



## ‘JOB CREATORS NETWORK’ PUSHES CORPORATE AGENDA WITH TOUR

A corporate-funded small-business advocacy group misleadingly named the “Job Creators Network” (JCN) is trying to salvage the deeply flawed Trump-GOP tax law [with a bus tour](#) of Congressional districts held by Republicans who are in political trouble because they voted for the plan. Though JCN claims to speak for Main Street small businesses, its principal founders, backers and aims belong to Corporate America, the biggest winner from the Republican tax law. Small businesses and working families are in fact the big losers.

### THE JOB CREATORS NETWORK: THE KOCH BROTHERS’ CONNECTION

JCN claims to be the “[The Voice of Main Street](#).” Yet it was started by the co-founder and former CEO of corporate giant Home Depot, Bernie Marcus, [who’s worth \\$5.5 billion](#), and [Herman Cain](#), a corporate executive turned Tea Party activist and former 2012 presidential candidate. Cain worked for the [Koch Brother’s advocacy group Americans for Prosperity](#) (AFP) from 2005 to 2012, and co-founded JCN in 2011.

Among JCN’s “[Business Leaders](#)” listed on its website and among the founders listed on [SOURCEWATCH](#), from the Center for Media and Democracy, are former CEOs of BB&T, Best Buy, Home Depot, Las Vegas Sands, McDonalds, Staples and CKE Restaurant Holdings, Inc., the owners of Carl’s Jr. and Hardee’s. Besides AFP, other organizations part of the Koch Brothers network that helped lead JCN are the Libre Initiative and the Foundation for Economic Education.

AFP and Freedom Partners, another Koch-backed group, [spent \\$20 million](#) last year to enact the Trump-GOP tax law. Weeks after the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed its version of the tax law in 2017, Charles Koch and his wife [donated nearly half a million dollars](#) to House Speaker Paul Ryan’s joint fundraising committee. This year they plan to [spend another \\$20 million](#) to ensure Republicans keep control of Congress and allow the brothers to keep their huge tax cuts. They and their network have [committed \\$400 million](#) in general to the 2018 election. The Koch Brothers and Koch Industries combined will [save an estimated \\$1 billion to \\$1.4 billion](#) in income taxes each year from the Trump-GOP tax law.

JCN got early help pushing its bogus small-business agenda from Rick Berman, a [master of deceptive PR campaigns](#). Berman is notorious for attacking groups like the Humane Society and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) on behalf of deep-pocketed corporate clients, though his real specialty is trying to hold down the wages and take away the rights of workers. JCN will need all of Berman’s dark arts to sell a tax law that’s heavily slanted towards corporations and the rich as a boon to small businesses and working families.

### TRUMP-GOP TAX LAW’S REAL BENEFICIARIES: CORPORATIONS & THE WEALTHY

The top priority of the tax law was to [slash corporate income taxes by 40%](#), dropping the rate from 35% to 21%. But only [5% of small businesses](#) pay corporate income taxes. The rest are known as “pass-throughs,” because their income is “passed through” to their owners who are taxed under the individual income tax system.

By the time the new law is fully phased in, [83% of the tax cuts](#) will go to the wealthiest 1%, according to the Tax Policy Center. This year alone, they will each get an average tax cut of \$51,000. That's about what the average sole proprietor [earns in a year](#), according to the Small Business Administration. There are 30 million small businesses; more than 8 out of 10 ([25 million](#)) are sole proprietorships.

In addition to having their domestic tax rate slashed to 21%, multinational corporations will only have to pay [half of that \(about 10%\)](#) on their future offshore profits. And that's on top of the [\\$400 billion tax discount](#) multinationals received on their \$2.6 trillion in accumulated offshore profits. Even the part of the law supposedly meant for small business—the “pass-through” tax deduction—is really targeted at the rich: [60% of the benefits](#) go to the wealthiest 1% of business owners, including President Trump, according to Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation.

### **TAX CUTS SLANTED TO THE WEALTHY LEAD TO SERVICE CUTS THAT HURT SMALL BUSINESSES**

The Trump-GOP tax law will drive up the national debt [by nearly \\$2 trillion](#). To address the debt and pay for these tax cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy and big corporations, Trump and House Republican leaders [propose to cut between \\$1.3 and \\$2 trillion](#) from Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). They also propose to [cut trillions more](#) from education, transportation, nutrition programs, Social Security disability insurance, small-business support and more. These are all critical services that small business owners, their families, workers and customers rely on.

### **THE BIG CORPORATIONS BEHIND JCN ARE NOT SHARING THEIR TAX CUTS WITH WORKERS**

President Trump promised that employers would use their tax cuts to give working families a [\\$4,000 pay raise](#). When he [spoke on the six-month anniversary](#) of the tax cut law's passage, Trump said “more than 6 million workers have received bonuses, pay raises, and retirement account contributions” because of the tax cuts. But that works out to just 4% of the entire national workforce of [155 million workers](#). Most of the relative handful of workers who have shared in part of their employers' tax-cut bounty only got [one-time bonuses](#), not permanent wage hikes, and few anywhere near \$4,000.

Home Depot, formerly run by JCN's founder, got an estimated tax cut worth almost [20 times as much](#) as the company is giving its workers in bonuses. McDonald's, whose former CEO is a JCN “Business Leader,” got an estimated tax cut of nearly a billion dollars, yet has offered no raises and is [using just 3% of its tax cut](#) to improve employee fringe benefits. A former BB&T bank CEO is another JCN “Business Leader.” In the wake of the GOP tax law, his former corporation is spending over [30 times more on stock buybacks](#) for wealthy shareholders than it is on worker wages and bonuses.

### **“TRUMP'S TAX CUTS WORK...FOR BILLIONAIRES AND BIG CORPORATIONS”**

JCN's slogan for its deceptive campaign is “Tax Cuts Work.” But the slogan's too short: to be accurate, it should read “Trump's Tax Cuts Work...for Billionaires and Big Corporations.” And instead of travelling around the country claiming a tax law for the rich helps regular people, they should admit that the Trump-GOP tax law throws small businesses and working families under the bus.