

A CGI commitment benefits a for-profit company partly owned by friends of the Clintons.

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) is a yearly conference connected to the Clinton Foundation that helps inspire and arrange donations to solve problems around the world.

At the personal request of Bill Clinton, the **September 2010** CGI conference sets up a financial commitment to benefit a for-profit company partly owned by people who have ties to Bill and Hillary Clinton. The company, Energy Pioneer Solutions Inc., is a small start-up that has a business plan to insulate homes and let the owners pay through their monthly utility bills. The company is 29% owned by Scott Kleeb, a Democrat who twice ran for Congress from Nebraska; 29% by Jane Eckert, an art gallery owner; 29% by Julie Tauber McMahon, a close friend of Bill Clinton; 5% by Andrew Tobias, Democratic National Committee treasurer and longtime Clinton friend; and 5% by Mark Weiner, a former Rhode Island Democratic chairman, and also a longtime Clinton friend.

Out of thousands of CGI commitments, this is one of only a handful that involve private individuals making a personal financial investment in a for-profit company, instead of donations to non-profits or charities. The commitment is added



Julie Tauber
McMahon
(Credit: Getty
Images)

JULIE TAUBER
MCMAHON
(CREDIT: GETTY
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to a database at the CGI website, but it will be removed several months later.

The *Wall Street Journal* will later report, “The reason was to avoid calling attention to Mr. Clinton’s friendship with one company co-owner, Ms. McMahon, and to protect the integrity of Mr. Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative, according to people familiar with the matter.” **Bill Clinton also personally endorsed the company to Energy Secretary Steven Chu, resulting in a \$812,000 grant from the Energy Department that year.** The IRS requires that tax-exempt charitable organizations like CGI “must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests.” The \$2 million commitment is eventually achieved for the company, although it’s not clear which who gave and by how much. ([The Wall Street Journal, 5/12/2016](#))

In **2014**, it will be alleged in some tabloids that McMahon had a prolonged affair with Bill Clinton, roughly from **2001** until **2013**, but McMahon will deny it and say they are just close friends. ([The Daily Mail, 7/25/2014](#)) ([Heavy.com, 8/14/2014](#))