I've had more than one conversation with Republican friends (yes, I have some) who are Romney supporters but also environmentalists. One of the arguments they trump out about why they support Romney despite their environmental interests is that "Obama's been weak on the environment anyway." They make this argument especially about climate change.

While I share some disappointment about Obama's failure to get Congress to pass comprehensive climate legislation, and while I wish he hadn't backed off the tightening of federal ozone standards, it's not a close call about who is better for the environment. I could point to many of Obama's accomplishments — including huge support for alternative energy in the stimulus bill, the landmark deal to strengthen automobile efficiency standards and to cut carbon emissions from the transportation sector, the issuance of greenhouse gas emission standards for electric utilities and continued support for the production tax credit to support wind, solar and other alternative energy sources. But the best evidence might instead be to simply follow the money.

Greenwire this week documented the huge financial support Romney is getting from the coal industry, and not just from the Koch brothers (or at least the best known Koch brothers, David and Charles). Here are some of the big names pouring money into the Romney campaign and into anti-Obama superPACs (these coal barons call themselves the COALition for Romney): Robert Murray of Murray Energy, who has given almost $1 million to GOP candidates this election; Bill Koch (another Koch brother) of Oxbrow Corp ($2.75 million to Romney's superPAC); Joseph Craft of Alliance Resource Partners LP ($1.25 million to Karl Rove's PAC, $800,000 in corporate funds to Romney's superPAC and another $500,000 of his own money to the Romney superPAC); Richard Gilliam of Cumberland Resources ($250,000 to the Romney superPAC and another $500,000 to the Rove PAC) and Kevin Crutchfield ofAlpha Natural Resources ($100,000 to Rove's superPAC).

The obvious question is what they think they're buying. Do you think they're interested in getting Romney to support progressive climate policy?