

**For Immediate Release**

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\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

**Paulsen Fails in Attempt to Hide his Dirty Money**

*Erik Paulsen has accepted over \$80,000 from Republican Insiders including funds raised at a Strip Club; from Jack Abramoff's friends; and the "Prince of Pork"*

MAPLE GROVE — Erik Paulsen's attack over campaign contributions is just another example of Paulsen trying to hide his own unseemly success at courting some of the most corrupt Washington insider money. Since starting his campaign for Congress, Paulsen has accepted more than \$80,000 from Republican Leadership PACs. Paulsen has taken money from some of the most nefarious Washington insiders, including Hal Rogers, the "Prince of Pork," and Tom Feeney, who is currently involved in a federal investigation for his relationship with convicted former lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Madia campaign spokesman Dan Pollock said the following:

*"Erik Paulsen is continuing to try to distract attention from the unseemly contributions he continues to accept. Empty accusations cannot hide Paulsen's record as a right-wing conservative who accepts special interest money from corrupt contacts in Washington. Minnesotans want an independent moderate voice, not someone who is indebted to Jack Abramoff's buddies in Washington. As a Marine Corps Captain and Iraq War Veteran and as a true advocate for fiscal responsibility, Ashwin Madia is best suited to take up the moderate tradition established by retiring Congressman Jim Ramstad."*

- Paulsen has received \$5,000 from the leadership PAC of Representative Pete Session, who as recently as March 2007 had been holding fundraisers in a Las Vegas strip club, the Forty Deuce nightclub. According to Sessions, the club is a harmless burlesque. The club's owner explained that "the key component would be to have girls who were dancers taking their clothes off, not just girls taking their clothes off." [NPR, [7/22/08](#)]
- Don Young, the Alaska Republican whose "Bridge to Nowhere" earmark became synonymous with out of control pork barrel spending, has given \$1,000.

- Roy Blunt, another Paulsen backer who gave \$5,000 to the campaign is a protégé of Tom DeLay, the onetime House Republican leader implicated in the Abramoff lobbying scandal.
- John Boehner, the GOP Minority Leader who was once caught handing out donations from tobacco lobbyists on the House floor as members prepared to vote on tobacco subsidies, has given Paulsen \$5,000. [[www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov), Washington Post, 2/3/06]
- Tom Feeney, whose House Conservative Fund [gave Paulsen \\$1,500](#), has taken three trips in violation of House travel and gift rules. Feeney traveled to Scotland to play golf courtesy of convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. He violated House ethics rules by letting the South Korean government pay for his junket there. Feeney is under investigation by the FBI for his relationship with Jack Abramoff and has racked up \$60,000 in legal fees. [[Citizens for Responsibility in Washington](#)]
- Paulsen event accepted \$1,000 from a PAC controlled by Harold “Hal” Rogers, a Kentucky Republican who was described by his hometown newspaper as the “Prince of Pork.” Rogers also has been accused of misusing his position to steer millions of dollars in earmarks to campaign contributors, including a company that employs his son. [[Citizens for Responsibility in Washington](#); [New York Times, May 14, 2006](#)]

**The following table shows the \$81,500 Paulsen has accepted from conservative and Republican leadership PACs.**

<b>PAC name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<u>Every Republican Is Crucial (ERIC PAC)(Rep. Eric Cantor, R-VA)</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>FREEDOM CLUB FEDERAL PAC</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>Freedom Project (Rep John Boehner, R-OH)</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>Northstar Leadership PAC (Sen. Norm Coleman, R-MN)</u>	<u>\$7,500</u>
<u>Committee for the Preservation of Capitalism (Rep Jim McCrery, R-LA)</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>Continuing A Majority Party Action Committee (CAMPAC) (Rep. Dave Camp, R-MI)</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>People for Enterprise, Trade, and Economic Growth (Pete PAC)(Rep Pete Sessions, R-TX)</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>Rely On Your Beliefs Fund (Rep Roy Blunt, R-MO)</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>Red PAC (Rep. Adam Putnam, R-FL)</u>	<u>\$3,500</u>
<u>21st Century PAC (Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-CA)</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>

<u>Freedom and Security PAC (Rep. John Kline, R-MN)</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
<u>WALLY HERGER FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
<u>BUSINESS-INDUSTRY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>Conservative &amp; Republican Together Equals Results PAC (Rep. John Carter, R-TX)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC (COLE PAC)(Rep. Tom Cole, R-OK)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>ED ROYCE FOR CONGRESS</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>GEOFF DAVIS FOR CONGRESS</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>GINGREY FOR CONGRESS</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>Good Fund (Rep. Robert Goodlatte, R-VA)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>GOPAC AMERICA</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>Help America's Leaders Political Action Cmte (Rep Hal Rogers, R-KY)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>IRL Political Action Committee (Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>ISSA FOR CONGRESS</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>JO BONNER FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>Midnight Sun PAC (Rep Don Young, R-Alaska)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<u>Prosperity PAC (Rep. Paul Ryan, R-WI)</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$81,500</b>

[CQMoneyline.com, accessed 7/23/08]