

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



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Letter from Steve Ellis

This is the first letter I've written for an annual report since I took over as president. I've been at TCS since 1999, but these last two years have brought unprecedented challenges, as they did for many of us. Just a few months into my tenure, we celebrated TCS's 25th anniversary. It ended up being the last in person reception many people went to for more than a year, as DC and the world faced lockdowns during the global COVID-19 pandemic. But we did our part, tracking the enormous – and necessary – government spending to deal with both the public health crisis and economic fallout from the pandemic. And we have continued our work on behalf of taxpayers: fighting for a government that works for the people and manages our federal resources responsibly. This means more accountable defense spending, better budget and tax policy, smarter approaches to energy and natural resource decision-making, and a cost-effective and appropriate agricultural policy. We also launched our important Common Sense on Climate campaign that dives into the financial impacts and costs borne by all taxpayers from the devastating consequences of climate change and the federal spending that is making the problem worse.

I began my career as a deck watch officer aboard a 50-year old U.S. Coast Guard Cutter.

I have learned a lot in my years working at TCS. TCS has always appealed to my personal politics of responsibility, sustainability, and conservation. This combination has landed me in front of dozens of congressional hearings as a witness for both Democrats and Republicans. And I think it is what makes TCS so unique: a combination of shrewd fiscal sense with an appreciation for the intrinsic value of all our public assets. Green Scissors was one of my first assignments at TCS. Looking back, it could not have been more fitting. This past year we shook off the pandemic and a flood in our office that destroyed most of the first floor. My stint at damage control school in the Coast Guard came in handy! We also launched a new podcast called: Budget Watchdog All Federal with the goal to bring voices of fiscal sanity and help the public navigate budget issues.

And where would TCS be without our truly devoted crew! I am pleased to welcome several new staff as well as welcome back some familiar faces to the TCS staff and board. It is with profound humility and gratitude that I come to work every day to build upon the 27-year legacy of nonpartisan advocacy and further strengthen the organization. I cannot offer enough appreciation to the team at TCS – they get it done. But of course, none of it would be possible without your support. Thank you.



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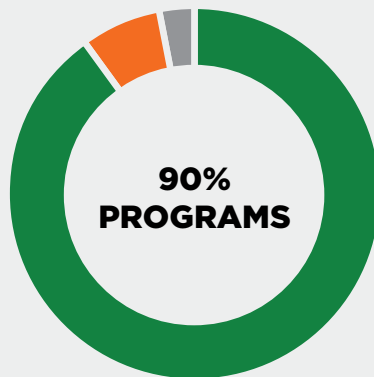
info@taxpayer.net

Our Mission

Taxpayers for Common Sense is a nonpartisan budget watchdog that has served as an independent voice for the American taxpayer since 1995. We fight for the American taxpayer. We are independent, nonpartisan, and believe in fiscal policy based on facts.

We Run a Tight Ship

TCS only serves the taxpayer's interests, your interests. We don't take money from companies, unions, politicians, or anyone who might influence our impartial, unbiased approach to our work.

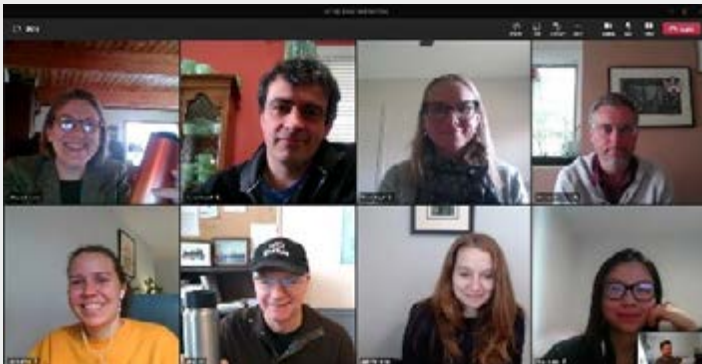


TCS has a Guidestar Silver Seal of Transparency. And we run a tight ship. According to an independent financial audit: TCS spent 90 percent of its budget on program expenses.

