

Penn. Attorney General sign on letter draft #2

May 12, 2017

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General
Strawberry Square, 16th floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Attorney General Shapiro:

Climate change poses a serious threat to every resident of Pennsylvania. From the health impacts of heat waves, damage to agricultural crops, and a more favorable breeding environment for vectors of West Nile virus, to the dangers of extreme rainfall and flooding, no corner of the state will be spared.

In spite of these risks and with no regard for the residents of Pennsylvania, the Trump Administration has moved aggressively to gut the full array of federal climate protections. To keep the nation on track toward a safe climate future, states must take the lead in protecting their residents. A critical step in doing so is ensuring that Pennsylvania consumers and investors are effectively protected against unfair and deceptive practices related to climate change. We write to urge that you open an investigation into ExxonMobil on matters related to climate change.

ExxonMobil is a leading producer and marketer of fossil fuels. Over the past two years, a mounting body of public evidence has demonstrated that ExxonMobil has not accurately informed the public, policymakers or its shareholders about the serious climate risks associated with the company, its products and its investments, and that the company's public statements with respect to these risks were belied by its own internal documents. These potentially deceptive practices were carried out not only through the company's own statements, but through its extensive funding of organizations that have distorted the facts about climate change. There is now compelling evidence that Exxon knew of the many risks of climate change, how these risks influenced their own economic future, and instead of acting responsibly spent years actively distorting the truth. The people of Pennsylvania deserve better.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) once again declared the past year to be the hottest year in recorded history. We are particularly concerned about how low income residents of Pennsylvania will be able to deal with the coming climate crisis. History shows us that those with the least economic resources often suffer the most when there are dramatic changes to the climate – the very changes we are witnessing in real time.

From the start of the new federal Administration, we have appreciated your leadership in taking on the draconian policies that have emerged from Washington. Launching an investigation of Exxon Mobil will help address the pressing issue of climate justice.

We the undersigned organizations, respectfully request you launch a climate change investigation of ExxonMobil. Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Please send your response to Joe Minnott at the Clean Air Council at Joe_Minnott@cleanair.org and Steve Dooley at the Center for Popular Democracy at sdooley@populardemocracy.org. Your response will be share with all the organizations listed below.

Sincerely,

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