State; US Agency for International Development | HR 2764, public and private funding for safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation systems abroad |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Water Advocates | First Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; OMB; Dept. of State; US Agency for International Development | FY 2009 Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act (no bill number), support public and private funding for safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation systems abroad. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied On Nominations For The Architect Of The Capitol And Energy Efficiency Standards In Federal Buildings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | American Institute of Architects | Year End 2007 | $100,000 | US House; Senate; White House | recommendation of individuals for nomination as Architect of the Capitol |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | American Institute of Architects | First Quarter 2008 | $40,000 | US House; Senate; White House | recommendation of individuals for nomination as Architect of the Capitol |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | American Institute of Architects | Second Quarter 2008 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; White House | recommendation of individuals for nomination as Architect of the Capitol |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | American Institute of Architects | Third Quarter 2008 | $50,000 | US House; Senate | Proposals to increase the efficiency of federal buildings, including proposals included in HR 6, S 1321, and S 1419. |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Funding For Airport Business Programs And Medical Research**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Airport Minority Advisory Council | First Quarter 08 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; FAA; Dept of Transportation | HR 2881, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007; Support continuation of the Department of Transportation Airport Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Airport Minority Advisory Council | Second Quarter 08 | $30,000 | US House; Senate; FAA; Dept of Transportation | HR 2881, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007; Support continuation of the Department of Transportation Airport Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Synosia Therapeutics | Year End 2007 | $20,000 | Us House; Senate; Dept of Defense; Dept of Veterans Affairs | Congressionally directed medical research programs and HR 3222; DOD Appropriations; Explore potential federal business development opportunities including grants, contracts and appropriations; PTSD research |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Anti-Child Solider Program**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Burma American Fund | Registration 2007 | n/a | n/a | Federal funding for anti-child solider programs in refugee camps |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | Burma American Fund | Year End Report 2007 | “Less Than $10,000” | CIA; Dept of Justice; Dept of Labor | Federal funding for anti-child solider programs in refugee camps |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

**Lobbied For Mine Safety Technology**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Registrant** | **Client** | **Filing Type** | **Amount Report** | **Branches Lobbied** | **Issues** |
| Denise Gitsham | K&L Gates | CATS Communication | Mid-Year Report 2006 | $40,000 | Us House; Senate; HHS; Dept of Labor | Standardizing a communications system to enhance safety at underground mines |

[United State Senate Lobbying Disclosure Database, accessed [11/09/15](http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=processSelectFields)]

Appendix III –Federal Funds-Sapphire Energy

**During Gitsham’s tenure with Sapphire, from FY2009 to FY2013, the company was awarded $76,424,012 in federal grants and loans:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Award ID | Award Amount | Award Date | Award Type | Awarding Agency |
| 0839529 | $100,000 | 11/19/08 | Grants | National Science Foundation |
| R43GM087020 | $100,000 | 1/07/09 | Grants | Department of Health and Human Services |
| BP753891 | $19,331,150 | 12/07/09 | Loans | Department of Agriculture |
| DEEE0002884 | $50,000,000 | 12/29/09 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | ($275,000) | 3/18/10 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 4/29/10 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0000393 | $951,500 | 8/16/10 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0000393 | $951,500 | 8/16/10 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 9/15/10 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0000393 | $0 | 2/25/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 4/26/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0000393 | $0 | 7/25/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 8/26/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 9/16/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 10/20/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 6/06/12 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0000393 | $0 | 8/22/11 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0006065 | $564,862 | 1/30/13 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0002884 | $0 | 9/20/13 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0006315 | $4,700,000 | 9/20/13 | Grants | Department of Energy |
| DEEE0006315 | $0 | 12/19/13 | Grants | Department of Energy |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **$76,424,012** |

*NOTE: Gitsham did not work at the company when the FY13 grants were awarded; however, she may have played a role in securing them.*

Appendix IV – Public Relations Firm Clients

### 7 Second Strategies

|  |
| --- |
| Name |
| EvoNexus |
| Digithrive |
| Shift |
| Chile biotech |
| Station |
| Fit Athletic Club |
| Watkins Landmark Construction |
| Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce |
| American Residential Partners |
| MTV Books |
| Dr. Henry Cloud |
| Armentum Partners |
| Origo Ventures |
| Hawkes Ocean Technologies |
| Governor Robert Ehrlich Book, “AmerFitica Hope for Change” |
| Oliver North book, “American Heroes on the Home, the Hearts of Heroes” |
| Take Lessons.com |
| Triton |
| Pareto Biotechnologies |

### SVN Public Relations

**100-Percent Of Employees At Public Relations Firm Were Women.** “Denise Gitsham leads this

all-female PR ­ rm where she actively hires women and mentors them with the intention that they will assume leadership roles as her company grows. Currently, 100 percent of her employees are women, and mentorship is built into the employee-employer relationship. Gitsham is a natural teacher, and a very e‑ ective mentor.” [San Diego Business Journal, [5/05/14](http://www.cbjonline.com/a3sdbj/resources/supplements/PDF/20140505_Athena.pdf)]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Nam and City/State** | **Brief Description Of Duties** |
| Deepflight, Hawkes Ocean Technology | Richmond, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Pareto Bio Technologies | Emeryville, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| American Coastal Properties | Irvine, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Take Lessons | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| John Jordan | Healdsburg, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Fit Athletic Club | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Hard Tech Labs | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Asembio A.G. | Santiago, Chile | Public Relations Consulting |
| Digit[…] | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| The Standish Foundation | Austin, TX | Public Relations Consulting |
| Zeeto | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| Canter Companies | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| A Better LA | Los Angeles, CA | N/A |
| San Diego SWAT Team | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| Partnership for a New American Economy | Washington, DC | N/A |
| Grasswalkers | San Diego, CA | N/A |
| Dr. Henry Cloud | Beverley Hills, CA | N/A |
| World News Daily | N/A | N/A |
| Suzanne Venker | N/A | N/A |
| MTV Books | New York, NY | N/A |
| Clean Spark | Poway, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| One San Diego | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| L2HP | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Lankford & Associates | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Joseph Gulfo | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Sinatra & Company Real Estate | Buffalo, NY | Public Relations Consulting |
| Origo | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| VikPik | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Jim Schreiber | Greenwich, CT | Public Relations Consulting |
| Post Hill Press | New York, NY | Public Relations Consulting |
| Watkins Landmark Construction | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Armentum Partners | San Francisco, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Triton Algae Innovation | San Diego, CA | Public Relations Consulting |
| Simm & Schuster | New York, NY | Public Relations Consulting |

Appendix V – Notable Headlines

### Karl Rove And George W. Bush Related Headlines

**Roll Call, HEADLINE: Rove Aide Enters Race Against Scott Peters.** [Roll Call, [11/06/15](http://atr.rollcall.com/rove-aide-enters-race-against-scott-peters/)]

**National Journal, HEADLINE: Gitsham To Ask Bush, Rove For Campaign Help.** [National Journal, [11/10/15](http://www.nationaljournal.com/s/92317/gitsham-ask-bush-rove-campaign-help)]

### Editorial Headline Criticizing Gitsham For Her Silence On Gun Issues

**San Diego Union Tribune Editorial, HEADLINE: Gitsham’s Gun Silence A Disappointment.** [San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial, [12/21/15](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/dec/21/editorial-peters-gitsham-gun-position/)]