December 7, 2015

Dear Chief Executive Officers,

As members of Congress concerned about climate change and the devastating effects it is having and will continue to have on our planet, we are alarmed by reports stating that Exxon (becoming ExxonMobil in 1999) hid the truth about the role of fossil fuels in influencing climate change and intentionally spread disinformation about climate science. Investigations by the Los Angeles Times$^1$ and Inside Climate News$^2$ allege that Exxon scientists confirmed fossil fuels’ role in climate change decades ago, but top executives decided to hide the truth and instead embarked on a massive campaign of denial and disinformation.

An investigation by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has concluded that ExxonMobil was not alone in hiding knowledge of climate change while spreading disinformation about climate science. UCS concluded there was a “coordinated campaign of deception” on climate science by “ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, BP, Shell, Peabody Energy, and other members of the fossil fuel industry.”$^3$

The UCS investigation specifically found the following:$^4$

- “Fossil fuel companies have intentionally spread climate disinformation for decades.”
- “Fossil fuel company leaders knew that their products were harmful to people and the planet but still chose to actively deceive the public and deny this harm.”
- “The campaign of deception continues today.”

UCS uncovered many internal company documents which appear to confirm a coordinated campaign of deception conducted by the industry to deceive the public of climate science that even their own scientists confirmed. These actions included “forged letters to Congress, secret funding of a supposedly independent scientist, the creation of fake grassroots organizations, [and] multiple efforts to deliberately manufacture uncertainty about climate science.”$^5$
Given the information that has come to light from multiple investigations, we request that you answer the following questions:

- When did your company first become aware that using fossil fuels could result in climate change and warming of the planet?

- What did your company do with this information?

- Did your company fund organizations that denied climate change or sought to spread uncertainty about climate change?

- Did your company oppose the Kyoto Protocol?

- What state and federal legislation to mitigate climate change has your company opposed?

- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, forge letters to Congress regarding climate change?

- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, secretly fund a supposedly independent scientist or scientists to deny or spread uncertainty about climate change?

- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, create fake grassroots organizations to deny or spread uncertainty about climate change?

- Did your company, or organizations your company funded, promote uncertainty about climate science?

- Is your company continuing to fund misinformation regarding climate science either directly or through third parties?

- Will you release your company’s past scientific data and findings regarding climate change?

- Does your company believe the use of fossil fuels is contributing to global warming? If yes, have you made public statements to that effect?

- What state or federal legislation to mitigate climate change has your company supported?
• Does your company support the science-based 2 degree Celsius temperature target to limit dangerous climate change?

• What is your company’s business plan for reducing emissions consistent with this safe climate target?

Sincerely,

________________________ ____________________________________________
Ted W. Lieu Peter Welch
Member of Congress Member of Congress

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Keith Ellison Alan Grayson
Member of Congress Member of Congress

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Jared Huffman Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress Member of Congress

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John Garamendi Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress Member of Congress

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Luis V. Gutiérrez Katherine Clark
Member of Congress Member of Congress

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James R. Langevin Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress Member of Congress
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress
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Member of Congress  

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress  

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress  

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress  

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress


Id.

Id.