7% MANAGEMENT
3% FUNDRAISING

Stronger Than Ever

Taxpayers for Common Sense has emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever. Over 2021, TCS continued to grow our office, expand our reach, and fight for taxpayers. We are pleased to welcome several new staff members to our team, including a new Midwest office in Omaha, Nebraska headed by Senior Policy Analyst Sheila Karpf.



TCS

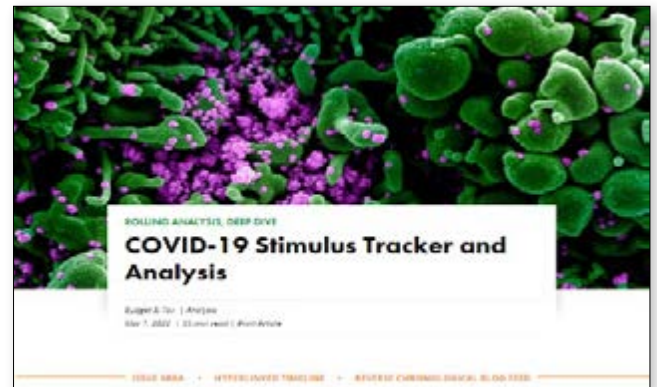
BY THE

NUMBERS

2021 TO TODAY

175+ Analyses

From quick takes on the SHIPYARD Act and updates on failed ANWR lease sales, to deep dives on aviation fuel subsidies and ongoing tracking of COVID-19 Stimulus packages, TCS was your source for thorough research and reporting.



1,013 TWEETS

WITH **1.4 million** IMPRESSIONS

OVER

Advertising on live television, subscription services, websites, and social media reached **972 thousand users.**



TCS used social media to connect with new audiences and spread our message. Our work was shared by policymakers, journalists, and thought leaders across the country.

25 Podcast Episodes



In 2021 TCS was proud to launch our new podcast, Budget Watchdog AF (All Federal). Episodes have ranged from oil and gas subsidies to defense spending to earmarks to agriculture policy to the Budget Control Act and lots in between.

78 WEEKLY WASTEBASKETS

In 2021 our weekly newsletter highlighted wasteful government spending and our commonsense solutions. Over the holidays, we celebrated with April Fool's for American Taxpayers, Halloween Fiscal Frights and Delights, and Thanksgiving Taxpayer Turkeys to Tweet About.



3 Testimonies to the House & Senate

TCS is regularly called upon by both Republican and Democratic members of Congress to share our expertise during committee hearings. This year, TCS vice president Autumn Hanna testified on the General Mining Law of 1872, which governs hardrock mining on federal lands.



7 VIDEOS



As part of our Common Sense of Climate Campaign, TCS produced and released original videos on the mounting costs of climate change.

35 LETTERS TO THE HILL WITH 131 DIFFERENT CO-SIGNING GROUPS

TCS frequently sends educational materials and common sense recommendations to Congress and the Administration. In March, we joined several groups in identifying \$80B in possible Pentagon budget cuts.



2,100+ Press Mentions



By Media Outlets like ABC, CNBC, Fox News, Forbes, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.

18 REPORTS

TCS published 18 investigative reports, including a comprehensive analysis of the political footprint of the Oil and Gas Industry.



17 Op-Eds

TCS expanded our reach by publishing op-eds in national and local news outlets, including partnering with former Republican members of Congress to share the growing costs of climate change felt by taxpayers and the need to hold the oil and gas industry accountable for their contribution.



We rely on small contributions from people like you to do our important work in Washington.

Donate today to support Taxpayers for Common Sense

www.taxpayer.net/donate



Listen to Budget Watchdog AF [All Federal] — the podcast

dedicated to making sense of the budget, spending, and tax issues facing the nation. Find Budget Watchdog AF on Apple Podcast, Spotify, or at taxpayer.net

www.taxpayer.net/podcast



Get the facts, not the fluff.

Sign up for the Weekly Wastebasket - TCS's weekly newsletter highlights wasteful government spending and our solutions!

www.taxpayer.net/wastebasket

Fight for Common Sense Government

Taxpayers for Common Sense is dedicated to building a government Americans can believe in – one that inspires trust, works for all Americans and makes more sense.

Join us, and taxpayers across the country, to demand that your tax dollars work for you.



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