

# Frank VanderSloot

Frank VanderSloot is the founder and CEO of Melaleuca, a \$1.2 billion health products company based in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Raised on a struggling farm in northern Idaho, VanderSloot came from humble beginnings and is a strong supporter of America's free enterprise system. In 2015, the Horatio Alger Association honored VanderSloot with the Horatio Alger Award.

For the past 18 years, VanderSloot has served as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's board of directors in addition to his position as regional vice chairman on the Chamber's executive board. An advocate of the free enterprise system, VanderSloot has supported a number of pro-business initiatives, and he has donated millions of dollars to the U.S. Chamber's voter education programs that support candidates in U.S. senate races across the country. VanderSloot served as a national finance co-chair on Mitt Romney's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, bundling \$58 million in 2012. That year he also contributed several million dollars to the U.S. Chamber, Crossroads GPS, Americans for Prosperity, and Restore our Future.

Shortly after his contribution to the Restore our Future Super PAC, VanderSloot was attacked by President Barack Obama's presidential campaign that notoriously published a list of eight Romney donors and singled them out as "wealthy individuals with less than reputable records."

*The Wall Street Journal* and other national media quickly saw Obama's list as a "political assassination" and modern-day public beating. A number of reporters coined it "Obama's Enemies List," pointing out that no U.S. president had published such a repugnant list that publicly targeted law-abiding citizens for political retribution.

During an interview with Bill O'Reilly on the Fox News Channel, VanderSloot suggested that Obama had pinned a target to his back, and he expressed concern whether he should now expect special scrutiny from federal agencies. VanderSloot reasoned that Obama's chief lieutenants of various Federal agencies might want to please their boss and may perceive the "Enemies List" as Obama's instructions to come after him. His suspicions were quickly confirmed. Within weeks, VanderSloot and his businesses were subjected to five federal audits: two from the IRS, two from the Department of Labor and one from the FDA. None of the federal agencies found any wrongdoing. But VanderSloot went public with the audits.

Conservative news outlets and public officials described VanderSloot's treatment by the liberal media, federal agencies and President Obama's campaign as "a very dangerous and troubling development." Statements were made by Tom McClintock on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives as well as Marco Rubio and Mitch McConnell in the U.S. Senate. Their words stirred an outpouring of righteous indignation from the American people, and

VanderSloot received hundreds of calls from people around the country who expressed their support, stating they wanted to “buy whatever it is that his company makes.”

In 2015, Ridenbaugh Press ranked VanderSloot as the most influential private citizen in Idaho. He has been a supporter of many political campaigns and causes in Idaho over the years. In 2008, the Idaho Republican Party recognized him as the most valuable person for his contributions.

VanderSloot is listed as the nation’s 92<sup>nd</sup> largest landowner, according to *The Land Report*.

A well-known philanthropist, VanderSloot has received top humanitarian awards from the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army for his charitable giving. He pays for one of the nation’s largest fireworks shows every Independence Day to honor America’s veterans and soldiers. Recently, his company donated \$3.5 million to the Boy Scouts of America, and he spent \$2 million restoring a historic schoolhouse in Idaho Falls before donating it to a local charter school. VanderSloot has been credited with saving the cheese industry in Southeast Idaho by purchasing and operating the Kraft cheese plant after Kraft had announced its closure.

Melaleuca manufactures over 450 nutritional, personal care, and toxin-free cleaning products while operating in 19 countries around the world.