

Ending Corporate Greed Act

Sen. Bernie Sanders-VT

President Biden was right to impose a ban on Russian oil in response to Putin's murderous invasion of Ukraine. But let's be clear. We cannot allow big oil companies and other large, profitable corporations to use Putin's war, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the specter of inflation to price gouge Americans at the gas pump, the grocery store, or any other sector of our economy.

Instead of asking struggling working families to keep paying higher and higher prices for gasoline, food, and other basic necessities, the time has come to demand that large, profitable corporations make less money and pay their fair share of taxes. During these troubling times, the working class cannot bear the brunt of this economic crisis. The time has come for corporate CEOs, wealthy shareholders, and the billionaire class who have been making out like bandits to sacrifice.

Therefore, Senator Sanders will be introducing the **Ending Corporate Greed Act**.

The Ending Corporate Greed Act will:

Take on the greed of pandemic profiteers.

This bill would impose a 95 percent tax on the windfall profits of corporations with more than \$500 million in annual revenue. Windfall profits would be determined by each company's average profits during the five years preceding the pandemic. Because the tax is on profit and not revenue, companies that raise prices to account for rising expenses would not be penalized. However, companies that have chosen to raise prices in the pursuit of obscene profits would face a steep penalty. Had the tax been in effect in 2021, it would have raised an estimated \$400 billion in one year from 30 of the largest corporate profiteers alone. For example, in 2021:

- Chevron would have paid an additional \$12.9 billion in taxes.
- Amazon would have paid an additional \$28.6 billion in taxes.
- JP Morgan Chase would have paid an additional \$18.8 billion in taxes.
- Berkshire Hathaway would have paid an additional \$66.1 billion in taxes.

Lower prices for everyday Americans and fight inflation.

It is unconscionable that many of the largest corporations in America are using the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine to make obscene profits by substantially raising prices on working families. The windfall profits tax would eliminate the incentive for companies to use inflation as an opportunity to squeeze the public and further enrich their executives and shareholders.

Follow the precedent established by previous windfall profits taxes during times of crisis.

This is not a radical idea. During the first and second World Wars and the Korean War, the United States [implemented a broad-based windfall profits tax](#), after which this legislation is modeled. During World War II, the tax rate reached as high as 95 percent, which ensured that companies could not profiteer off the war. In addition, the United States enacted a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies as recently as the mid-1980s.