

The struggling companies whose freewheeling business practices have contributed to the country's economic woes are getting a lucrative return on at least one of their investments. Beneficiaries of the \$700 billion bailout package in the finance and automotive industries have spent a total of \$114.2 million on lobbying in the past year and contributions toward the 2008 election, the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics has found. The companies' political activities have, in part, yielded them \$305.2 billion from the federal government's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), **an extraordinary return of 267,208 percent.**

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